The

Undaunted

Keeping the Scouting Spirit Alive

The Survival and Revival of Scouting in Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia

by Piet J. Kroonenberg
THE UNDAUNTED

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The Survival and Revival of Scouting

In Central and Eastern Europe

and

Southeast Asia

A Sequel to

THE FORGOTTEN MOVEMENTS
1989

by
Piet J. Kroonenberg
In Appreciation and Admiration of Those in East and Central Europe who, despite Oppression and Persecution during Many Decades, Kept Alive the Scouting Spirit and Revived the Movements at the Earliest Opportunity
FOREWORD

This book is a unique and remarkable work. It is the result of the dogged determination of one man to record the memories and history of the Scout movements in exile; of those Scouts who kept alive, for generations, the flame of their national Scouting burning on foreign soil, while they waited for the embers to be brought back home, and the fire restarted.

Scouting has had an incredible, spontaneous rebirth and growth after the fall of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Scout organizations in many of the countries mentioned in this book are today once again members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. In others, Scouting is continuing to develop and national organizations will certainly qualify for World membership before Scouting is 100 years old in 2007.

Piet Kroonenberg has devoted much of his life to gathering documentation for this book, and the last fifteen years writing it. This can rightly be called a “life’s work” and a unique one at that! Without Piet’s work much of that history would be lost, even to the Scouts today in the countries concerned.

The World Scout Committee recognized his long-time personal support of international Scouting, and his unique contribution to recording its history, when they awarded Piet Kroonenberg the Bronze Wolf on the occasion of the 34th World Scout Conference in Oslo, in July 1996. (The Bronze Wolf is the only international Scouting award.)

Readers should note that this is not an official publication of the World Organization of the Scout Movement; its author alone bears the responsibility (and pride!) of its content. It is only normal and human if the book contains some things which others may see or remember differently. Piet worked in
incredibly difficult conditions, putting together pieces of a puzzle for each country and going to considerable lengths to obtain and verify information. It has been a long, slow process and we share his feeling that now is the time to give birth to this work.

This book constitutes an invaluable contribution to the history of Scouting. The author – and the World Scout Organization – will gladly receive any comments which can help increase the understanding of Scouting’s history in Central and Eastern Europe.

This has been a ‘labour of love’ for Piet Kroonenberg, and it is thanks to the generosity of the late Claude Marchal and of his wife Solange that it is possible to publish this book.

Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General
World Organization of the Scout Movement
1988 - 2004
AUTHOR’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compiling this lengthy report was like doing a jig-saw puzzle. It could not have been carried out without my loyal pen-pals all over the world who – some since 1945 – fed me with their personal information and never tired of reading, correcting and adding to my drafts.

Thanks are also due to the archivists of The Scout Association (UK), at B.P. House, London, and at the National Scout Archives, Leuven/Louvain, Belgium.

Further I am very grateful to the under mentioned who, in my bouts of despair, time and time again encouraged me to carry on. To mention but a few: Laszlo Nagy [1968 – 1988] and Jacques Moreillon [1988 – 2004], successively Secretaries General of WOSM; Graham Coombe, UK Archivist; René Walgraven, Belgium; Levente Mathé, Hungary; Co and Joke Uckerman, Netherlands; and, last but not least, the late Claude Marchal, Switzerland and France.

Finally, my thanks to my wife, Joke. Without ever complaining she suffered many lonely hours while I was at it. Without her understanding and support I could not have accomplished this at all.

In 2011 an integral internet edition of ‘The Undaunted’ has been published on Fred Kelpin’s website. He is a Dutch Scouting historian. This way the book will be available again to a broader public. Earlier the Scout Shop of WOSM had stopped its sale.

Piet J. Kroonenberg
Amsterdam-Nieuwendam
Over the years, Claude Marchal took an active interest in the research conducted by this book’s author Piet Kroonenberg. They frequently exchanged information and had lively debates on points in Scouting’s history. It was not long before Mr. Marchal’s untimely passing on 26 January 1997 that he became actively involved in supporting the publishing of this book.

The passionate interest in Scouting and the personal warmth and generosity of Claude, and his wife Solange, are well known to those who made the pilgrimage to visit them in the village of Bullet, Switzerland. Visitors were welcomed to a superb view of the Alps, and to a unique collection in the Musée Scout Marchal.

The museum reflected his three passions: the automobile industry, where his father made the name “Marchal” synonymous with automobile headlights, spark plugs, and car racing in many countries; mechanical musical instruments, of which he was a pre-eminent collector in Europe; and last but not least, Scouting.

He helped to organize the World Jamboree for Peace held in Moisson, France in 1947 and subsequent Scouting trips worldwide as International Commissioner were important ele-
ments in his ardent dedication to Scouting. Claude continued to be active as a member of the Baden-Powell World Fellowship, of which Solange is also a member.

Claude will be remembered by the many whose lives he has touched, and his contribution to the “living” history of Scouting’s 90-some years will be preserved in his name for the benefit of the widest possible public. May he rest in peace.
Front page of the British magazine ‘The Scout’ on the occasion of the 6th World Jamboree, the Jamboree of Peace, at Moisson, France in 1947. The first one after World War II. The war was over, hardly anybody knew that the Cold War had already begun, and so everybody approached the future with very great optimism. World Scouting too.
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CHAPTER 1. The Forgotten Movements

THE FORGOTTEN MOVEMENTS

BY PIET J. KROONENBERG

A STORY OF SOME OF THE EAST EUROPEAN SCOUT AND GUIDE MOVEMENTS
THEIR DEVELOPMENT, THEIR BANNING AND PERSECUTION AND THE REVIVAL
OF SOME OF THEM IN RECENT TIMES, BUT ABOVE ALL THE BRAVE STRUGGLE
OF THE EXILE MOVEMENTS TO KEEP THEIR IDENTITIES
Scouting and Guiding had once been operating in the various East European Countries that had become Soviet States or satellites between 1917 and 1950. In all of them both Movements had been forbidden, disbanded and some of its members persecuted and imprisoned.

Yet Scouting and Guiding were not forgotten. By some what was called the B-P Spirit was secretly kept alive. Which was proven when in May 1945 World War Two had ended and thousands of refugees from Eastern Europe had found shelter in the Displaced Persons Camps in Western Germany, Italy and Austria. In these camps Scout Groups and Guide Companies were founded.

Having a great interest in the histories of their original Movements I made contact with several of the DP leaders, collecting historic facts. Gradually the DP Scouts spread all over the world where they founded their Exile Movements. The correspondence continued. Invitations were received to visit the excellent Archives of the British Movement in London and of the Belgian National Scout Museum (presently the Scouts and Guides Museum) at Leuven/Louvain. Many details of the pre 1945 events and situations were discovered.

Sorting these findings THE FORGOTTEN MOVEMENTS was written. A closely typed study of 116 pages A4, dealing with Russia, Poland, Hungary, Estonia, The Ukraine, Lithuania and Czechoslovakia. This more or less coincided with Mr Michel Gorbachev’s appointment as the Leader of the Soviet Union. As such he surprised the world with his introduction of Glasnost [Openness] and Perestroika [Improvement]. Which led to the collapse of the communist system, the surprising opening
of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall [on November 9th, 1989] and the revival of Scouting and Guiding.

Expecting the World Bureaus of WOSM and WAGGGS to be even better informed copies of TFM were mailed to them with the request to read, correct and/or add to the story. Meanwhile in various countries Scouting and Guiding had come back into the open and the organisers sought contact with the World Bureaus, which received many letters, asking for information and assistance.

In order to deal with the new, unexpected situation the World Bureaus decided to call a meeting to be held at Geneva on February 3rd and 4th, 1990. The two World Bureaus sent a Circular Letter to all (not the European ones only) Scout and Guide Movements’ International Commissioners. To my surprise to each invitation was attached a copy of my THE FORGOTTEN MOVEMENTS as background information.

Invited to also come and attend this meeting I understood that both World Bureaus were ever so pleased with THE FORGOTTEN MOVEMENTS as it contained a wealth of historic information that they were not aware of. Reason why, as background information, they had decided to forward copies to all free Movements worldwide. As a result of the meeting I was appointed Historical Consultant to the European Scout Committee, thus getting involved in the revival of the various new Scout and Guide Movements. Receiving copies of all WOSM reports of visits to the revived Movements and attending leaders training courses in some East European cities, I collected more facts.

This lead to the compiling of THE UNDAUNTED
CHAPTER 2. International Scouting: Refugees, Displaced Persons and Exile Scouting

The story of how Scouting began has been told many times and needs not be repeated here.

When Baden-Powell devised and developed his ideas, wrote Scouting for Boys and held the experimental camp on Brownsea Island (August 1907) he never intended to create a brand new Youth Movement. On the contrary he offered his training scheme to the existing British youth organisations such as The Boys Brigade.

But his Scouting was a novelty. It raised great interest all over the British Isles. In these late Victorian and Edwardian years boys thought it great fun and a perfect means to escape the stuffy atmosphere of family life. Working together on their own responsibility in the patrols and the troop was adventurous, very attractive and exciting. Life in the open was just the thing that appealed to them. The educators came to consider Scouting as an effective additional to the development and education of teen-age boys.

But B.P. never expected that his Scouting for Boys would cause the forming of troops outside the existing organisations. And yet that was what really happened and not only in the United Kingdom but also in its overseas territories and de-
pendencies. Baden-Powell soon understood that this new, revolutionary creation of his had to be channelled as otherwise things might run out of hand. He felt obliged to found some sort of an organisation, and so he created the (British) Scout Association, which registered and supported all troops not only in the United Kingdom but also those in its many colonies and dependencies. Yet he rather preferred the word Movement; symbolising growth, flexibility, adaptability, constant renewal and expansion.

SCOUTING GOES INTERNATIONAL

Had B.P. not foreseen the success of his training system in Britain and its Empire most certainly he could not have expected that his ideas would spread all over the world like a rapid bush fire. In almost every country there was someone who had an interest in youth work and was able to co-ordinate this with his knowledge of the English language enabling him to read “SCOUTING FOR BOYS”. And so B-P had another surprise coming when he detected that Scouting was also introduced in foreign countries, first of all in Chile (1909) and thereafter in many European, American and Asian countries.

Foreign Scout Associations were founded and they all communicated with Baden-Powell who was asked for advice and instructions.

These early Movements - as it was called - "stuck to B.P.", meaning that the system and the rules developed by him for Britain were strictly translated and introduced, with only a few slight adjustments to national or religious cir-
cumstances or traditions. In the beginning the uniforms, the rank badges and the proficiency badges were also almost identical to those used by the British and that made life on the international level so much easier. At first sight everybody knew how to value the unknown foreign brother Scout. Further, until well into the twenties and the thirties the British Scout Association served as a model for the foreign movements. When the UK movement, next to the original Scout troops, developed other branches such as the Cub Scouts, Sea Scouts, Rover Scouts, Deep Sea Scouts and much later Air Scouts etc. they were also introduced by the other countries. Leaders were sent to Gilwell Park not only to be trained as Gilwellians (two wood badges) but also as Deputy Camp Chiefs (four wood badges) entitled to run the national Gilwell training courses.

Baden-Powell's prestige and popularity were such that he was considered to be the undisputed leader of the developing World Movement to whom all conformed. However it was B.P. who looked wide and sought other ways and means for an overall world leadership.

When the various contingents participating in the 1st World Jamboree (Richmond Park, Olympia, London, summer 1920) arrived, the leaders were called for the very first international conference. Baden Powell (during this Jamboree to be proclaimed Chief Scout of the World) unfolded his plans to give the, by now truly international, movement an also truly international "management" in which he would have neither say nor vote but which he would assist as an advisor.

During this London conference (July 29th - 30th, 1920), which was to go down in Scouting's history as The First International
Conference, it was decided that all delegations would take home these plans, discuss them in their own organisations and that in two years time a second international conference would be held in Paris.

But during the meeting the Boy Scouts International Bureau (BISB) was founded and its first task was to co-ordinate the discussions and to prepare The Second International Conference in Paris, 1922.

During the latter the World Association of the International Scout Movement (WAISM) was founded. Its governing body which was to be The World Authority of the Scout Movement constituted:

- the International Conference which was to meet every two years and in which each national movement had equal votes (however large or small the movement concerned might be).
- the International Committee whose members were chosen by the International Conference's delegates. In cases of real emergencies, when decisions had to be taken in between and could not wait until the International Conference convened, this Committee could meet and act.
- the existing Boy Scouts International Bureau which was to act as the secretariat of the Conference and the Committee. Its Director was appointed by the International Committee of which he was not only the ex officio member but also the secretary and the treasurer.

The World Authority of the Scout Movement consisting of the three above institutions had the power to:

I Decide as to admission of organisations applying for recognition.
II Secure co-ordination and unity of purpose with a common understanding of the fundamental principles of Scouting as laid down by Baden-Powell.

III Arrange for publicity, liaison, correspondence and the interchange of visits.

IV Arrange for the holding of World Scout Jamborees and Rover Moots.

The 31 Movements or Federations (of which 22 European) which took the above decision were automatically registered and recognised as Members and were since known as The Founder Members.

SOME OF THE BOY SCOUTS INTERNATIONAL BUREAU’S TASKS

As mentioned above the decision-making was the International Conference's or the International Committee's. It was executed in the most democratic way by majority vote.

The International Bureau (since 1961 the World Bureau) was just an executing and supervising instrument, advising the Conference and the Committee. It never was entitled to take decisions and yet was - unjustly - often blamed by many free-booters, break-away or dissident movements for many, in their eyes, unpleasant or unfavourable decisions taken by the ruling bodies.

The Bureau's tasks were many.

If a movement applied for recognition and registration, the Bureau had to investigate. Did the applicant meet the requirements as laid down in the World Movement's rules? Were
the standards and the quality also meeting these requirements? Was the candidate really unpolitical? Whereupon a report was made and sent to the International Committee and the International Conference for them to decide. If it was decided that the movement involved was not yet ripe for recognition, the International Bureau would step right in and assist the association in making improvements whereupon, after a while, a new application could be presented.

The general rule was that one movement per country could be recognised and registered only. But in some countries it simply was not possible to have one, united national movement for religious or racial/language-barrier reasons. Sometimes the religious leaders would not permit their "flock" to be members of an organisation which was not lead by a top-leadership that did not consist of a 100% of its church members. In other countries several languages were spoken and each language group had its own Scout movement. So it happened that in various countries there were several movements. In order not to exclude good Scouts from the World Movement, in those cases it was decided to let these movements form a Federation or a National Scout Council. That body was then nominated for recognition. Having said that it must be stressed that right from the start the International Movement (or the present World Movement) was not in favour of Federations or Scout Councils. It was soon found that sometimes the standards and the quality of the movements concerned were not equal and sometimes wide apart.

Further the B.S.I.B.'s task was to see to it that the national movements, registered and recognised, adhered to the international rules and principles as laid down by Baden Powell and accepted by all member movements. In cases of serious de-
viations the B.S.I.B. (as the World Bureau now) would report to the International Conference and the International Committee for these to decide what steps were to be taken. Total or temporary suspension was possible.

The B.S.I.B. also had to see to it that recognised movements would not get involved in party-politics. It sometimes happened that political parties, in particular in one-party-states tried to mould the Scout association into a party-youth movement. In that case suspension was immediate. More about this later.

THE BOY SCOUTS INTERNATIONAL BUREAU’S HISTORY

Within the World Movement's frame-work the B.S.I.B. played an important part (as it does in this story) and so should be discussed in more detail.

Its first director was Hubert Martin, a British subject, in daily life a very high ranking customs service officer. He held this post until his death in 1938. The office was first established in a room in the building of the Imperial Headquarters of the British Movement in Buckingham Palace Road (nicknamed B. P. Road) in London. Later the office was moved to 132 Ebury Street in London S.W. 1. Its staff, equipment and activities were mainly financed by some rich American Scout leaders.

Hubert Martin was succeeded by J. S. Wilson, also British, (nicknamed Belge, referring to the fact that in build and
character he was very much alike the famous, arrogant Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot.) He carried on until the 14th International Conference at Vaduz, Liechtenstein in 1953 when he retired, to be replaced by Dan Spry, a Canadian. During his term of office the B.S.I.B. moved to Ottawa in Canada (01/01/1958).

During the 18th International Conference, 1961 at Lisbon - which was to be the climax in the Exile problem, about which much more later - it was decided to drop the word International and to replace it by World. The WAISM was to be WOSM (World Organisation of the Scout Movement) The Boy Scouts International Bureau to be World Bureau, the International Conference The World Conference and the International Committee the World Committee. The "Director" of the B.S.I.B. was henceforth to be known as the "Secretary-General". Further the word "Boy" was removed from Boy Scout as, by that time, more and more girls were also joining the organisation.

A proposal was made by the Dutch delegation to introduce a World membership/promise badge. But it was not until the 22nd World Conference of 1969 at Otaniemi, Finland, that the
latter proposal was approved and the World Badge introduced (Resolution 05/69.), much to the regret of some movements and to the badge collectors' grief and distress.

From autumn 1965 there was an "interim Director" Dick Lund. Meanwhile it had been decided to move from Ottawa to Geneva as of 01/05/1968 and also as of that date a new Secretary General took office, Laszlo Nagy. He was a Swiss citizen but of Hungarian origin and had fled Hungary during the Communist take-over of 1948.

During his term of office there were many changes in the organisation. But there was more. He stayed in office until November 1989 and just saw the beginning of the revival of Scouting in Eastern and Central Europe, which, a Hungarian refugee himself, must have pleased him very much indeed. But his successor, Jacques Moreillon, a Swiss citizen, was to bear the brunt of these surprising developments.

THE FIRST “NATIONAL” MOVEMENTS ON FOREIGN SOIL

Nothing is perfect, not everything can be foreseen, and so there can be developments that must be dealt with which are not covered by the rules laid down, whereupon the policy must either be changed or adjusted.

During the 2nd International Conference of Paris, July 29th - 30th, 1922, the various "founder movements" represented were all "national" movements operating within the boundaries of their own homelands. Shortly afterwards something happened that none of the participants could have either expected or foreseen, so there was no rule covering this new experience.
The Russians

No doubt all present at the 2nd Conference were aware of what had been going on in Russia, between March 1917 and November 1920. In March 1917 there had been a revolution which overthrew the old Russian Empire and replaced it by a democratic republic which in turn ended when the Bolsheviks committed a coup d'état in October 1917. A civil war began between the White Armies and the Red Army which ended in the European part of Russia in November 1920 when the Red Army conquered the White Army's last stronghold the Crimea. In the Siberian part the war lasted a little longer but ended with the fall of Vladivostok on the Pacific Coast in October 1922. (For more details see Chapter II - Russian Scouting).

Thousands of those who opposed the Bolsheviks and their Soviet Red Army were, if lucky, obliged to flee their homeland and find refuge in other countries.

There were Scouts amongst them and wherever the refugees settled Scout troops were founded. The founder of Russian Scouting - Oleg I. Pantuhoff - and his wife Nina managed to reach Constantinople (now Istanbul) in Turkey. He soon established contacts with the troops all over the world and man-
aged to arrange a general Scout leaders congress in Constantinople (22/03/1921) where it was decided to found the Ssowet Russkich Skautow or Soviet Russkikh Skautow (The Council of Russian Scouts) as an overall body to lead the Russian Émigré troops.

In those days communicating with other countries was much more complicated and mainly by letter only. The mail was forwarded by train or ship and no doubt it took Pantuhoff a long time before he had re-established his previous connections with Baden-Powell. Anyway, the Russians did not attend the 2nd International Conference in Paris (1922), though during that time Baden Powell and the B.S.I.B. must have been aware of the new Russian Exile Movement. What procedure was followed is unknown but on August 30th, 1922 the WAISM decided to admit and recognise Pantuhoff's Russian Scouts as "the Representatives of Russian Scouting in Foreign Countries" with the special and specific remark and/or restriction that:

"As soon as the situation in Russia would change in such a way that regular Scouting according to the International Rules would be possible again in that country, the recognition would be cancelled."

The Armenians

The Armenians are an ancient people, with a very special Christian religion. Unfortunately their mountainous homeland was surrounded by very powerful, greedy and ruthless neighbours, with other religious convictions. As early as 1079 the Armenians lost forever their independence and their freedom when they were subjected to Persian rule. But in 1522 the Turks took over from the Persians until the former were
dislodged by the Russians in 1828. In 1878 Armenia was divided between Russia and Turkey and the Russian-Turkish border cut the country into two parts.

When in 1914 World War I began Russia was on the Allied side and Turkey joined the Central Powers (Germany, Austria/Hungary etc.). So the border line, separating Russian-Armenia from Turkish-Armenia became the front-line causing a lot of destruction and the Armenians suffered a lot.

It so happened that as a result of a policy of persecutions and deportations the Armenians were no longer living only in what used to be their homeland but were scattered all over the vast Turkish Sultanate which, in those days, also comprised areas as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Jordan etc. Some even left Turkey and settled elsewhere. During World War I, the Turks - knowing that they had every reason not to be popular with the Armenians - suspected them of being pro-Russian, whereas the Armenians in reality hated and detested the Russians as much as they did the Turks. In 1915 this Turkish suspicion became a pretence to launch a barbaric massacre, a genocide during which more than 600,000 Armenians were brutally slaughtered, not only in their original homeland but all over Turkey. It being a time of war, the news regarding this outrage was slow in spreading over the world and it was not until after World War I had
ended in the autumn of 1918 that it reached Western Europe together with the first Armenian refugees, survivors, who settled in France and Switzerland.

During the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1917 the Armenians in the Russian part of their country declared their independence no doubt intending to incorporate Turkish-Armenia as well. Freedom, however, was short-lived. The communist Red Army attacked and despite fierce resistance, retook "their" part of Armenia again in 1920. It was not until the dissolution of the Soviet Union, 70 years later, that the Russian part of Armenia was able to declare its independence again. The Turkish part has been and still is part of Turkey, though in 1918 Greater Turkey had fallen apart and a large number of new countries had come into being either as independent states (Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia) or as protectorates (French Syria, British Palestine etc.). In most of these new countries there were Armenian communities.

Since 1910 Scouting had taken firm root in Armenian society within the Turkish sultanate. In 1918 the Armenian "Scouting and Physical Culture Society Ho-Men-Et-Men" was founded in which all groups united. Not only those in Turkey but also in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, France, England and Switzerland.

A very large number of Armenian refugees, mostly very poor and not speaking French, had settled in France. In the latter country the great stimulator of Armenian Scouting was Kourkène Medzadourian, in those days in his early twenties. In 1924 he founded the first Armenian troop in Paris and had a hand in the creating of other troops in France. In 1928 he took his troop on a summer camp near Hounslow in England.
His camp was inspected by Hubert Martin, the B.S.I.B.'s Director who a few days later returned with Baden-Powell. The gentlemen were apparently very much impressed with the high quality and the standards of what they saw. Such to the benefit of the French-Armenians. Medzadourian cultivated a good relationship with these leading Britons. Ho-Men-Et-Men thereupon sent him to B.S.I.B., as its representative, to discuss its recognition. But somehow Medzadourian let the French-Armenians Scouts secede from Ho-Men-Et-Men and managed to convince the International Committee, convening on April 30th, 1929, to recognise the Armenian Scouts in France as a "National Movement on Foreign Soil", named Hai Ari. Later troops in Belgium, the Netherlands and some other European countries were included in Hai Ari.

Apparently the WAISM's International Conference, the International Committee and the Boy Scouts International Bureau were not informed about or unaware of Ho-Men-Et-Men's existence. Anyway the latter disappeared to the background and was never mentioned again. In fact it was not until after the changes in Eastern Europe (period 1989-1990) that WOSM rediscovered Ho-Men-Et-Men and found that - unknown to World Scouting - this exile-organisation had been very active in the Middle East and Greece ever since 1918 and was at the time contributing to the revival of its movement in Armenia.

PRECEDEENTS

And so there were two "National" Movements not operating within the boundaries of their original homelands but on foreign soil only. The World Movement learned to regret recognising them as it created a precedent which was to cause the World Movement many difficulties in the years to come.
At the time the Russians - since 01/06/1920 known as H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S.(National Organisation of Russian Scouts) - were operating in Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Manchuria, Poland, Romania, the United States and Yugoslavia and for a short period also in the Netherlands and its overseas dependency Surinam. (See Chapter 3 - Russian Scouting).

Hai Ari, however, was more restricted to France in particular, with some groups in Belgium, Egypt and South America.

To begin with the National Movements of the countries, the Russian and Armenian groups were operating in, were not so happy after all. They had to face the problem that there were Scout groups on their territories that did not belong to their organisation, that they could neither supervise nor influence in any way.

The Russian refugees having settled in various countries created political groups that had in common that they were all developing anti-Communist activities but, apart from that, they were also opposing each other. Particularly so in France. The French Movement feared that somehow the Russian Scouts (and in a lesser degree the Armenian Scouts) would get involved in purely political matters. That, during anti-Communist demonstrations, they might be participating in uniform. The general public would not be able to distinguish the Russian Scouts from the local French Scouts and might get the impression that the Scouts in general were politically involved, whereas the international rule was that Scouting was to keep as far away from party political matters as possible. This French attitude was soon shared by other National Movements also dealing with Russian and Armenian groups and the fear
was not at all imaginary, it could have happened but - it never did. But they were not to know that in advance. Oleg I. Pantuhoff and his wife Nina lead the Russian organisation well and with a firm hand and they saw to it that it was and acted as strictly non-political. They could not deny their leaders a political opinion but they instructed their members that, whilst participating in political meetings and demonstrations, they were not even allowed to wear a Scout pin-badge on their civilian jackets, let alone attending in Scout uniform.

But of course the National Movements were not to know how well it would go and so when the Armenians were also recognised, on April 30th, 1929, it lead to discussions and protests during the 5th International Conference (Birkenhead England, August 7th-8th, 1929). It was proposed to withdraw the recognition of the two ‘National Movements on Foreign Soil’ and to let their groups join the National Movements of their countries of residence. But firstly the Russians as well as the Armenians were there - being full members - and protested and secondly it was considered that within the context of the "international brotherhood" they could not be expelled. Apparently the founding of more such movements was not expected either. Yet a compromise was reached that was supposed to stem a further wild-growth of more "'National" Movements on Foreign Soil". Resolution no 20/29 was passed reading:

20/29 Foreign Scouts, Troops

"The International Conference is of opinion that no troop of Scouts of foreign nationality should be formed in any country except in consultation with the Scout Headquarters of that country, and that the formulation of appropriate regulations be referred to the International Bureau."
This resolution may not have satisfied all countries concerned, but at least a further recognition of such "National Movements", which were also named "Exile Movements" could be prevented.

A CHANGING WORLD

Meanwhile the world was changing. Nationalism was at large and - dangerous at all times - got even more dangerous when in several countries fierce nationalists took over.

Italy

In Italy Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) in 1919 had founded the Fasci Di Combattimento (Bundle of Battle) better known as the Fascists. In 1922 he led his Black Shirts in a long march from the north of Italy to Rome, though he himself covered most of the distance by train. He became head of the government and with the preservation of the Royal Family, changed the country into a Fascist one-party authoritarian Kingdom based upon an overdone nationalism.

Scouting in Italy had begun in 1912 and in 1922 Italy was one of the Founder Members. In the Fascist ideology Scouting was too international. The Fascists had their own youth movement named Balilla and in 1927 Mussolini decided that the time had come to ban Italian Scouting and other non-fascist youth organisations. Since the "March on Rome" many Italians had left their country and mostly went to South America where the Scouts amongst them continued their Scouting, but as members of the local movements. In Italy the Scouts maintained internal as well as external contacts and revived their movements in 1944-1945 when Italy was slowly liberated by the Allies and Mussolini's reign ended rather abruptly.
Before and during World War One (1914-1918) a perfect and clever propaganda had convinced the Germans that their armies were strong and could not be defeated. So until the very last moment they were certain that they would win. Suddenly they were told that they had lost the war. Many Germans felt dismayed, cheated and disappointed and they could not accept the defeat. The Peace Treaty of Versailles (1919) which the new German Democratic Republic had to sign was not an example of political wisdom. On top of that the Germans found that during the war they had not made themselves very popular in other countries. The anger, combined with an inferiority complex and overdone nationalism created an urge for revenge and a fertile soil upon which Adolf Hitler's National Socialist party (the Nazis) thrived well.

In Imperial Germany Scouting had been introduced in 1910 by Dr Alexander Lion (1870-1962) and Captain Maximilian Bayer. The former translated Scouting for Boys and together (Berlin 18/01/1911) they founded the D.P.B. or Deutscher Pfadfinder Bund (German Scouts League) despite the opposition rendered by the Imperial Army and its High Commander, Kaiser Wilhelm II. The situation in defeated Germany was chaotic, but Scouting carried on.
When in 1919 the UK Scout Association began the preparations for the 1st World Jamboree to be held in Richmond Park/Olympia, London in 1920, the position of the German Scouts was a matter for serious consideration. On the one hand German Scouts were Scouts and should be invited. But on the other hand thousands of British families were still in deep mourning, remembering husbands and sons who had been killed during WW I. Feelings towards the Germans were still very sensitive and it was quite clear that the population, in particular that of London (which had been bombed by Zeppelin Airships and long distance planes) would not accept the presence of German Scouts in their streets. There were warnings that it might lead to conflicts and that was to be prevented at all costs.

In retrospect it is so easy to say that this was a wrong - not Scout-like - decision, but considering the public opinion of that time it may well have been a very wise one, which also protected the German Scouts and Scouting's image. The question is: Would the Germans have come if they had been invited? It seems doubtful.

After the 1st International Conference the D.P.B. was sent the proposals Baden-Powell made. They were asked to consider and were invited to send a delegation to the 2nd International Conference in July 1922 in Paris.

But in 1920 the German D.P.B. Scout leaders had been called to attend a National Leaders' Meeting at the Naumburg Castle to contemplate a reorganisation of the D.P.B. This meeting produced the fatal and regrettable Naumburger Entschluss (Decision) implying that German Scouting would not communicate with nor join International Scouting for as long as:
a) Foreign (that is British, French and Belgian) military forces would unjustly be in occupation of German territory.

b) The Allies and the many Neutrals would blame Germany for having caused World War One and for having committed war-crimes.

Further it was decided that, for as long as the above demands had not been met, the German Scouts, as an outward sign of protest and to make it perfectly clear that they were not involved in nor members of International Scouting, would be wearing their scarves under the collar of the open shirt, contrary to the international rules which had been laid down that the scarves were to be worn over the closed collar.

It was a majority decision but not all the German Scouts embraced it. Some seceded from the D.P.B. immediately after this decision, founding a new movement, the Bund Der Neupfadfinder (League of New Scouts) making it clear that they wanted to join the International Movement. Their resolution was not received with thanks. The C.V.J.M. Scouts (Christlicher Verein für Junge Männer - Young Mens' Christian Association, Y.M.C.A.), founded in 1910, were not involved and declared that they too sought the recognition of the International Movement. In 1921 they had founded the Christlicher Pfadfinderschaft Deutschland (Christian Scout Association Germany) and as such were constantly in contact with the B.S.I.B. So was the Deutscher Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg, founded on 07/10/1929, uniting all Roman Catholic Scout troops that had been operating since 1915.
There were also the German Pfadfinderinnen (Girl Guides). Originally founded in Berlin on 14/10/1912 as Deutscher Pfadfinderbund für Junge Mädchen (German Scout League for Young Girls) it was on 01/02/1913 renamed Bund Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen (League of German Girl Guides). The movement also accepted the Naunburger Decision and refused to communicate with or to ask the recognition of the Girl Guides International Bureau.

The Naunburger Entschluszu was the beginning of a long period of self-imposed isolation. Not only did the D.P.B. go its own way, it was also subjected to a chain-reaction of schisms. It split in different fractions, each one forming larger or smaller independent movements of their own.

And so German Scouting & Guiding floated on the waves of time and the gap between International Scouting/Guiding and German Scouting/Guiding widened more and more. Several times the International Movements tried to unite the German movements so that recognition would be possible, but to no avail.
When in January 1933 Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist Party took over in Germany and turned the country into a one-party state and dictatorship, there was - surprisingly - only one Guide Movement but there were more than 40 different national Scout movements, including three large ones, the Deutscher Pfadfinder Bund, the Christliche Pfadfinderschaft and the Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft St Georg. Some of the smaller ones had rules which excluded boys of "not pure German blood" from their troops and these were so close to the Nazis that they had no difficulty at all in joining the Hitler Youth. But others opposed the Nazis as much as possible, maintained contacts inland as well as abroad and later paid the price for it. The Bund Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen (League of German Girl Guides) under the leadership of Katharina Hertwig (she chose the name Erda [Earth mother]) was more and more based on old Teutonic ideas with a lot of "Blut und Boden" (Blood and Soil) and purity of the race. In 1933 the movement disbanded itself and advised the members to join the Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls) the female equivalent of the Hitler Youth. Not all groups obeyed and some carried on for a while until it was made totally impossible.
Nazism was the worst form of derailed and overdone nationalism, combined with outright hatred, a fanatical desire for revenge, radical racism and a contempt of human rights and human life. It would not only lead to another world war, but to suppression, racism, mass murder, extermination and holocaust.

Scouting did not fit in the Nazi pattern and ideology.

Whereas the communists and many other extreme left-wingers accused Scouting of being a military organisation training the boys for war-fare, the Nazis considered Scouting as not military and disciplinary at all, too soft. The fact that Scouting trained the boys and girls to develop self-discipline, self-thinking, and self-deciding clashed with the mass-discipline, the "Führer Befiehl, Wir Folgen" (Führer, give the order and we follow). Scouting did not turn its boys into well lubricated, good, obedient robots willing to gladly die for "Führer and the Fatherland".

Secondly Scouting was too "international" and not national or nationalist enough. But above all Scouting was condemned because of number 4 of the original Scout Law teaching that: "A Scout is a friend to all and a Brother to every other Scout irrespective Nationality, Race or Religion. " In Nazi eyes this was blasphemous. The assumption that a German boy would consider a dark skinned, a Slav or a Jewish boy as a brother was really too much.

And so by a Degree dated 21/06/1933 the Nazis banned and disbanded the German Scout Movements. Membership of their Hitler Youth and Bund Deutscher Mädel was made compulsory. The Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft St Georg was the last to
be suppressed and disbanded as late as 1938/1939 having been protected until then by a Concordat.

Yet for several reasons the Nazis recognised the value of Scouting. First of all they copied it, including the uniform (with the scarves under the open collars) adding military training and discipline. But there was more. In many countries they promoted the founding of Nazi Parties and/or Fifth Columns. Their propaganda was clever and well organised. Now if they could infiltrate International Scouting they would be able to slowly poison the minds of a large part of the international youth and enlarge their influence and power. So they made several attempts to have the Hitler Youth registered as "the" German Scout Movement. The German Ambassador in London, the later infamous Von Ribbentrop and the H. J. Führer Baldur von Schirach even invited B.P. for tea at the German embassy and tried to convince him. Used as they were to the Führer Prinzip they did not understand that B.P. was not a dictator and not the person that could take the decisions (should he ever have contemplated admitting the H. J.) and secondly they did not understand either that International Scouting being apolitical, could not possibly accept the Hitler Youth, racist and political as well as military as it was. So all Nazi attempts failed. Yet another attempt was made when the Nazis considered forming a small Scout Movement to serve during the Olympic Games, 1937, Berlin. The outside world, shocked by the many Nazi atrocities, was to be misled and deluded by a perfect show. Goods the Germans had not been able to acquire for a long time, were suddenly in abundance in the Berlin shop and notices saying "Für Juden Verboten" (Banned for Jews) were suddenly no longer in evidence. In this general delusion a small Scout Movement would have
served well. But the Scouts, approached to draw the Nazi Horse of Troy, did not oblige and the plan was abandoned. From that moment on the Nazis were the declared enemies of the Scouts and whichever country they later occupied, the Scout and Guide Movements were always banned and disbanded.

MORE REFUGEES

As soon as the Nazis had taken over Germany many Germans had to escape from their homeland and a considerable number of them found refuge in surrounding countries, e.g. France.

Where German Scouts settled they founded German Scout Groups. Forgetting all the previous differences that had kept them apart in Germany, they created an Exile Movement, which approached the International Committee and the Boy Scouts International Bureau for recognition and registration as a member of the WAISM In doing so they referred to the Russian and Armenian Exile Movements.

In reply WAISM referred to the earlier mentioned Resolution 20/29 and advised them to let their groups join the National Movements of their countries of residence. It is understandable the German Exile Scouts did not apprehend why the Russian H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and the Armenian Hai Ari were recognised and they could not be.

During the 5th World Jamboree, 1937 in Vogelenzang the Netherlands various German Scouts from Germany attended despite the fact that by that time the Nazis had disbanded and banned all German Scouting. Some German Scouts had friends in Austria, Switzerland or the Netherlands, crossed the
borders, donned the uniform of their friends and as members of their contingents participated in the Jamboree. Others just crossed into the Netherlands and once there dressed in their original German uniforms and were allowed to stay and join in.

The Exile German Scouts also came. As did their leaders. As did, directly from Germany, some influential leaders of the banned movements. Considering that the Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei - Secret State Police) was operating everywhere this was a brave thing to do. Their intention was to communicate with the WAISM to plead the case of German Exile Scouting in particular and German Scouting in general. And indeed there were some discussions in which Baden Powell and Hubert Martin, the B.S.I.B.'s director were involved. But again to no avail, reference was once more made to Resolution 20/29, but also to the fact that German Scouting, before its banning by the Nazis, for various reasons but mainly because of its internal discord, had never been part of the International Movement.

During the 9th International Conference (Vogelenzang & Den Haag (The Hague)), August 10-12th, 1937, the International Movement definitely dealt with this problem, rephrasing the advice already given. No more "National" Movements on Foreign Soil.

In March, 1938 Adolf Hitler annexed Austria, his country of birth. The German Army cheered by excited Austrians
marched into Vienna (Wien). But coinciding with this event the Gestapo, Sicherheits Dienst and the Hitler Jugend took over Austrian Scouting’s NHQ. Leaders were arrested and taken to concentration camps, the movements were banned and the Scouts and Guides told to join the Hitler Jugend. Though it so seemed that the Germans were given an overwhelming welcome by the population, thousands of other Austrians tried to flee their homeland and to find refuge in other countries. And so in foreign countries some Austrian Scout groups were founded and they too sought contact with the International Committee and the B.S.I.B. in London. Again they too were told to join the movements of their new countries of residence and it was made crystal clear that no Austrian "National Movement on Foreign Soil" would be recognised or even considered.

In October 1938 Nazi Germany annexed parts of the Czechoslovak Republic and, in March 1939, took the rest except Slovakia which declared its independence with Hitler's blessing. Scouting was not banned officially until October 28th, 1940, but a large number of Czechs escaped from their country and went to Great Britain or France. And once again the Scouts amongst them founded Czech Scout groups.

What was International Scouting to do? These refugee Scouts were Scouts and good ones too. So once more the problem was discussed during the 10th International Conference (July 26th-28th, 1939) at Edinburgh- Scotland. The requests made by the German, Austrian and Czech Refugee Scouts were considered but the International Conference firmly stuck to Resolution 20/29 and, in addition, passed Resolution 12/39 reading:
12/39 Displaced Persons

The Conference expresses its sympathy and extends greetings to fellow Scouts and Scouters who, through no fault of their own, have been forced to leave their native land. The Conference urges that every possible courtesy and help be extended to such Scouts and Scouters by the respective national association, whether the residence is to be temporary or permanent, and that, wherever practicable, an invitation be extended for them to become associated in some temporary way with the local Scout groups, rather than the development of any separate national groups in another country. It is to be understood that the principles involved are not to be interpreted with any retroactive effect.

From this Resolution it was quite obvious that during the last couple of years the International Conference had learned a few more lessons. During the years an increasing number of National Movements had been confronted with not only the Russian and the Armenian organisations, but also with other refugees which they had difficulty in supervising. So the desire to restrict the phenomenon grew and the International Conference more than ever wanted to stem the growth of all sorts of "National Movements on Foreign Soil". But not only that. It also sought to prevent the founding of "national" groups who lead a queer, isolated existence in a foreign country, in a strange society. It was thought better to have these boys and leaders join the local groups of their new residence, so that they would not be lonely but would feel fully accepted by the "brother Scouts". But it was also obvious, from the last sentence, "not to be interpreted with any retroactive effect" that the International Conference was still divided. Some wanted to disband the Russian and Armenian "National" movements and
to include the groups in their own organisation. No doubt the point was discussed at length but again a compromise was reached as the Resolution's last sentence made quite clear. Also the Russian H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and Armenian Hai Ari were after all represented at the meeting as full and equal members - with a right to vote - and they defended their cases with enthusiasm and determination and they could still count on some friends for support. It was a truly embarrassing situation.

Thereupon the International Conference delegations packed their bags and left Bonny Scotland to go home. A new date had been fixed for the 12th Conference to be held in 1941 in combination with the 6th World Jamboree in Finland. Did anyone expect that they would indeed meet on that date? The European political situation had quickly deteriorated and indeed a few weeks later, on September 1st, 1939, Nazi Germany, finding that her demands on Poland were not met, invaded Poland and World War II (1939-1945) actually began.

IN TIMES OF WAR

No doubt the opinion generally entertained was that World War II would solve the Refugee Scouts problem. If the war was won by the Allies the independence of Austria and Czechoslovakia would be restored and the refugees would be going home again and resume their Scouting in the homelands. Then also the time would have come to - at long last let the now Exile Germans create a Ger-
man movement fitting the International Movement's frames. High hopes and the struggle only began.

TEMPORARY SCOUT MOVEMENTS

One European country after the other was brutally attacked by Nazi-Germany, occupied and suppressed. This only caused more refugees and thousands of them, at first via France, managed to reach Great Britain. Amongst them many Scouts and Guides.

More badges used in 1937 in various European countries (from top to bottom).
D), E) & F) France;
G) & H) Luxembourg;
I) The Netherlands; J) Norway

The Poles came. Thousands of them fled their country and via Hungary went either to the Middle East or, at first to France and later to the United Kingdom.

In Paris, France, the Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego or Z.H.P. already had a Branch-HQ serving the many Polish groups in the North of France and Belgium, where many Polish miners were working in the coal-mines. When in June 1940 France was overrun and occupied by Nazi-Germany, the Polish Z.H.P. staff fled to London and under the inspiring leadership of Olga Drahonowska Malkowska, the Z.H.P.'s Founder's widow, created the Z.H.P.-
National Committee, which was put in charge of the many Polish Scout groups that were founded on the British Isles, in the Middle East, East and South Africa and even in far away India. (See Chapter 4 - Polish Scouting.)

The Norwegians came. And so did the Dutch, the Belgians and the French, the Luxembourghers and the Czechoslovaks were already there. To which were later to be added the Yugoslavs.

They were either conscripted soldiers, sailors, airmen, merchant navy sailors, civil servants and others who had either escaped before or when the Nazi-Germans occupied their country or were stranded on the British Isles. Cut off from their homelands and their families, they rallied round their Governments and/or Heads of State in Exile and all tried to create some sort of a social life in Britain, with the support of the British Government and population.

So what did the Scouts amongst them do? They contacted the British Scouts.

The British Boy Scouts Association, once the war had begun, had lost a large number of Scout leaders, Rover Scouts etc. to the Armed Forces. They were serving far from their homes and groups and so, as of January 1st, 1940 the Association had provided the Scout Clubs, manned by volunteers, in almost every garrison and sea-port. One of the best known was in Imperial Headquarters, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London,[nicknamed B-P Road] open every day from 9 am to 11 p.m. No wonder that the foreign Scouts when they found out, went to these clubs and not only met the Brits but compatriots and other stranded Scouts.
Sometimes whole families had managed to find refuge in Britain. Their governments in Exile, also based in London, provided schools and saw the importance of doing more. So when, like the Poles, Scouts of other nationalities also founded "Temporary National Movements", they received the full support not only of their own governments and heads of state but also of the British Government and the U.K. Scout and Guide Associations.

They were convinced that one day Great Britain would win the war; none of them claimed the status of "'National' Movement on Foreign Soil". Once the war over they would all return to their liberated homelands.

So this Temporary status did not worry the Boy Scouts International Bureau! Not even the "Temporary Movements" of the Austrians and Spaniards, the latter stranded after the Franco uprising and the Civil War. Not even the German one, founded on the Isle of Man where all Germans, including the refugees, had been interned for the duration of the war.

In some camps for German P.O.W., where there were no SS-men or other Nazis, some German Rover Scout Crews came into being.
THE B.S.I.B. IN WARTIME

As a result of the prevailing war-situation, the B.S.I.B., firmly lead by its Director John S. Wilson, must have been very much on its own and in a rather isolated position. Neither the International Committee nor the International Conference were able to meet. Little is known but one can imagine that the B.S.I.B.'s activities were limited. There was of course the Free World, where Scouting continued as normal as was possible, but the contacts with the European Movements were non-existent. However, Sweden was not in the war and a highly valued neutral. It still had its diplomats everywhere, even in the Nazi-occupied countries and H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf was not only Chief Scout of Sweden but also a member of the International Committee. No doubt via him news regarding the plights of the Movements in the occupied territories reached the B.S.I.B. in London.

Its Director, John S. Wilson, had been a high ranking police officer in British India when (in 1922) Baden Powell talked him into becoming a "temporary" professional Scout and made him accept the post of Camp leader of Gilwell Park near London. In 1938 he succeeded the deceased Hubert Martin as the second Director of the B.S.I.B. Early in WW II the British Government, considering him to be "a leader and trainer of men", enlisted him and, as a Colonel, he was put in charge of one of the sections of the O.S.S. (Offices of Strategic Services) nicknamed "Oh So Secret". As Winston Churchill, the great British war-leader, phrased it the O.S.S.' task was "to set occupied Europe on fire".

The O.S.S. established contacts with the resistance and partisans in Nazi-occupied Europe, providing them with arms and
other equipment. Near Beaulieu in the New Forest on the British South Coast the O.S.S. had a centre where agents of several nationalities were trained. These men and women - equipped with radio transmitters - were parachuted into Nazi occupied Europe or landed on its coasts. They advised, instructed and sometimes lead the resistance and the partisans who sabotaged the German war effort and created havoc behind the enemy's lines. But that way the O.S.S. also gathered a lot of information of what went on on the Continent and no doubt Colonel John S. Wilson had access not only to the information gathered by his own section but also to that collected by the other sections. He must have been a well informed man as far as the situation in the occupied territories was concerned and the developments when these territories were liberated by the Allies, western and eastern.

DIE STUNDE NULL – ZERO HOUR

Tuesday, May 8th, 1945, 0800 hours

A crucial moment in the history of the world. On this day and at that hour the Second World War, as far as its European Theatre was concerned, was over and done with.

The Third Reich, in those days better known as Nazi-Germany, or what was left of it surrendered unconditionally. A few days earlier, its leader, the Führer Adolf Hitler, had committed suicide in the burning ruins of what had once been Berlin. His national-socialist party had ceased to exist. In January 1933 this man and his party had assumed dictatorial power in Germany. They had created the Third Reich which they intended to last a Thousand Years, based upon oppression, terror, mass murder and extermination. The scum of the German nation had risen from the gutters and had taken charge of an other-
wise civilised nation. In this nation's name they had committed the worst of crimes and had consequently created a lot of hatred.

Fortunately "The Thousand Years' Reich" lasted only a little more than 12 years but it left behind a devastating trail of destruction all over Europe, in fact all over the world. Last but not least in Germany. Hitler's wish to create a "Grossdeutschland" (Great Germany) lead instead to a small, destroyed Germany, cut into two parts which, until 1989, were to develop as two separate states.

May 8th, 1945, 0800 hours went down in German history as "Die Stunde Null" or Zero Hour. And rightly so. A stunned, misled and disappointed population, having sacrificed almost everything on the altar of Teutonic megalomania, woke up with a shock amidst the smoking ruins of a country totally destroyed and devoid of even the barest of necessities, the Germans had to start all over again. They were so much worse off than in 1918. Not only did they have to reconstruct and rebuild their utterly destroyed country but also their relations with their immediate neighbours and the rest of the world, almost irreparably damaged as they were.

One thing was certain, Germany - as a state - had ceased to exist. The eastern part had been conquered and occupied by the Soviet Red Army. The western part was divided in a British, US and French zone, occupied and governed by the British, US and French armies, supported by Canadian, Polish, Belgian, Dutch and Norwegian Forces.
THE 1945 REFUGEES

The Germans, tired, shocked, desperate, some disappointed others relieved, but all fearing the worst and somehow well understanding that they deserved what was coming to them. And so they sat amidst the ruins of what had once been their cities and villages. In a way those who did were the fortunate ones as thousands of their compatriots originating from the eastern part of Germany were on the move westwards hoping to be able to flee from the zone occupied by the Soviet Union. They rather preferred to live as refugees in those parts of the country occupied by the western Allies than living under the Soviets. And they also knew the reason why, well aware as they were of how the Russians had suffered under the Nazi-German occupation.

But the Germans were not the only ones on the move. Allied Prisoners of War were liberated and with the assistance of the Allied Air Forces were transported home. Thousands of others, from the West European, former Nazi occupied countries having been deported to Germany for work in the War Industries, were also on their feet and on the way home. The unhappy inmates of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps were thankful for their liberation and survival but too weak to go home and they were fully dependent on the Allied forces for medical treatment and repatriation.

It was a tragic fact that amongst the above categories there were those who did not want to or were not able to return to their countries of origin, they were named:

THE DISPLACED PERSONS

There were several categories.
A) The Slave Labourers

Nazi Germany, having occupied almost most of Continental Europe and being involved in the conquering of the Soviet Union had millions of its able men under arms. Yet the war-industries, the railways, other transport systems and the growing and providing of food had to be kept going. The German women were set to work but they could not possibly do it all. So a labour force had to be recruited elsewhere. Volunteers were sought in the occupied west and north European countries and when this did not work the workers were forced to go to Germany.

In Poland and the occupied parts of the Soviet Union the strategy was different. At random men, women even boys and girls were arrested and sent to camps in Germany whereupon they were distributed to the industries or the farmers. Prisoners of War of the non-officer ranks were also enlisted be it not in the war industries.

Work in Germany was not pleasant, the more so as the Allied Air Forces bombed the country constantly and in particular the industries were favourite targets. The West European workers were, generally speaking, not treated too badly, but the East Europeans were subjected to all sorts of limitations and restrictions and had hardly any freedom and hardly any food. Made to wear a special "Ost" (East) badge, they could be recognised easily. Neither the Germans nor the West European slave-labourers were allowed to socialise with the Ostarbeiter (East workers).
B) Concentration Camp Inmates

As soon as in January 1933 the Nazis had taken over in Germany they created Konzentration Lager (Concentration Camps) for their German political opponents who were to be "re-educated". They were made to work under a stringent, harsh regime and the motto "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Liberates). As soon as the Nazis had occupied the other European countries they met resistance and again those caught and not condemned to death, were also delivered to these camps. Further there were extermination camps to which millions of Jews were sent. Not all of them were killed immediately. Each concentration camp had its own, sometimes large industries in which the inmates had to work until they died.

C) Collaborators

Even in this category there were several groups to be detected.

1) In every occupied territory were found people who fostered the same ideas as the German Nazis and who gladly cooperated with them and indeed served the Nazis well and caused their compatriots a lot of harm. They were shunned by their own people and considered as being traitors.

But Nazi-Germany also lost many millions of soldiers on the battle fields and initially it tried to replace these losses by enlisting, mainly in the SS, men of "pure Aryan blood" and a Nazi-conviction from the occupied West and North European Countries. But not only those. Recruiting officers were also sent to the prisons and men, before the war and the German occupation, having been condemned to long prison sentences, were also encouraged to enlist in the SS.
2) But even that was not enough. Later the Nazis felt obliged to accept men from nations that, in their despicable and terrible ideology, they considered as to be the "lower life forms", e.g. the Slavs, that were Russians and others from Eastern Europe.

Life in the Soviet Union had not been pleasant before 1941. It was not the "Workers' Paradise" that the communists had promised and propagated. Joe Stalin was a dictator who reigned with an iron fist and millions were murdered or starved to death, like in the Ukraine. This caused a lot of hatred and resentment. When Nazi-Germany invaded the Soviet Union in some regions the Germans were welcomed as liberators, e.g. in the Ukraine and the former Baltic States. Some, in their ignorance and innocence, not aware of the Nazi ideology, believed the false story they were told that the Nazis intended to liberate Russia, the Ukraine, the Baltic countries etc. from Communism and to restore freedom. So they volunteered. Others were enlisted as policemen behind the Eastern Front lines or as SS concentration/extermination camp guards. But the population was soon to find out that this was not a Liberation at all but just a change of dictatorship, but by then it was too late.

3) Many thousands of Soviet soldiers (more than 100 nationalities lived in the Soviet Union) were taken prisoners by the Germans. Unlike the personnel of the Western Allies they were treated very badly and large numbers were worked to death and/or died of starvation or exhaustion. So given the opportunity to escape from these terrible P.O.W. camps by enlisting as German auxiliaries they took it.
These men were not only brought into action on the Eastern Front but also in Yugoslavia and particularly the Georgians, Armenians and Russians served in the occupied territories of Western Europe, whose populations considered them as traitors. (On and after D-day, June 6th, 1944, the Invasion of Normandy, the landed British, Canadian and US soldiers were amazed when they captured Russians.)

During the last days of the war, sensing what their lot might be if taken prisoner by the Red Army or being handed over by the Western Allies to the Red Army, some managed to throw away their arms and uniforms, donned civilian clothing and mingled with the refugees and the deported slave-workers in DP-camps.

D) Refugees

The Soviet Red Army, following the retreating Germans, approached the borders of Poland and the Baltic States. Apart from those who had actually collaborated with the Nazis there were thousands of others with a clear conscience who did not wait to be "liberated" by the Soviet forces and rather preferred to accept an uncertain future with all the hardships and took to the roads trying to keep well ahead of the advancing Red Army. En route thousands of them perished but other thousands reached West Germany and met the advancing military forces of the Western Allies.

THE DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS

The collaborators had every reason not to return to their original homelands, the refugees did not want to return and the tragic fact was that many of the Ostarbeiter (slave-labourers), the liberated P.O.W. and- more tragic still - even
the concentration camp inmates of East European origin decided not to go home again.

Particularly tragic was the plight of the Poles who had trained in England and Scotland. They had served in the British Royal Air Force, the Polish Navy, the Polish Tank Brigade, the Polish Parachutist Regiment, and had fought in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Or in the Polish Army which had fought in Italy and performed so brilliantly at Monte Cassino. (See Chapter IV - Polish Scouting). The men now in charge of "Liberated" Poland made it quite clear that they were no longer welcome in their own Poland. Those who nevertheless returned lived to regret it.

This variety of human beings all landed in the Displaced Persons Camps run by the Allied Military Occupation authorities.

At first these camps contained a mixture of nationalities, later the authorities concentrated the various nationalities in "national camps".

Accommodating, feeding and clothing the DPs was an enormous task, the more so as there was little enough food available in Germany, Austria or Italy or - for that matter - in the rest of Europe. All had to be brought in from the United States and Canada.

DP life was unpleasant, drab and devoid of all luxuries and a person does not live on bread alone. It was necessary to keep the DPs engaged as well. Particularly the youngsters created a special problem, and school education as well as recreation had to be provided.
DP SCOUTING

The Allied authorities in charge soon found that in various camps Scout and Guide leaders began Scout and/or Guide groups. In this they were encouraged and assisted not only by the authorities but also by the individual members of the Western Scout and Guide Movements serving in the Allied Occupation Forces.

Particularly well informed were the British Boy Scouts Association and the Girl Guides Association. Since June 1944 these had in the field The Girl Guide Hospital Units and the Scouts International Relief Service Teams. (See the excellent book All Things Uncertain by Phyllis Stewart Brown, first published by the UK GGA 1966.) Since May 1945 these units were operating in the DP camps and though their task was not the promoting of Scouting and Guiding, blood being thicker than water, the Guide leaders and Scout leaders automatically got involved and assisted the DP Scouts and Guides wheresoever possible.

All thus concerned sent reports to their respective NHQ who in turn conveyed them to B.S.I.B. in London, to the desk of John S. Wilson, the spider in his web. His O.S.S. task also provided him with lots of information regarding the developments in East and Central Europe.

Left: Badge of the British Girl Guides used before and during World War II. Right: Badge of the British Scout Association used before, during and after World War II
Consequently he was aware of the founding of the DP groups in the DP camps. But no doubt he was more alarmed and worried by the fact that the leaders of the various DP groups, assisted by the Allied Occupation Authorities, were able to meet and found "National Scout Movements". No doubt Wilson must have recognised that a brand new problem was facing the International Movement. The war had not solved the predicament of the "National Movements On Foreign Soil" - as had been expected, on the contrary, the war had enlarged it!

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTE MEETING – NOVEMBER 1945

With WW II only just over, communications in the process of being restored and travelling possibilities either impossible or very limited, it was obvious, that it was not feasible to convene the 11th International Conference right away. Yet John S. Wilson came to the conclusion that certain crucial matters had to be taken into consideration and that important decisions had to be taken immediately. Delay might be dangerous. And so he saw to it that it was decided to summon the International Committee. But even that was not so simple.

However, on November 14th and 15th, 1945, the International Committee met at Imperial Headquarters, B.P. Road in London. The members present were:

H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden (in the chair)
Lord Hampton, Great Britain.
Ing. Ove Holm, Denmark,
Sir Alfred D. Pickford, Great Britain,
Dr James E. West, USA.
General Jean Lafont, France.
John S. Wilson, Dir. B.S.I.B.
R. T Lund, Secr B.S.I.B.
Absent - with notice given - were:

Dr Walter de Bonstetten Switzerland, and
who had given their proxies to Sir Alfred Pickford and
Ove Holm respectively.

Four more members were missing.
Dr Anton Papp of Hungary and
Dr Strumillo of Poland.
Their whereabouts were unknown and it was not even known
whether they had survived the war. (They had as was found
later.)

Sadly missed was Paul Count Teleki (Hungary) who
had died in a mysterious way during the war and
Henri Count Marty of France who - as a member of the
French resistance - had been executed by the Nazis.
His place was taken by Jean Lafont.

(At this point it is essential to repeat that International Com-
mittee members had been chosen by the International Con-
ference members during the last meeting before the war and
as such were empowered to take urgent decisions in between
International Conference meetings but they were not repre-
senting or speaking on behalf of their National movements.)

The agenda of the International Committee's meeting was a
very long one. Item 5 was dedicated to Polish Scouting, item 6
to the future of Scouting in Germany, item 7 to Scouting in
Austria, item 8 to Scouting in Finland, item 9 to Scouting in
Italy and item 10 to Scouting in Czechoslovakia. Whereupon,
as item 11 was discussed, the position of the Armenian Scout
Movement Hai Ari and - after lengthy and careful consideration - the following was concluded and worded in:

Resolution 11/45

Association des Scouts Armeniens

On the initiative of General Lafont the Director had been in correspondence with Scoutisme Français and Dr. Medzadourian in regard to the status of the Armenian Scout Association. The Committee decided that as the majority of the Association's members were domiciled within Metropolitan France and probably now French Citizens, the question of the Association's continued recognition was one which could best be clarified by discussions between its leaders and the leaders of Scoutisme Français.

The Director was instructed to inform Dr. Medzadourian, the Chief Scout of the Armenian Scout Association, of their decision and to request him to continue to endeavour to resolve the matter by amicable discussions with Scoutisme Français. General Lafont undertook to act on behalf of both Scoutisme Français and the International Committee.

In other words: The International Committee, urged by French Scouting and no doubt by John S. Wilson, had come to the conclusion that the time had come to withdraw the Hai Ari's official recognition, to advise her to disband the movement and to let her groups merge with French Scouting. It was, however, left to French Scouting and Armenian Scouting to discuss the matter and to solve the problem in the most convenient and swiftest and, above all "amicable" way possible. Which was a mistake.
All this said and done the meeting moved to item no 12 of the long agenda and after lengthy discussions formulated the following:

Resolution No 12/45

Russian Scouts (National Association)

The continuance of the recognition of the Russian Scout association was also questioned. The Committee was of the opinion that conditions now, as against those obtaining when the Association was granted recognition, were such that the continuance of recognition was no longer justified. The Committee particularly wished to avoid any circumstances that might compromise the possible organisation within the U.S.S.R. of a Scout Movement that might eventually become a member of the World Scout Brotherhood.

The Director was instructed to communicate this decision to Colonel Pantuhoff, Chief Scout of the Russian Scouts (National Association) and to inform him that Dr. West would be pleased to receive him in New York in order to discuss the question if necessary.

Note: The Director's letter to Col. Pantuhoff was subsequently approved by the Hon. President and Dr West.)

John S. Wilson had been alarmed by the developments in the DP camps. Resolutions 20/29 and 12/39 did not apply for the simple reason that in occupied Germany there was not a National Scout Movement that the DP groups could join. Further he realised quite well that once the "DP National Movements" were operating it would be ever so difficult to make them refrain from doing so. Also it was to be prevented that these "DP
National Movements" - referring to the H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and the Hai Ari - would also demand recognition and registration as "'National' Movements On Foreign Soil".

Further it was a fact that the US and French National Movements and some others - having the bulk of the Russians and Armenians operating in their countries - had always objected to the situation. Meanwhile the US and Canadian governments had announced their intentions of admitting the largest part of the Displaced Persons. France had always been a safe refuge for East and Central Europeans and so it was only to be expected that large numbers of DPs would settle there. So the US and the French movements understood quite well what would be happening if the matter was not called to a halt now. They did not want more "'National' Movements On Foreign Soil" that they could neither control nor supervise.

So in order to take the wind out of the DPs sails it was best to expel the Russians and the Armenians from the International Movement and to request them to let their groups merge with the National Movements of their countries of residence.

It was all very realistic, though painful and embarrassing, but there simply was no other solution as otherwise the whole situation was about to run out of hand.

QUESTION MARKS

Yet one wonders what possessed the members of the International Committee, in their wisdom, to phrase the Resolutions so badly. Why was not the real situation explained to Hai Ari and H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S.? Why were they not told what was going on in the DP camps and why it was deemed necessary to request them to disband their "National" Movements and to
let their groups join the National Movements of the countries of residence?

It is very doubtful indeed whether the two movements would have been prepared and willing to make this ultimate sacrifice to the benefit of the International Movement, but it might have been tried.

The argumentation of the Russians' expulsion was really the very limit. Why was stated:

"The Committee particularly wished to avoid any circumstances that might compromise the possible organisation within the U.S.S.R. of a Scout Movement that might eventually become a member of the World Scout Brotherhood."

Was such an event to be expected?

It may well be true that in the countries of the Western Allies, particularly so in the recently liberated, the Soviet Union, or rather its peoples, was held in high esteem because of the terrible sacrifices and great efforts it had made during the struggle with Nazi-Germany. In the eyes of the West Europeans the Russians, like the other Allied nations, had also contributed to the Liberation of the West and North European countries. This could not be denied. In addition, during the war the Soviet propaganda had worked in a masterly manner, giving the impression that once the "Patriotic War" would be over and the Nazis beaten, great changes would take place within the Soviet Union and her system.

At the time the Soviet Union was still a wolf in a sheepskin and had not yet dropped its mask, even though the populations of the East and Central European countries already knew
better and failed to believe in improvement of the system. But those in the Western World, licking their wounds, rebuilding their destroyed countries, tired of war and conflicts, were prepared to give the U.S.S.R the benefit of the doubt or rather they simply wanted to believe, wanted to be deceived and hence deceived they were.

Generally speaking in November 1945 there was not a shred of evidence that the Soviet Union was on the brink of going to be a real Democracy Western Style. On the contrary, though unknown to the general public, clashes between the Western Powers and their Soviet Ally became more and more frequent.

Neither was there the slightest indication that it would be possible to create in the Soviet Union a Genuine Scout Movement, politically totally independent and meeting International Scouting's rules. This was wishful thinking.

It may well have been that the general public in the West was deceived or hoping for the near impossible, one cannot, however, possibly believe or assume that the above Members of the International Committee were not aware of the realities, the hard facts and the truth. Proof of this was found in the Meeting's item no 14, formulated in the minutes as follows:


The Director referred to a report from private source that there seemed to be little likelihood at present of Soviet Russia contemplating the organisation of a National Scout Movement.

It was notable, however, that no active antagonism had been expressed at the continuance or resumption of Scouting in certain spheres under Russian influence. The Committee con-
sidered that, apart from a careful watch being kept, no action could be usefully taken.

No one but John S. Wilson, in the O.S.S., was in a better position to have such "private sources". The reliability of the "private source" as mentioned in Resolution 14/45 need not be doubted. It is also true that "Scouting in certain spheres under Russian influence" being Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary had so far been able to "re-emerge" and/or to continue. The communists had to deal with other matters more pressing than Scouting.

But also one can hardly assume that Wilson really believed in the possibility of the creation of a genuine Scout Movement in the Soviet Union. The question remains why he did not disclose the information as per 14/45 before or while discussing, formulating and putting to the vote the item 12/45. It may also have been that Wilson was convinced that neither the H.Ari nor the H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. had survived the war.

B.S.I.B. was aware of the split in the Russian Movement which occurred before WW II when one of its leaders, a Mr Bogdanovich no longer agreed with Pantuhoff's political neutral leadership. He first asked the B.S.I.B. to replace Pantuhoff and to recognise him as the one and only leader of H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. B.S.I.B. was, of course, in no position to do so. So when this failed Bogdanovich and a number of followers seceded from the movement and founded a new one the H.O.P.P./N.O.R.R. or National Organisation of Russian Pathfinders. It developed into a very nationalist, very anti-Communist movement with a political undertone. Its magazine Poteshnyi expressed views and opinions that gradually showed national socialist influences. In 1936 his movement joined
forces with the N.T.S., an émigré Russian political movement and more or less became its youth movement. In 1938 Bogdanovich claimed 12,000 Russian "Scouts" all over Europe. During the war the Nazis ordered the disbandment of all Russian émigré youth movements, including H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. (not in France only but all over occupied Europe) and their merger with H.O.P.P./N.O.R.R. under Bogdanovich's leadership. The latter's members were encouraged to join the Russian Liberation Army and to help the Nazis "liberate Mother Russia" in German uniforms.

No doubt this information had reached Wilson during the war and he may have thought that that was the end of Russian Scouting. He may or may not have been aware that Pantuhoff had been in France during the war, but - communications in Liberated Europe being chaotic - he may not have been able to find and contact him. But even then it does not explain the very ill chosen phrasing of Resolution 12/45. which led to rumours, speculations and even to accusations - not only from the movement directly involved but also from National Movements - that H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. "had been sacrificed on the altar of international politics". It was even said that Joseph Stalin, the U.S.S.R.'s dictator had asked Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister and War leader, to exert pressure on the Boy Scouts International Bureau to expel the Russian Scouts (H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S.) from the International Movement, so as to eliminate organised Russian opposition in foreign lands. This wild theory is not supported by the slightest trace of evidence. It is very unlikely that Winston Churchill, a democrat-to-the backbone, who neither liked nor trusted Stalin and the U.S.S.R. would ever have lend himself to such an undemocratic act. Further it is not likely that the International Move-
ment would have accepted such outside interference. But the 
rumours circulated and continued circulating and were re-
peated again and again until this very day.

Why did the other International Committee members accept 
the strange phrasing of 12/45? It can neither be traced nor 
proven that the others, like Wilson, had access to - no doubt - 
highly qualified and perhaps secret information. But one can 
assume that men like Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden, General 
Lafont of France and Lord Hampton (House of Lords) were 
well in the picture about developments in the U.S.S.R., East-
ern and Central Europe. Gustaf Adolf, the Chief Scout of Swe-
den, very popular in International Scouting, was - after all - 
Crown Prince of Sweden and as such a member of the Swed-
ish Privy Council. During and after the war he served in the 
Swedish military staff. Sweden had been neutral but vigilant 
and well informed and a centre of secret agents' activities. So 
it cannot but have been that Gustaf Adolf was very well 
briefed about the real situation. Neither can he have been un-
aware of the state of affairs in the countries "liberated" by the 
Red Army and it is not likely that he swallowed the fairy tales 
about the "democratisation" of the U.S.S.R., and the possible 
founding of a genuine and independent Scout Movement in 
the Union.

As for General Lafont, he had been serving on General De 
Gaulle's staff and cannot have been all that ignorant either. 
Lord Hampton, a member of the British House of Lords, no 
doubt had access to the government and must have known 
better too.
So why did they not speak their minds, particularly during the discussions on 12/45 and why did they agree with its doubtful phrasing?

It has been stated before that the International Committee members were not acting as representatives of the National Movements they belonged too. Yet blood is thicker than water. Reference has also been made to the fact that National Movements like those in the USA and France had objected, right from the start, to the Russian and Armenian "'National' Movements On Foreign Soil" operating in their countries, but they had, so far, not been able to eliminate same. So it is not surprising that Dr. James West (BSA) and Jean Lamont (France) supported the Resolutions 11/45 and 12/45. The Russian and Armenian movements would have to disband and their groups would join the either B.S.A. or French Scouting. A perfect solution of an old problem. They also realised that - if no steps were taken now - US and French Scouting would be saddled up with even more "'National' Movements On Foreign Soil" than the two they already had. So they only too gladly and willingly offered their good services to solve the Armenian and Russian problems once and for all. (At least so they thought.)

As for Prince Gustaf Adolf,. since summer/autumn 1944 Sweden was already coping with an influx of refugees from the Baltic States. When the Red Army drove back the German forces, the population may have been pleased but thousands did not wait to be "liberated" by the Soviets and fled across the Baltic to Sweden. Amongst them were many Scouts and Guides who immediately founded groups, with the full support of the Swedish Movements, who permitted them to have a special status but incorporated them in their own organisa-
tions. So the Swedish Scout and Guide Councils had every reason not to be happy with the "'National' DP Movements" founded in West-Germany as these might "soak off" the Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian groups from the Swedish movements and incorporate them as later they did. Reason why, maybe, Prince Gustaf Adolf did not express his real thoughts and accepted.

CONCLUSION

The motivation behind the Resolutions 11/45 and 12/45, expelling Hai Ari and H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. from the International Movement is quite clear. If this action had not been taken the International Movement would have been burdened with the impossible and unacceptable situation of having many more "'National' Movements on Foreign Soil".

But even then it still does not explain why the Committee worded the Resolution 11/45 and in particular 12/45 so badly. The Committee Members' real motives may never been known. All involved have long since marked their End of Trail sign.

PROTESTS

The International Committee's resolutions were sent to all recognised and registered National Movements and may have reached them with delay. The War in Europe had ended in May and the War in the Pacific in August 1945 and communications were not yet perfect and so it may have taken some time before the messages reached all.

Most of the European Movements, having been banned by the Nazis, had only just re-emerged and were busy reconstructing,
from scratch, their organisations and activities. They had their own troubles to deal with and so they may have duly noted the information, without reacting or commenting. Protests came much later when H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and Hai Ari objected and sought allies.

To H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and Hai Ari the Resolutions 11/45 and 12/45 came, very unexpectedly, tumbling out of a clear blue sky. They were shocked and disappointed and had every right to be so. Also, they were not aware of the real motives behind this all, the DP problem looming large. But even then, had they been well informed, would they have accepted and would they have sacrificed to the benefit of the World Movement? It is doubtful.

THE ENFORCEMENT

It is ever so easy to pass a Resolution, enforcing it is something totally different.

A) - Hai Ari

Kourkene Medzedourian, Hai Ari's Founder and Chief Scout, had always been a fighter, and not surprisingly, he almost exploded when he received the news. He was certainly not in the mood for "amicable discussions" with French Scouting and he and the other Armenians (French citizens or not) were not inclined to accept their expulsion and protested vehemently. Giving up their independence and disbanding their Na-
tional Movement and letting their groups join the other, real French National Movements, was unthinkable and unaccept-
able. In their protest, time and again, they referred to Baden-
Powell's personal mediation and support as a result of which they had been registered with and recognised by the B.S.I.B. on April 30th, 1929 as full and equal members. They began a campaign of lobbying abroad and they found real supporters amongst many of the National Movements that were not fac-
ing nor likely having to face the problem of having a "Na-
tional' Movements On Foreign Soil" operating in their territo-
ries and that were equally confused by the Resolutions, the motivation of which they too did not understand.

French Scouting, opening the negotiations with Merdzedou-
rian, soon found that they had stirred up a real horns' nest and had every reason to regret Lafont's generous offer to set-
tle the matter. Yet is was in fact the International Committee's acceptance of Lafont's offer that in the end saved Hai Ari from expulsion. The International Committee meeting again at Gransö, Sweden on July 19th, 1946 listened to the verbal re-
port Lafont made and placed on record:

2-IV/46 Association des Scouts Arméniens

It was decided to take no further action until after the 1947 Jamboree and Conference.

But even after that the negotiations between Scouting Fran-
çais and Hai Ari dragged on and on and on - endlessly. The French got bored, lost interest and a certain slackness set in. The matter was pushed to the background and later into obliv-
ion and many years later was totally forgotten. And so Hai Ari carried on as the only and the last officially recognized "Na-
tional Movement on Foreign Soil" until it gave up its WOSM
membership on April 8, 1997, the day that H.A.S.K., the Hayastani Azgayin Scoutakan Sharjum Kazmakerputiun - the Armenian National Scout Movement - in homeland Armenia was officially recognized by the World Organization. Scouting was back in Armenia. HAI-ARI, having kept the flag flying all those years, and having loyally and generously contributed to the revival, now considered its task done and stepped back, its members free at last to join the N.S.Os of their countries of residence. Hopefully others will follow this brilliant example.

B) - H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S

This movement's situation was completely different. Pantuhoff, the Founder and Father of Russian Scouting, may well have been wondering what was left of his organisation. Had Bogdanovich destroyed it? Not all the groups in France had obeyed the Nazi orders and joined Bogdanovich's Nazi movement. (Quite a number of Russian émigrés joined the French Resistance and fought the Nazis.) Some groups had gone underground and had continued their activities as much as possible illegally. So they re-emerged during the Liberation. The groups operating outside the theatres of war, e.g. in the USA, Canada etc. had performed normally. But as far as the situation in Europe, outside France, was concerned it must have been difficult for Pantuhoff to assess the damage done and the real state his movement was in. Wilson's supposition, that H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. had been wiped out, was, however, totally incorrect.

But the sad truth was that Oleg I. Pantuhoff and his movement had not to deal with the French but with a businesslike, no nonsense man: Dr. James West of the Boy Scouts of America.
The American's attitude was quite different. Dr. West did not come to negotiate. He came to explain the irrevocable decision and there was no beating around the bush. No sweet talk but very matter of fact. The simple message was: Disband your movement, let your groups join the National Movements of their countries of residence. Full stop. Take it or leave it and in the latter case you are expelled and don't you dare use the words Scouts or Scouting anymore. Before the H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. knew what hit it, the movement had been expelled, in spite of its protests. And since these Russians did not feel like disbanding, they had to carry on outside the World Movement.

THE DISPLACED PERSONS’ DIVISION OF THE BOY SCOUTS INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

During the International Committee meeting of November 1945 in London attention had also been given to the Displaced Persons Scouts which, in fact, were the cause of Resolutions 11/45 and 12/45.

13/45 Scouting for Displaced Persons

The formation was reported of Scout Troops in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany, where, separately, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Poles were being accommodated and cared for. In order to provide some guidance for those who were in actual contact with the problem, and who were being appealed for assistance, the Director had formulated four guiding principles to be published for information.

The Director was also requested to inform U.N.R.R.A. of these provisions and to continue to maintain close contact with the appropriate U.N.R.R.A. officials.
When formulating 13/45 John S. Wilson was apparently not yet aware of the Russian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Yugoslav, Slovenian, Hungarian and Czech Displaced Persons Scouts who had also been forming groups and "National DP Movements" in the various camps in West Germany, Austria and Northern Italy. The U.N.R.R.A. (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration), a section of the recently founded United Nations Organisation had taken over from the Allied military authorities the running of the Displaced Persons Camps. The British Girl Guide Hospital Units and the Scouts' International Relief Service Teams had been placed under its super-vision.

The British, Canadian, Polish and American and French Armies of Occupation, reinforced by Danish, Norwegian and Belgian units, ran the three West German and the three of the four Austrian occupation zones. In these Armies, as con-
scripts, many Scout leaders, Guiders, Rover Scouts and Rangers were serving. In the British, Canadian and Polish Armies there had been Rover Crews and as soon as the war was over and the military units had been stationed in garrison-towns, these Rover Crews flourished and grew. Later when the military personnel was allowed to bring the family, these Rover Crews formed the basis of British, Canadian and American Scout Groups and Guide Companies. (The British Scouts in Western Europe [B.S.W.E.], the B.S.A. Atlantic Council, the Canadian Red Patch and Maple Leaf Districts.)

These Scouts got involved with the Displaced Persons Scouts in the camps and they assisted and supported them in every possible way, whereas similar backing was also given to reviving German Scouting.

**11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, CHATEAU DE ROSNY /FRANCE**

In August 1947 the 6th World Jamboree, the Jamboree of Peace, was held at Moisson and simultaneously the 11th International Conference (the first post-war) from August 19th-22nd, 1947 at the Rosny Castle in France.

Neither H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. nor Hai Ari was on the agenda nor were they mentioned in the minutes. Yet there can be no doubt that un-officially they have been discussed and that both were there lobbying.

On the other hand the various Displaced Persons' Scout Organisations were high on the agenda. The matter was thoroughly discussed and after lengthy discussions, resolution 14/47 was drafted and approved, reading:
14/47 Displaced Persons

The Conference extends its greetings to Scout groups among the Displaced Persons and, upon the recommendation of the International Committee, resolves that the following procedure be adopted:

a) A separate division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau shall be opened forthwith under which shall be registered all associations or groups among displaced persons now in Austria and Germany.

b) The D.P. Division of The International Bureau will do its best to assist all D. P. Scouts, with advice and suggestions and will, in consultation with the (Allied) Control Authorities, the International Refugee Organisation and other responsible bodies, ensure that the aims, methods and principles of Scouting are accepted and practised and that political propaganda is not preached.

c) Registration with The D.P. Division of the International Bureau will not give right of membership of the Boy Scouts International Conference but will give recognition as Scouts under the protection of the Bureau.

d) In countries other than Austria and Germany, Scout groups among DPs, who are still in a state of transition, are recommended to join or affiliate to the local branch of the national recognised Member Organisation of the Conference and such national associations are requested to afford every courtesy and all possible assistance to these groups.

e) All DP Scouts who eventually take up residence in a country where there is already a recognised Member Organisation
of the Conference shall have the choice of becoming members of that association or of relinquishing their Scout membership. On settlement they cease to be in a state of transition and are bound by the laws of the country of their adoption.

f) Scout Associations of the country of adoption are recommended to allow such Scouts to belong to groups sponsored by the leading men of the nationality of origin and, until citizenship of the country of adoption is achieved, to take a modified form of Scout Promise which must, however, include some expression of loyalty to the laws of the country of present domicile.

The Resolution was well formulated and crystal clear. Those in charge of the DP Scout Organisations, founded 1945/1946, were made to understand that under no condition would their movements ever be recognised or registered as "'National' Movements on Foreign Soil".

For as far as those in the German and Austrian DP camps were concerned they now knew that the B.S.I.B. would recognise them as Scouts and would protect them as such for only as long as they were in these camps. But should Austrian and German Scouting, revived in 1945, ever be recognised as members of the International Movement, then the DP recognition would be cancelled, the protection withdrawn and the groups would have to join these recognised movements. On
leaving the camps and settling in some other country they would have to join that country's National Movement, be it as individuals or as a group.

In other words the National DP Leaderships chosen were permitted to lead the DP-Movements or rather the groups for as long as they were in Austria and Germany but thereafter it would be over and as a body the National Leadership would have to be disbanded though of course they could not be forbidden to meet as an institute and to attend, to advise, to sponsor and to assist their groups in the National Movement of their countries of adoption.

Separately attention was drawn again to Resolutions no’s 12/39, 11/45 and 12/45 and notice was given that the two pre-war precedents (the Russians and the Armenians) no longer existed and that no one could refer to them anymore.

The DP Division of The Boy Scouts International Bureau was to be lead by Jean R. Monnet, a British leader who had been involved in the Scouts' International Relief Service Teams and was well aware of the DP situation. His office was based in Frankfurt am Main in West Germany.

Was the problem solved nicely and efficiently for once and for all? It may well be that the International Conference and the International Bureau thought so. But once more they were badly mistaken!

AUSTRIA

In 1945 Austria had been divided into American, Soviet, British and French Occupation Zones. Though in 1938 a large majority of Austrians had welcomed the country's annexation by
Nazi-Germany, it was now to be an independent state again. The Allies installed an Austrian government and more or less treated Austria as a liberated country. Some of the former occupied countries, (e.g. The Netherlands) who had been ruled by fierce and fanatic Austrian SS-men, did not understand that at all but objected in vain.

On April 13th and 14th, 1946 the two revived pre-1938 Austrian Movements, Österreichischer Pfadfinderbund (1914-1938) (Austrian Pathfinder League) and the Österreichisches Pfadfinderkorps Sankt Georg (RC) (1926-1938) (Austrian Pathfinder Corps Saint George) merged and one national association was founded: the Pfadfinder Österreichs (P. O.). The new movement applied for membership of the International Movement and on November 3rd, 1946. John S. Wilson came to Vienna to personally deliver the recognition and registration. So Austria was back in the World Movement.

This meant that the Displaced Persons Division of the International Bureau informed all DP groups operating in Austria and recommended them to join the P. O., whereas the P. O. invited them to do so.

GERMANY

On December 5th, 1948 a number of German leaders of the non-confessional groups met in Karlsruhe and founded the Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder. Together with the revived Christlicher Pfadfinderschaft and the also revived Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg was formed the "Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderbünde" on October 1st, 1949. This "Ring" applied for international recognition which was granted on August 21st, 1950. No German Scouts having been members of the international movement before WW II, the members of the
"Ring" were very pleased to at long last belong but no one was more pleased than the Founder of German Scouting, Dr. Alexander Lion, "Der Ali", who had suffered under the Nazis.

WAGGGS, during its 1952 Conference at Baarn in the Netherlands recognised and admitted the Ring Der Pfadfinderinnen Verbande (Ring of Guide Associations) consisting of the revived E.M.P.B. or Evangelische Mädchen Pfadfinder Bund, (Evangelic Girl Scouts League), the revived Christliche Pfadfinderinnen (Christian Guides) and the Bund Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen (B.D.P.) which had nothing whatsoever to do with the pre-1933 B.D.P. None of the pre- 1933 leaders was involved in its founding.

Once again the International Bureau informed the Leadership of all "DP National Movements" that German Scouting and Guiding were now recognised and that the time had come to dissolve their "'National' DP Movements" and to let their groups join one of the three German movements, who in turn, told them that they were very welcome. Some did accept, but not all.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Further the DPs were told that the Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scout International Bureau, having fulfilled its task, was, a little prematurely, to be closed down as of June 30th, 1950 and could thereafter no longer protect and promote their dwindling number of DP-groups.

Not that at that time there were so many DP Scouts left in Germany.
According to an article by John R. Monnet in "Jamboree" B.S.I.B's magazine of February 1950 the DP Division originally cared for more than 30,000 DP Scouts in Germany, Austria and Northern Italy.

In September 1948 there were:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estonians</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>White Ruthenians</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvians</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Yugoslavs</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanians</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Russians</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenians</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Ukrainians</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considering these figures it should be noted that

a) as soon as the Austrian Movement had been readmitted to the world Movement (1946), the DP groups in that area had been removed from the B.S.I.B. administration.

b) in 1948 in Hungary as well as in Czechoslovakia Scouting was disbanded and banned by the governments. A large number of Hungarians had already left their country between 1944 and 1948 and had also lived in the DP-camps where Hungarian Scout groups had been founded but before 1948 they were not considered to be DP Scouts. In 1948 more Hungari-
ans and Czechoslovaks came to West Germany and found accommodation in the DP Camps and the Hungarian and Czechoslovak DP Movements were founded and added to the DP Division.

The gradual recognition and registration by the Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau of the DP Scouts (in Germany) of various nationalities and likewise the speed of resettlement elsewhere may be judged by the following numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Nationalities</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30-06-1948</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-09-1948</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-12-1948</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-09-1949</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-12-1949</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By the middle of 1950 only a handful of DP Scouts was left in Germany and when the DP Division was closed down on June 30th, 1950 there were about 300 left and most of these had to remain in Germany because they - or members of their family - were belonging to the "hard-core", the residual groups of refugees not able to resettle in foreign countries for a variety of reasons, mainly war crimes, overdone collaboration with the Nazis or criminal records. They had to melt into the German population and economy. (Meanwhile between 1946 and 1948 thousands of DPs left the camps and swarmed off all over the world.)

THE DRAMA OF THE Z.H.P.
Despite persecution the Zwi-
azyk Harcerstwa Polskiego,
the Polish Scout Movement,
had performed brilliantly dur-
ing the Nazi occupation. (See
Chapter 5, Polish Scouting.)

But the Polish tragedy was
that the country was "liber-
ated" by its second arch-enemy, the Soviet Union. The latter
intended Poland to be a communist satellite country and it
soon was. Contrary to what happened in other East and Cen-
tral European countries the Polish communists chose not to
disband and ban Scouting but to put it under pressure and by
slow infiltration from the top, to reform and take it over as a
communist youth movement with all the outward signs of a
genuine Scout movement. The process was slow but in April
1947, when the Polish Scouts, and not only those in Poland
but also the ones operating in other countries, were preparing
to go to the first post-war Jambo-ree, 1947 in Moisson France,
the communist authorities ordered the Z.H.P. to resign from
the International Movement. Consequently such a message
was received by the Boy Scouts International Bureau in Lon-
don and by the Z.H.P. Scouts else-where.

During the war the Z.H.P. National Committee in London, in
charge of the many Polish Scout Groups all over the world,
had always considered itself and its groups as part of the
Z.H.P. in Poland which, though banned and persecuted by the
German Nazis and the Soviets, carried on illegally. (see Chap-

er IV - Polish Scouting.) The London Z.H.P. was aware of
what was going on in Warsaw after Poland's "Liberation" and
when the Warsaw Z.H.P. had been forced to withdraw from
the International Movement and its take over by the communist party, Z.H.P. in London declared itself the one and only genuine Z.H.P. also representing the, still loyal and now illegal again, Scouts in the homeland. It so informed the International Conference and the B.S.I.B. but these, in reply, referred to Resolution 12/39 (and later to 14/47) and informed the Poles that "National Movements" were only those operating within the national boundaries of their homelands. As far as their groups were in West Germany and Austria they would be considered as members of the DP Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, but the other groups, all over the world, provided they wanted to be recognised Scouts, would have to join the National Movements of their countries of residence.

The Z.H.P. in London considered this as unacceptable and protested vehemently. They refused to disband. They did not give in either, lobbied, fought, sought allies and later, with the Hungarians, formed the hard core of the Exile Movements.

THE RIDDLE OF THE RUSSIANS

Strange things were happening and it is necessary to return to 1945.

With Resolution 12/45 the H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. (Natsoninaja Organizatsija Russkich Skautow - National Organisation of Russian Scouts) had been expelled from the International Movement. This happened on November 14th and 15th, 1945.
A few months earlier, on August 4th - 8th, 1945 the leaders of the Russian DP groups in West Germany held a conference at München/Munich and founded the O.P.HO.P/ O.R.Y.P.(or O.R.U.R.), Organizatsija Rossijskijch Junych Razwdtschikow or Organisation of Russian Young Pathfinders. (See Chapter II, Russian Scouting.) It was accepted as a DP Movement and was as such registered in 1947 by the DP Division of The Boy Scouts International Bureau, under the familiar conditions.

Some of O.P.HO.P./O.R.U.R. founders claimed that they had been pre-war members of H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. If so why did they find it necessary to begin a separate movement? Why did not these leaders and their groups join Pantuhoff's H.O.P.C.-N.O.R.S.? The latter, though expelled from the International Movement, still existed.

Could it have been because before or during the war they had been involved with Mr. Bogdanovich's political H.O.P.P./N.O.R.R., the organisation which had collaborated with the Nazis? Reason why perhaps they feared not to be welcome in H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. anymore? The riddle was never solved as no clear answers were ever given.

The O.P.HO.P./O.R.U.R. Russians put Pantuhoff in a difficult and awkward position. They used the same badges as Pantuhoff's movement. They recognised him as the Founder and Father of Russian Scouting (which they could not deny) but they even appointed him as their Chief Scout, so that he was now Chief Scout of two Russian organisations. He was a real Scout, tolerant and forgiving, and he tried to merge the two movements but failed. After many years of negotiations in 1957 he gave up and openly resigned from O.P.HO.P./O.R.U.R.
Like the other Displaced Persons the Russians settled elsewhere, mainly in the USA. But instead of conforming to the International Movement's Resolutions 12/39 and 14/47 they did not disband their "National" movement and did not advise their groups to join the National Movements of their new countries of residence. A NHQ was opened in New York and as many groups as possible were founded all over the world.

EMIGRANTS, IMMIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Immediately after World War II thousands of West Europeans left their countries of birth and emigrated. Having considered the situation in their just liberated, mostly destroyed homelands and having found that the future was not very bright and theirs and their children's possibilities limited, they preferred to move to some other country overseas. Another motive or incentive was the deteriorating political situation between the former Allies. The Cold War between the U.S.S.R. and the Western powers had begun and it looked as if World War III was imminent.

They expected that the country of their choice would offer them better prospects and full development. In these new countries the emigrants were immigrants. During the process of adjusting to the new environment and its conditions the immigrants saw to it that they were absorbed by the new society as soon as possible. This did not mean that all ties with the old country were cut immediately. Family ties always
remained, the language was not easily forgotten and a certain interest in the old country was always maintained. The 2nd generation, whether born in the old or the new country, had hardly any problems at all and the 3rd generation had integrated for a full 100%. Ties with their parents' or grandparents' country of origin were mostly non-existent and very seldom could they speak the original language properly if at all.

But not so the displaced persons.

It was obvious that the DPs could not possibly stay in the DP camps, situated in West Germany, Austria and Italy. So, after a process of selection, they were offered hospitality in various countries all over the world and between 1946 and 1950 the majority was able to settle elsewhere. The DPs were very grateful indeed and looking forward to being able to provide for their families. But - they never considered themselves as being emigrants or immigrants. And indeed it had not been their free choice to leave their homelands and to settle elsewhere. The political situation had forced them and their point of view was that they would not be staying in the new countries long. As soon as the old country would be free again they intended to return immediately.

That is why they kept together, settling, as much as possible, near each other and forming close communities. They used the old language, kept alive the old culture, the customs, festivities, national dresses etc. Religion, history and National Flag were cherished. All this was passed on to the children born in the new countries of settlement, who were also raised in the idea that one day they would accompany their parents to the old country.
However, however much these DP communities tried to prevent themselves from being absorbed by the new country and however much they tried to cling to their own national identity, it could not be prevented that in particular the 2nd and the 3rd generations were immersed in the environment they were living in.

Summarising: the majority of the DPs never contemplated to stay forever. They did not want to become part of the new nation and, at the earliest possible moment, they intended to return at the shortest possible notice in the fastest possible way.

Outsiders, including WAISM, WAGGGS, the National Movements and many others, confronted with this line of thought, considered it all as being very unrealistic. And indeed, the political situation between 1945 and 1950 was hardly developing in a manner encouraging the expectations that the countries under Communist rule would shortly regain their freedom and independence. On the contrary, the Iron Curtain had only just been lowered, the Cold War had only just begun. In addition countries like Czechoslovakia and Hungary were also taken over by the communists in that period and disappeared behind the Iron Curtain.

So a speedy return to the old homelands was hardly to be expected.

The above attitude also caused the "'National' DP Movements" refusal to disband themselves and their "national" Scout groups. They wanted to stick together, keep their movements going so that, the moment they would be able to return the Movement and the groups would form the back- bone of the movement to be revived.
But that was not all. In their opinion - when giving in to the International Movements Resolutions and disbanding - they would be betraying their Brothers Scout and Sisters Guide in the old homelands, who were persecuted, suffering in penal camps or had been brutally murdered for no other reason than being loyal Scouts or Guides. So rather than being absorbed by the National Movement of their new country they preferred to stick together under their own Arrowhead, their own national flag, their own Scouting/Guiding traditions and their own Promise and Law. They did not want to lose their identity. It was all very honourable and patriotic. Particularly Scouts, living in countries that had suffered a foreign occupation and a banning of their movements, could understand and support.

Shortly before embarkation in some German port and before sailing to their various destinations the DP Scout and Guide leaders held "national" meetings, discussing the future. It was decided to maintain a NHQ and not to disband the "National DP Movement". Also to disregard the International Movements resolutions 20/29, 12/39 and 14/47 which somehow they did not take seriously not being able to imagine that these would or could be enforced. Further that after arrival in the new country, they would stick together and wherever possible create "National" groups that would not join the country's National Movement but would remain loyal to their own NHQ, wheresoever in the world that might be.
On their own they were, on their own they wanted to be, ready for an immediate return to the old homeland.

As mentioned between 1948 and 1950 thousands of Displaced Persons, including their Scouts and Guides, left the camps in Germany for various countries. Australia took more than 12.000, but they went most everywhere.

The DP Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau may or may not have been aware of their attitude or intentions to ignore the Resolutions. Anyway it did not fail to render all possible service. When a ship carrying DPs was sailing from Hamburg or some other German port, the Scouts on board were provided with Letters of Recommendation. Further to the countries of destination were sent detailed lists providing the names and nationalities and particulars of the Scouts, Guides, and leaders that were on board.

This enabled the NHQ staff of the country of destination to contact the immigration authorities and others involved. They were told when the vessels were due to arrive and which reception-camp was to accommodate the DPs during a short transition and habituation period. So arrangements were

CONFUSION ALL OVER AGAIN

Left A) & B) Hungarian Scout and Guide badges. After 1948 these were also used by the Exile Movement and in 1989 were reintroduced into Free Hungary. Right A) & B) The Czech Dog-Head badge and the Slovakian membership/promise badge, also used in exile.
made. For starters on the quay when the ship moored and the DP set foot on land. In most ports Scouts and Guides in uniform were there to assist everybody and to make a first contact with the DP-Scouts and Guides. Hot soup, steaming coffee and rolls being served. Some were accompanying the new arrivals in the coaches to the reception centre. Then for a while the DPs were left in peace and quiet to enable them to adjust to the camp, the new situation and the new country. Whereupon members of the NHQ staff, reinforced by local Scouts and Guides visited the camp again to find that everything was just fine. They were shown the groups, dressed in their national uniforms, hoisting their flags and playing their games.

The DPs in general expressed their desire to stick together and the authorities met this request as much as possible. The NHQ informed the local districts and on arrival their representatives were present. Again the DPs were being given time to settle. Then after a while the district found that it had a new group of e.g. Lithuanians, or Latvians, or Ukrainians. Fully staffed, all in uniform and fully operational. So they invited the group to join the National Movement, the district, and to change uniforms and badges, in other words to integrate. There were, maybe, some language problems and consequently some misunderstandings, but slowly it became clear that the group or groups did not want to join either the National Movement, nor the district and did not want to don the national uniform and drop the original one. It dawned upon the NHQ and the local Scouts that the group was telling them that they were belonging to their own "National Movement" and that their NHQ was e.g. in New York or Ottawa and - thank you very much - they would be receiving their instruc-
tions and training from there. Resolutions 20/29, 12/39, and 14/47 - oh yes - but once again, thanks anyway, we have had different instructions from our NHQ.

This was the experience almost everywhere. The DPs, on arrival immediately founded new "national" groups for boys or girls or mixed. Initially the various national movements obligingly advanced towards these DP groups and companies, willing to provide them with plenty of time to adjust to the new life, the new situation, country and climate. Yet, when they found that the DPs showed no sign at all of executing the rules as laid down in Resolution 14/47, the host-national movements got worried and restless. Not only those of the USA and France but also others that had always been privileged and lucky enough to have had one organisation only, such as Great Britain and most of the Commonwealth countries. Seldom or never had they been troubled by break-away movements and now they suddenly found themselves surrounded by associations calling themselves Scout or Guide Movements. These movements kept themselves well isolated and so the national movements had neither grip upon them nor could they supervise or control their activities. The old fear cropped up that these DP - or by now- Exile Scouts and Guides might get involved in all sorts of political activities and demonstrations and that Scouting and Guiding would thus be damaged.

So the National Movements, alarmed, communicated with the International Bureaux of WAISM and WAGGGS
The International Bureaux acted and by and by the NHQ of the various DP - now - Exile National Movements were traced and located and the communications restored. But even then no pressure was exerted, there was patience and understanding, all channels were kept open but very firmly the Exile Movements were told that now the time had really come to disband and to let their groups join the National Movements of their new countries of residence.

COUNCIL OF SCOUT ASSOCIATIONS IN EXILE

The Polish Z.H.P. and the Hungarians in Exile were the largest, the most positive and active and they convinced the other Exile movements to unite in the Council of Scout Associations in Exile, so as to be able to present a firm and undivided front to the World Movements. The Council explained and defended the Exiles' attitude and made it quite clear that, for as long as Scouting in their homelands was impossible, they considered themselves not only as the representatives of that Scouting but also as THE National Movements, be it in Exile. They were hoping - in fact expecting - that the International Movement would not only understand their train of thought but would also stand firmly behind them in Brotherhood. They decided to not only ignore the Resolutions but to see to it that they would be changed or cancelled.

They considered the Director of the International Bureau, John S. Wilson, to be a hard-liner and, when, during the 14th International Conference at Vaduz/Liechtenstein (1953) he retired, they hoped that the general attitude would change and they would be given a new chance. But they were disappointed, nothing happened.
They had friends and sympathisers in particular in the countries which, during WW II, had experienced a Nazi or Japanese occupation and a banning and disbanding of their movements. Much better than many of the others were those able to understand the Exiles' attitudes and points of view.

And so the issue lingered on. A subject for discussion at every following International Conference and one certainly cannot accuse the International Movement of not having been patient and lenient. It sent the Exile Movements invitations to attend many national camps, training courses and even World Jamborees including the 1957 (9th) Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Goldfield, UK where the flags of many of the East and Central European countries were flying.

And so, against all expectations, the Exile problem was once again on the agenda of the 16th International Conference, corresponding with the 1957 World Jamboree. The delegations met in the old University city of Cambridge/UK. The International Movement and various of the National Movements directly concerned, now had an 8 years' experience in dealing with the issue and the practice and still no real solution had been found, or rather it had to be concluded that somehow Resolution 14/47 was not working properly. All members of the International Conference and all members of the International Committee as well as the National Movements directly involved were requested to report (in writing) on their experiences with the Exile Movements and in addition the Council of Scout Associations in Exile was asked to act likewise. A Commission was set up which was to gather and study the reports whereupon it would have to report to the 17th International Conference to be held in New Delhi/India in 1959. And indeed
in New Delhi the discussions were repeated all over again but again no real solution was found.

In one or two countries some sort of an agreement had been reached between the National Movements and the Exile groups. The latter had joined the National Movement as "closed" groups which wore the association's uniform with a special badge on the shirt indicating their country of origin. Further they were permitted to remain in communication with their National Exile Headquarters and if attending the latter's Gilwell training courses, these were recognised.

This was some sort of a solution which did not, however, meet the demands of the International Conference nor its approval as that way the Exile NHQ were given something of an apparent recognition. Neither did it meet the desires of the Exile Movements who wanted a full recognition and a full membership of the International Movement.

THE CUBANS

To add to the International Conference's troubles it so seemed as if one more Exile Movement might be added to the already existing ones.

Since 1940 Cuba had been governed by a military dictatorship lead by Fulgencio Batista. Gradually the people objected to this regime and many Cubans fled the island. On December 2nd, 1951 a small band of 100 armed Cuban exiles, lead by a rather popular young man, Fidel Castro, and supported by the USA, landed on the island. After an initial difficult period of
guerrilla warfare in the mountains, Fidel Castro received more and more support and followers. He was expected to end corruption, expel the dictatorship and restore democracy. His small army grew larger and larger. On January 1st, 1959, at the head of his army, Fidel Castro triumphantly marched into Habana, greeted by a population ecstatic with joy. There was chaos, the Batista administration having collapsed and its servants having fled the island, including almost the complete police force and civil service.

In those hours and days of joy the Cuban Scouts stepped in. They directed the traffic, drove the ambulances, manned the First Aid Centres, acted as couriers, delivered the mail and distributed food. As Fidel Castro himself declared later: "There was no need for police or any other law enforcement agency because the Scouts, gentle as they were, were able to take over the situation everywhere needed."

But very soon Fidel Castro showed his real attitude and in December 1961 he declared the People's Republic and joined the communist world.

Cuban Scouting had been founded in February 1914 and in 1927 The Asociacion De Scouts De Cuba had been recognised by the International Movement. In 1959/1960/1961 Fidel Castro first praised the Scouts, then tried to take over from the bottom upwards by bringing his own people into the movement on a local level. Infiltration of the communist idea did fail, however. But local Scout Units functioned under the communist party's watchful eye and were still more or less able to carry on. Whereupon after a period of time a second take over followed this time from the top of the movement.
The top leaders as well as many other Scout leaders joined the massive exodus to the USA, where most of the refugees settled in the Miami area of Florida. (More than a million and a half Cubans fled since 1960.)

In 1961 the Scouts National Council called a meeting and in order to prevent a communist take-over they requested - via the International Bureau - the 18th International Conference meeting due to meet in Lisbon (1961) to cancel the recognition and registration of the Cuban movement.

The International Bureau had meanwhile learned its lesson and it convinced the Cuban leadership not to begin another Exile Movement but to let the Cuban Scout groups join the National Movements of their new countries of residence. And so it happened.

On December 7th, 1961 was founded the Committee of Cuban Scouts Abroad. It did not intend to lead Cuban groups abroad, it only meant to promote their interests, to sponsor and support the "closed" Cuban groups in Canada, the US and elsewhere but never to act as an "Exile NHQ".

THE CLIMAX

The 18th International Conference, September 20th - 24th, 1961, Lisbon/Portugal. It was during this Conference that the International Movement dropped the word International and replaced it by World (see above). But as far as the Exile Movements were concerned the 18th World Conference was to be the crucial and fatal one.

Of course the Exile Movements had not been invited to attend which was only natural, they were not members. The Exile
matter, being considered over and done with, was not even on the agenda and later nothing of what happened was recorded in the official minutes. Officially nothing happened!

But during his opening speech the Chairman reported that various leading members of the Exile movements had been spotted in Lisbon and that they were lobbying.

Yet it so seems that the Exile Movements had previously been made an unofficial offer that might have been the solution. Apparently they were asked to refrain from their demands for Full Membership and to accept for their Council of Scout Associations In Exile a "Temporary Observer Status". A kind of an "Associate Membership". Meaning that they would have no vote and that their groups would have to co-operate with the National Movements of their countries of residence. But that way they would be linked to, supported and protected by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and the National Movements and would - if so desired - be permitted to wear a special badge indicating their "nationality of origin" on a "temporary basis" unofficially to last forever. This was a fair offer. No doubt the result of careful behind the scenes negotiations and no doubt the ultimate.

The Exile Movements were pleased and ready to accept but ... the Poles.

The Polish Z.H.P. in Exile was not prepared to accept anything short of full membership with all the full rights and fringes. Such for purely political reasons.

They had in mind that in Poland the Z.H.P. having been taken over by the communist regime and - though it had officially resigned from the World Movement - outwardly still resembled
a genuine Scout movement which - on top of that - maintained relations with various West European National Movements. Though the World Movement would never accept or recognise a political youth organisation, the Exile Poles desired to be full members so as to pre-empt the possibility, however small, of recognition of the state-supported (that was Communist Party supported) "Scout" movement.

But the Polish Exiles' demands could not be met. This was impossible. Full membership for an association functioning outside its own country was not possible under the Constitution of the World Organisation and there were also the Resolutions 20/29, 12/39 and 14/47 to be considered. The International Conference, divided as it was, having stuck its neck out was disappointed by this Polish attitude. The proposal was as far as the International Movement could go. There may have been a kind of confusion and embarrassment and so the entire package deal fell through, to the disappointment of the other members of the C.S.A.E. who would have been only too pleased to accept and to restore their official relationship with the World Movement.

In the World Movement this meant that those, who had hesitantly, grudgingly and not wholeheartedly put up with this compromise now had it their way and from that moment on the World Movement stuck to "No Movement to be recognised unless it is operating within the national boundaries of its
homeland". Once more the demand was crystal clear again: Join the National Movement of the country you are living in or cease to exist as a Scout movement and do no longer consider yourselves as Scouts anymore."

The World Movement immediately severed all communications with the Exile Movements. No more invitations for international meetings or training courses. The road to Gilwell blocked. The international magazines and other information no longer available.

The Polish attitude also caused a split in the Council of Scout Associations In Exile, most of the members being rather angry with the Poles. Its machinery stopped working and subsequently the Council disintegrated.

The Exile Scouts were out in the cold. They were in fact not Scouts anymore. Their top-leadership could be blamed for wittingly and wilfully isolating the boys and girls entrusted to their care from the real, international world of Scouting and Guiding.

World War II is over. All are optimistic and bravely facing the future. Illustration from a pamphlet published by the British Scout Movement
IN RETROSPECT

Was the International Conference to be blamed of callous behaviour, or bureaucracy, of inflexibility, of "imperialism"? In a limited way such accusations were uttered and in particular the Boy Scouts International Bureau was blamed - not only by some Exiles but also by some members of the World Movement who were not directly involved. But it was very unfair indeed.

The international rules, the Constitution and By-Laws were clear and specific. As far as the Resolutions (20-29, 12/39 and 14-47) were concerned, they had been put to the vote and had been accepted in the most democratic way also by the movements who, after 1940 and 1948, had been so unfortunate as to have been banned and to have had to continue in exile.

Furthermore, World Scouting could not be accused of not having been patient and lenient. A decision taken in 1947 was not put into practice until 1961 and during the 14 years in between there had been negotiations, talks, offers, proposals, counter proposals, reports and above all there had been no pressure. The 1961 offer had been a good one and - if it had not been for the Poles - the Exile problem would have been solved for good, perhaps not to everybody's full satisfaction but bearably.

Could not the "National Exile Movements" have been recognized as a second movement in every country they had groups operating in? To the real National Movements this would have
been unacceptable and for good reasons too. Another dangerous precedent might have been created. In some countries (France, Germany etc.) there were Scout leaders who were discontent with their National Movements' decision taken by democratic majority vote. Such discontent Scout leaders, not understanding or not willing to endorse the Movement's democratic principles, not willing to listen, to be reasonable or to really understand the issue, for political or religious reasons sometimes decided to break-away and to found their own "national movements", placing themselves and their Scouts, who (and their parents) were very often not consulted, outside the World Movement. Should the Exile Movements have been recognized as "2nd National Movements" these break-aways or freebooters would have demanded the same rights and the situation would have become chaotic.

THE UNDAUNTED

Having fought the good fight, many an Exile veteran Scout leader, on learning what had happened in Lisbon and knowing that thousands of good Scouts had been expelled from the World Movement, got tears in his eyes. But their loyalty to the old homeland and the brothers/ sisters murdered or suffering in penal camps would not permit them to disband their "National Movements". As good Scouts they kept smiling whilst gnashing their teeth and being disappointed and disillusioned. And so they carried on despite everything. Isolated, devoid of the direct receipt of what until now they still had received from W.O.S.M. Luckily they still had their individ-
ual contacts and friends in the World Movements, who kept them informed of what was going on.

In this respect it is very important to know that, in spite of all the disappointments, generally speaking there was no animosity towards the World Movement as most understood very well its motives, which some of them had helped to formulate in better times. Whereas in later years many a recognized National Movement experimented with new systems, schedules and ideas, sometimes endangering their world recognition and registration - the Exiles when expelled and on their own, very loyally and strictly adhered to the World Movement's rules and to their own pre-war rules, traditions and systems.

In WAGGGS the Exile matter had not been such an issue as it had been in the Scout Movement. Already during the period of the German D.P. camps some of the "all girls" groups had joined one of the German Guide Movements once these had been recognized by WAGGGS. In them they had formed "a Region" of their own. When settling all over the world, some of the Exile Guide Groups also joined the National Movements of their countries of residence, without losing internal "national" contact. Yet they were fostering the same ideas the Scouts were and for obvious reasons there had always been firm cooperation between the Scouts and the Guides in Exile but this was to become even closer when they were totally on their own and in limbo. It so happened that many a Guide company merged with many a Scout group. Exceptional as this happened at a time when the two World Organizations were still keeping boys and girls strictly apart, Israel excepted.

Though the Council of Scout Associations in Exile had disintegrated, most of the Exile Movements maintained contact. In a
way some of them closed the ranks. By 1976 the bad feelings towards the Poles had also diminished. And so once again the Poles and the Hungarians took the initiative to unite.

In New York, on November 7th, 1976 at 1500 hours precisely a number of Exile Scout and Guide Movements founded the Associated International Scout and Guide Organizations (A.I.S. & G.O.). In its Constitution was expressed the Exiles' regret and disappointment of not being permitted to belong to the World Scout and World Guide Movements and their right of existence was explained.

IN LIMBO

Nothing much changed after 1961. The official connections with the international bodies such as the World Conference, the World Committee and the World Bureau on the one hand and the Exile Movements on the other hand had been cut, but the Exile Movements still carried on and still considered themselves as Scouts and Guides, acted and dressed as such.

During the years following, the attitudes of the National Movements in countries where these Exiles were operating changed more and more too. It was soon proven that the greatest fear; the Exiles getting involved in all sorts of political issues, anti-communist demonstrations etc. was not emerging. So in later years the sharp edges of the relationships between the National Movements and the Exile Movements operating in one and the same country edged away. Especially as the Exiles used to organise regular "National" Jamborees in various countries with their Scouts and Guides from all over the world attending. They never failed to invite the other Exile Movements as well as the National Movements of the country concerned not only to send an official delegation of top-leaders
for the opening and closing ceremonies but they also invited groups of the country and the surrounding countries to come and participate. Slowly but surely the co-operation with the
National Movements improved and though nothing was laid down in writing officially, the Exile groups were sometimes treated as if belonging to the national movements and were permitted to take part in national camps and, sometimes as part of a national contingent, they were able to participate in World Jamborees. So apart from not being officially recognized and registered on the international level, which was still painful, it was not so bad after all, though of course, it could have been better.

THE FORGOTTEN MOVEMENTS

Only a limited number of National Movements were directly confronted with the Exile problem in their country. Those not having Exile groups within their national boundaries, soon forgot all about them and their tragedies. And so, sadly, in later years in such National Movements the Exiles were totally forgotten though they most certainly deserved better. They had become The Forgotten Movements of whose existence hardly anybody was aware of anymore. If someone, better informed, mentioned Russian, Hungarian or other Exile Scouts, this used to cause surprise and the reaction was mostly: "But there are no such Scouts."

THE VIETNAMESE

In May, 1975 Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam was conquered by the forces of communist North Vietnam. Thousands fled the country and spread all over the world, finding refuge in almost every Asian, European and American country.
This automatically meant the end of Vietnamese Scouting. Vietnamese groups were founded all over the world but - like the Cubans - they registered with the National Movements of their countries of residence. No attempt was made to found a "National Exile Movement". The International Central Committee of Vietnamese Scouting (Hội Đông Trung-Dong Huong-Dao Việt Nam) was established in 1982 at Fountain Valley, California USA, under the direct auspices of WOSM's Secretary General Laszlo Nagy. It was later based at Houston, Texas, USA. Its task was not to lead the Vietnamese groups but to assist, promote and sponsor them. It also organized Vietnamese National Jamborees in France, Canada and the USA. Vietnamese Scouts from all over the world were flown in.

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

In the communist world it had been declared that World Scouting and World Guiding were used by the capitalist system as a means to mislead, to oppress and to exploit youth. Consequently the movements were considered to belong to the enemies of the international working classes and as such had to be fought and destroyed. In most of the communist dominated countries Scouting and Guiding had been banned, disbanded and persecuted and - in the authorities' opinion - every trace of them had been deleted.

Members of the former movements had been arrested, either been killed or "re-educated" but there were always survivors and they never forgot. They could not play the same game anymore, could not openly be Scouts anymore but despite all they remained loyal to Scouting's ideals. Though not without personal risk they maintained contacts with a few trusted
friends and on Thinking Days and St. George's Days they used to congregate secretly and renew their once made promises.

They had totally lost their connections with World Scouting and World Guiding. By listening to the B.B.C. (British Broadcasting Corporation), the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe they now and then heard some news as these used to pay attention to the greater events in World Scouting and Guiding.

In Poland the Z.H.P. had been taken over by the party but at the grassroots level there were always a number of Scout leaders still loyal to authentic Scouting and Guiding who passed on the genuine ideals and ideas to the youngsters entrusted to their care. There came to being "an illegal genuine movement within the movement".

In Yugoslavia Scouts and Guides had fought in the ranks of the Tito partisans. During the dirty war they had helped to create the Partisan Youth Organization which, despite the hardships, provided education and relaxation to the youngsters. The war over, they requested to be permitted to revive Scouting but it was not to be as a Youth Movement Pioneers style was introduced. It was not until after Tito's independent attitude and his refusal
to accept and execute Stalin's orders had caused a break with
the Soviet Union that in June 1950 the Third Plenary Session
of the Yugoslavian Communist Party permitted a revival of
Scouting on an experimental basis in co-operation with The
Pioneers. The Savez Izvidaca Organizacija Ugoslavija
(S.I.O.J.), was undoubtedly a political organization and though
there were contacts with World Scouting and World Guiding it
never even tried to apply for recognition and membership.

The East bloc countries had their diplomatic and commercial
representatives all over the world and mostly these communi-
ties were rather large. Despite the fact that they lived rather
isolated, in Paris, during the relaxed periods, some children of
Russian diplomats were members of the H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S.
groups whereas others, also of other nationalities, were in-
One often wonders what part these kids later played in the

UNITED NATIONS SCOUT ASSOCIATION
United Nations, New York, U.S.A.

Emblem and membership/promise badge of the United
Nations Scout Association at the U.N. in New York
TWO IMPORTANT WORDS

On 11/03/1985 in Moscow, a new man - named Michel Gorbachev - was appointed Secretary General of the Communist Party. As such he became the most powerful of leaders, not only in the Soviet Union but in the whole communist ruled world, Yugoslavia, Albania and China excepted. In the beginning not so much attention was paid to his coming to power, but gradually it was detected that he differed from his predecessors and that he introduced certain unexpected and surprising changes which drew worldwide attention. He introduced Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (improvement) intending to reform (but not to liquidate) the Soviet Union. These two words were like two stones dropped into a quiet, stagnant pool causing ripples that did not stop at the S.U.'s borders but also influenced the many satellite states in East and Central Europe, Asia and Africa.

The East and Central Europeans, for decades having lived under regimes that they hated and never really accepted, were suddenly filled with hope. No one could foresee or predict that within a rather short time the whole Soviet system would collapse but all cherished high hopes that the system would be reformed and would provide more freedom.

Where as in various communist countries there were reforms leading to free elections, other countries like the Baltic States, having been annexed by the Soviet Union in October 1940, demanded the restoration of their independence. In 1988, their original national flags were hoisted again, and for the first time since 1940, flew over their cities and villages. The world, totally surprised, watched and held its breath when in an avalanche of events, at a pace almost impossible to keep
up with, the world situation changed dramatically and drastically.

INDESTRUCTIBLE

There were surprises in Scouting too. Only a very few in Scouting and Guiding had expected this to happen but on the whole, neither World Scouting nor World Guiding were prepared for what they had to face now. Scouting and Guiding revived in the East and Central European countries. The ideals once again proved to be indestructible and able to survive during decades of persecution. Almost everywhere there were some who had been able to avoid the persecutions, the deportations and the concentrations camps. Despite the wasted, desperate, dark years of isolation without a glimmer of hope, they had kept their Scouting and Guiding ideals alive in their hearts.

And so it happened that Scouting was revived in many of the East bloc countries, sometimes even before the communist regimes had really vanished. Hungary was first in 1988 but the others followed. In Hungary and Czechoslovakia Scouting was banned in 1948, "only 40 years" earlier; in the Baltic States Scouting and Guiding were banned as early as October 1940 and yet revived; in Bulgaria it was banned in 1940; in Romania, it was disbanded 1937 by its own King and former Chief Scout. Everywhere there were men and women who, remembering their Scouting and Guiding days, gathered youngsters and despite their ages, (all were 40 or more years older) taught them the rules and games of the movements as they remembered them. More surprising still was Russia. Between 1922 and 1927 Scouting and Guiding had literally been uprooted and stamped out. And yet even there some emerged
and helped to organize new Russian Scouting, though the initiatives were mostly taken by the young who somehow had obtained information about Scouting and Guiding. In far away countries, once part of the Soviet Union where there had never been Scouting before, young persons founded movements.

In Vietnam, the still communist government (1993) permitted the revival of Scouting. In Cambodia and Laos there was also a revival. In 1994 there were only a few countries without Scout or Guide Movements, e.g. Cuba. But that may well change shortly.

THESE ARE THE TIMES WE HAVE DREAMT ABOUT

World Scouting and World Guiding have been flabbergasted and surprised by these unexpected events of revival. Now these were indeed the times the Exile Movements had always been dreaming about. This was what they had been waiting for so long, the liberation of their homelands and the revival of Scouting and Guiding. This was why they had been keeping their Exile Movements alive (and separate). Why they kept their ideals high even though it caused their painful, regretful and regretted expulsion from the World Movements. Their hopes and dreams, so unrealistic in the mid-forties had come true and their sufferings had not been in vain. This was to be their finest hour.

Can others be blamed for not having shared the Exiles' beliefs and hopes? The overall political situation was never such that it was realistic to believe that what happened in the years 1988-1989 would ever really happen. Not even in 1987 would anybody have dared predict the changes that have taken place since 1988-1989 - the Turning Point (Die Wende); the
crumbling of the Iron Curtain; the Berlin Wall which came tumbling down so unexpectedly; the free elections in the various countries; the collapse of the Soviet Union and its division into various independent states; the Baltic States free again; the reunification of Germany.

But there was also the regretful, damaging revival of fanatic nationalism and intolerant religion causing terrible wars in several countries.

The Exile Movements acted immediately. They had prepared for this and they supported the reviving movements in their various countries in a marvellous way, materially as well as financially. Initially they invited young leaders to come to their training camps in, for example, the United States and England to participate in their Gilwell courses (all expenses paid), but later their well trained Gilwell training teams were sent to the homelands and ran the training on the very spot. They provided uniforms and badges and the plates of their handbooks so that these could be printed at lower expense in the homelands. They did so much more.

The Exile Movements moved out of oblivion into the spotlight.

As for WOSM and WAGGGS, they too were confronted with a revival they had not in the least expected and were consequently not prepared for. They were approached by the reviving Scout and Guide Movements and they stepped right in to assist and advise and did a really wonderful job with limited means and manpower.

But that way WOSM and WAGGGS were suddenly reconfronted with the Exile Movements which, since 1961, they had so very conveniently forgotten, ignored and considered to be
non-existent. Now, to the benefit of the revival process close cooperation was necessary, particularly as the Exiles spoke the languages and were very well qualified to do the training.

Most of the Exile Movements, to their delight, were prepared to work with WOSM and WAGGGS and were willing to forget and forgive and to let bygones be bygones. Only Russian O.P.HO.P./ O.R.U.R. stirred up the past, referred to the expulsion of "the Russians in 1945" forgetting to mention that it had been H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and that it had had WOSM's full protection until 1961 when it had wittingly placed itself outside the world movement by not conforming to Resolution 14/47. Initially it advised the groups that it supported and founded not to seek the recognition of WOSM, as one could well do without it.

One thing did not go as the original Displaced Persons or Exiles of 1945 had planned. In those early years they had always intended to return to their homelands as soon as these were free again. That was why they never considered themselves as immigrants and their new abodes never as permanent. That was why they had, as much as possible, been living in rather closed communities.

And why their Scouts and Guides had so desperately sought recognition for their "National Exile Movements", braving the World Movements and ending with their expulsion.

But now that their great moment had come, they did not or could not return. The original generation of Displaced Persons or Exiles was too old, financially not able to return or no longer there. Only a few of them managed to go "back home". The second and third generations had, despite everything, gradually integrated in their new countries and built an exis-
tence and a future for themselves and their children that they could not abandon. Some did not even speak the language. But all did what they could to support the homeland.

Exile leaders went to the old homeland to assist and train the revived movements, but only a few could stay.

A PROBLEM STILL TO BE SOLVED

Even now, despite good cooperation with WOSM and WAGGGS the Exile Movements are still a sort of problem. No longer can they be ignored. They have done too much valuable work, have performed too well. Yet they cannot be recognized either, nothing in that respect has changed, the old Resolutions still apply. The revived Czech Movement simply incorporated the members of its Exile Movement, the Hungarian Exiles changed the name of their organization. But still their Exile Movements are not members of the World Movement nor are they ever likely to be.

Of course their main "raison d'être" has ceased to exist. No longer do they, in Exile, have to keep their flags flying. Scouting in the homelands has revived. So with an easy conscience they can now disband their National Exile Movements and let their groups join the National Movements of their countries of residence as "closed" groups with a badge of their own, indicating their strong ties with their grandparents' and parents' homelands. The struggle has ended, the forced exile is over. They have achieved what they set out to achieve.
May a world wide solution be found so that the story of the Exiles will have a happy ending.

SCOUTING DEFROSTED

Even the youngest of Scouts and Guides who had to experience the banning, the disbanding and the persecution of their movements were, when the revival was possible, 40 or more years older. That is life, that is nature.

The Scouting and Guiding they revived were the Scouting and Guiding as they remembered it, as it was in 1940 or 1948, with the same rules, uniforms, badges, ideas and ideals.

They were not aware of the evolution of and the changes in the movements of the Free countries during the period they had experienced as their wasted and dark years.

So when they reached out to the West, they were not only pleased but also surprised and sometimes a little disappointed and shocked. They found that the Scouting and Guiding they were confronted with was different from the Scouting they remembered and had kept alive in their hearts - no more Left Hand Shakes and other traditional things, smoking and drinking, slipshod uniforms, etc.
The young western Scouts, when meeting the revived movements, were surprised too and experienced them and their leaders as being very old and very old fashioned. Some were able to understand. But others could not possibly imagine what the revivers had had to endure and how they had cherished the Scouting as they had known it. Some westerners were so outspoken that they badly hurt the feelings of many of the revivers.

Time, however, will heal all wounds and slowly the situation will change.

The East can learn and adopt a lot from the West, but it is hoped that the West will also learn and adopt a lot from the East, so that a total renaissance may be emerging to the benefit of the World Movements.
CHAPTER 3. Russian Scouting

RUSSIA - ROSSIJA

Whereas West European countries colonized parts of Africa, the Americas, the Far East and the Pacific, Russia conquered neighboring territories, subjected them to its denomination and robbed them of their independence and freedom. Russians settling in the areas, were considered as being colonizers and in all respects these regions were reduced to colonies too.

During the Russian Revolution of March 1917 the Czar’s regime was overthrown and replaced by a democratic administration consisting of social-democrats, liberals and technocrats. This was a form of government hitherto totally unknown to the Russians and the other peoples. Consequently strange, new and unfamiliar. Its introduction could have been a great improvement and a blessing to the benefit of country and people but regretfully the promising new regime never got a fair and real chance to prove itself.

In October 1917 the Bolsheviks (or Communists) committed a Coup d’État which strangled the early and still tender democracy, replacing same by a tough, stone hard, one-party-dictatorship, which, with various degrees of terror, was to last almost 70 years until the U.S.S.R. finally collapsed and ceased to exist on December 8th, 1991, and was replaced by the C.I.S. and a number of truly independent states.

In 1917, the chaotic revolution year, most of the Russian dependencies seized the opportunity of restoring their independence and freedom. Some succeeded in doing so (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) be it not but after many years of fierce fighting and a lot of human sacrifices. Others (the Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) were not so successful and after a short period of independence were re-
conquered by the Red Army. The Bolsheviks pretended to restore to each of these countries “self-government” by creating the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. This was more for the sake of appearances then for real and the U.S.S.R. was firmly ruled by the new powers, residing in the Kremlin in Moscow, the U.S.S.R.’s new capital.

In the past, as in the present, people, when referring to the Czar’s huge Empire, to the U.S.S.R. or to today’s C.I.S. (Commonwealth of Independent States) instead of applying the correct names, very often tended/tend to use just the name “Russia”, forgetting – or not aware – that Russia was only the one country around which the Czars’ Empire had developed, that Russia was only one of the 15 states forming the U.S.S.R. and again, just one of the independent states the C.I.S. is composed of.

When in the story now following the name Russia/Rossija is being used, reference is not made to the Czar’s Empire, neither to the former U.S.S.R. nor to the present C.I.S. but to the one and only real Russia/ Rossija, the original homeland of all Russians.

RUSSKII SKAUTIZM – RUSSIAN SCOUTING

Shortly after Scouting had come into being in Great Britain and Scouting For Boys had been published, in almost every country someone was found with a knowledge of the English language and thus able to read the book. In Imperial Russia a suchlike person was Oleg I. Pantuhoff. Backed by his wife Nina Mikhailovna Pantuhoff, he founded the first Russian Scout troop ever in the small city of Pavlosk, just to the south of St Petersburg on April 30th, 1909. The
troop’s name was The Beavers and it met twice weekly. The Scout badges (see A & B) – used by the Beavers exclusively – were based upon the British originals and designed by Nina, who was a professional artist. The badges showed the Imperial Crown and Czar Nicolas II’s monogram. This in itself was not so surprising. After all Pavlosk was very near Tsarskoe Selo (The Czar’s Village – now Pushkin) – the Imperial Family’s Summer Residence – and most of Pavlosk’s inhabitants were either in the court’s employ or somehow involved with it. Czar Nicolas II, one of Queen Victoria of Great Britain’s grandsons, was a notorious Anglophile. One of his many British friends, involved in Scouting, sent him a copy of Scouting For Boys. He was thus impressed that he ordered the book to be translated. In 1909 the Russian version was published, titled Yuny Razvadchick (The Young Scout/Pathfinder.)

As early as 1910 Baden Powell visited Moscow and St Petersburg. In both cities he inspected the local Scouts. In St Petersburg he was received in audience by the Czar and had several meetings with Oleg. I Pantuhoff, discussing Scouting and also inviting the latter to come to Britain and see the British movement. Pantuhoff made his trip in 1911, en route also visiting several other European countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, meeting the Scouts and their leaders.

Scouting’s growth in Russia was not as spectacular as in many other countries. Yet in 1910 there were several troops in St Petersburg, Moscow and various other places. By that time the original troop The Beavers had merged with a Tsarkoe Selo troop.

Whereas in other countries National Movements or Associations were founded, nothing of the kind happened in Russia. The Russian troops were all autonomous. Yet it was felt that some sort of a co-operation between the troops was necessary. Scout leaders from all over the country, meeting at St
Petersburg on September 8th, 1914, decided to create a Co-operative Society on a National level which would combine certain activities. In December 1915, its first National Leaders’ Conference was called at St Petersburg. Oleg I. Pantuhoff played a prominent part as did Grand Duchess Yelizavera Fyodorovna, the Empress’ sister and the man, at that time, in charge of Moscow Scouting Ilya Tchaikovsky, the brother of the world famous composer Pjotr (Peter) Tchaikovsky.

In 1915 there were troops in over 143 cities and villages and 50,000 Scouts had officially been registered. In 1920, despite WW I, the Revolution and the Civil War, their number had been doubled. These figures concerned the Russian Movement only. In other parts of the vast empire, such as Poland, the Ukraine, the Baltic States, Armenia and Georgia etc. though still part of that Empire, “national movements” had also been founded.

During the above mentioned September 1914 Leaders’ Conference the first National Scout Badge (see C) was introduced and it was also decided to publish a twice monthly magazine Bud Gotov (Be Prepared).

Most of the early movements adopted – with slight variations – the British Scout uniform. But it so seems that initially the Russians departed from this pattern. The weekly magazine Uckenik (The Student) no 7, dated St Petersburg, October 16th, 1910, dedicated the following to the subject:

“The English Boy Scouts have a special uniform which is shown in the illustration. For our boys it is not necessary to invent a special uniform, let them keep the school uniform they are wearing but let them have during their activities in the camps, during the games and
the hikes, a small, metal badge which they wear on the left arm, below the shoulder. The badge symbolises the Arrowhead.”

But this was apparently not a general opinion as soon an official uniform was introduced consisting of long trousers and the typical Russian Kaftan (a long shirt worn over the trousers) kept together by a leather belt. In wintertime the headgear was a fleecy lamb hat, in summertime replaced by the (still) typical Russian fatigue cap. A uniform that met to the full the climate’s demands and the country’s clothing customs. Yet somewhat later the British uniform was introduced, with the shorts and the Scout hat. Now shorts as such were almost totally unknown in Russia and indeed they were not very practical in the prevailing climate, particularly not in the north. As a whole this British uniform was completely different from Russian clothing in general. The general public considered it as being strange and outlandish and therefore it was the subject of much criticism and mockery.

In Scouting’s early days most of the young movements, in various countries, admitted not only the boys but also the girls be it in separate troops. The Russian Scouts were also mixed, but whereas in other countries the Girl Guides were soon founded as a separate movement, the Russians were a little late. Apart from that Russian parents, blessed with daughters, were a bit doubtful and objected to Scouting for girls fearing that Scouting might affect the girls’ “tender” personalities and characters, turning them into tomboys or viragos and endangering their suitability to and chances in the marriage-market. As most of the Russian Scouts, girls and boys, belonged to the middle classes, with a sprinkling of nobility and working class, the girls were very much used to the luxuries of life and did not feel so much like joining a movement with, after all, a primitive outdoor life.
So when on November 14th, 1915, Mr A.K. Anokhin and Mrs L.D. Prokhoreff founded the first ever Gyorl Skauty troop in Kiev, there were problems, even though 130 girls had joined up. Mr Anokhin addressing the 1st National Leaders’ Conference at Petrograd (1915) explained:

“To my astonishment, with Christmas approaching, there were only 100 girls left. Some did not take kindly to my criticism of high heels, corsets, dishevelled hairdos, no use of cosmetics, not even powder or lipstick.”

Yet the same Mr Anokhin was, it cannot be denied, far ahead of his time – as most leaders were in those days – when he declared:

“It would be a great benefit if boy and girl Scouts worked together.”

There never was a separate Gyorl Skauty organisation, the girls shared the badges with the boys and it was not until 1929 when the Russian movement (in Exile) introduced for the girls the “Three Snow-Drops” badge (D), also designed by Nina Pantuhoff. But even then this badge was worn in combination with the (metal) Arrowhead.

Russian Scouting, in a time when racism and nationalism were at large, was broadminded in being open to all, never mind their religion, race or nationality. This progressive attitude was not always understood or accepted, was even rejected by the fellow-citizens.

OPPOSITION

The Russian Scouts met with some reluctance, and with fierce opposition from the military. These ran the Poteshaye, a cadet corps for boys, founded by Czar Peter the Great (1682-1725). These cadets received an all-round military training and from their ranks, when old enough, were taken the Warrant Officers for the regular, conscript army whereas promising cadets were sent to the military academy for an officers’ training. The ca-
det corps’ command considered Scouting – not without reason – to be a competitor and did everything possible to cut across Scouting’s plans, to stop its development and to promote its quick disappearance.

Oleg I. Pantuhoff, himself a serving, professional army officer (colonel), eschewed military drill, army discipline and training for young boys, as did Baden Powell.

Also he, again like B.P., preferred the independent public spirited aims of the Boy Scouts with their more liberal attitudes towards religion and patriotism. Pantuhoff never made a secret of his opinions and these were not received with thanks by the army’s command, his superiors and his brother officers. In every possible way they tried to thwart Pantuhoff. The Czar – also being the Commander in Chief – was very much interested in Scouting, and decided to interfere. He told his General Staff to climb down and to see to it that all officers did. So by order the opposition ceased, and not only Scouting but also Pantuhoff’s career was saved.⁹

WAR, REVOLUTION AND COUP D’ ÉTAT

Meanwhile the world was changing rapidly. Political problems galore. A pistol shot was fired in Serajewo/Bosnia (Austrian dependency) killing the heir to the Austrian Imperial Throne. A culmination of nationalism. A dangerous gamble with peace at stake and risk. When on August 1st, 1914 the German Empire declared war upon the Czar’s Empire the great conflict, later to be named World War I, began. Europe – and later the world – was soon divided into two belligerent blocks; the Central Powers being Austria/Hungary, Germany and Turkey and the Allies being Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, Italy, Serbia and later Japan.
Initially the Germans concentrated all their efforts on a Blitzkrieg on the Western Front, invading Belgium and marching to the coast and Paris. They ignored their Eastern Front and the Czar’s Armies saw the opportunity to conquer and occupy parts of German East Prussia and the German and Austrian zones of Poland. When on the Western Front the German advance got stuck in Flanders’ mud and the Blitzkrieg came to a grinding halt, the Germans moved strong forces to the East and soon the Czar’s Armies were driven back. Germany and Austria occupied the Russian Zone of Poland, the Baltic States, parts of the Ukraine and Russia proper.

In these occupied territories the Germans and Austrians banned all Scouting and Guiding (Russian, Polish, Ukrainian and Baltic) and made its continuation, in whatever disguise, punishable. But Scouting, as was proven then and would be proven later, cannot be forbidden and will linger on and so the work continued illegally. In the Empire’s unoccupied parts Scouting operated normally, be it that the war added some extra activities. Scouts, boys and girls, were active for the Red Cross not only in the hospitals, on the railway stations, etc. but also in the refugee camps etc. caring for the wounded and the displaced. But the normal program continued and the general leaders’ conferences were held in December 1915 and December 1917 as normal.

But the war was going badly for the Czar’s Empire and was not particularly popular with the people, for the greater part living in ignorance, poverty and underdevelopment. Early 1917 enough was enough. In March 1917 the government was overthrown and the Revolution brought to an end centuries of Czaristic government. The old system was replaced by a democratic, republican administration of liberals, social-democrats and technocrats, led by the socialist Kerenski. This new government was facing the enormous task of reform and the introduction of real democracy, a political system the Russians had never known. In the long run this government might
have been a blessing and a great improvement, had not the Bolsheviks/ Communists intervened. Unlike the socialists they rejected democracy. In later years the Bolshevists, in their peculiar way of recording history, totally ignored the real Revolution of March 1917 and pretended that their Coup d’État of October 1917 had been The Great Revolution. It was nothing of the kind and it was not they that overthrew the old regime, they just strangled a democratic government before it had had a chance to prove its worth. The Bolsheviks had taken St Petersburg, the seat of government, but that did not mean that the rest of the country was theirs just for the taking. The gruesome and cruel Civil War began, with atrocities on both sides.

The original March 1917 revolution and the overthrow of the old regime did not affect Russian Scouting at all. The Bolshevik October 1917 Coup d’État also did not seem to hamper the Scouts either. As a matter of fact the Bolsheviks initially had more pressing matters on their hands than worrying about Scouting. Right from the start St Petersburg had been in the Bolsheviks’ firm grip and yet on St George’s Day 1918 more than 2000 Skauty and Gyorlskauty participated, in full uniform, in the open air celebrations of the day. On the Nevsky Prospect, one of St Petersburg’s main streets, there was a large and major department store. One of its departments was the official Scout Shop. In late 1918 this shop was still fully operational and all Scouting equipment, including uniforms, was normally available. In winter 1918/1919 Scouts in full uniform, were still spotted in the city’s streets, as foreign observers, diplomats and visitors, reported. Russian Scouting maintained its political neutrality, as did all the movements all over the world. But when the Civil War continued and the Bolsheviks’ Red Army gradually got the upper hand, they also got more time to deal with other matters.

They recognised that Scouting was already a well established organisation, very popular with the boys and girls and so well
worth taking over. So in 1918 the Health Minister Nikolai Semashko and the Minister of Education Anatoly Lunacharsky proposed to the scout leaders in the “Red” regions that the Scouts and Guides would join forces with the newly founded communist youth movement. Its section for 10-14 years old – The Red Trackers – was modelled on Scouting For Boys and the Scouting methods, be it of course with an additional political education.

Some Scout leaders, operating in the areas under Bolshevik control, were well aware of the fact that the pressure would be increased more and more. But there was still hope that one day the White Armies would defeat the Red Army and that the democratic republic would be reinstated. So, in order to save Scouting for the interim, they reluctantly entered into negotiations which they prolonged as long as possible. After much agonised debate on both sides a new organisation was created, being a merger of some of the Scout troops in the communist regions (but not all of them) with the Red Trackers. The organisation’s name was the Young Communists (IUK or Youkis.) Program and training were based upon Scouting For Boys with an additional communist-political flavour. The latter was not always taken seriously and ignored by the Scout leaders involved, who were hoping for better times to come. In vain, however, as they never came.11 On the contrary. The Red Army was very successful in fighting the divided White Armies12 and in November 1920 the Civil War in the European part of the country ended when the Whites had to give up their last stronghold, the Crimea, and from its beaches an exodus to foreign lands began. In the Asiatic theatre the war continued until October 1922 when the city of Vladivostok, on the Pacific Coast, was taken by the Red Army, but not after many thousands had escaped by sea. In some areas the fighting continued sporadically but gradually petered out.

During this Civil War, in the constantly decreasing areas held by the White Armies, Scouting continued as before and on
March 20th, 1919 at Tsjchelinbinsk/Chelyabinsk or Celiabinsk in the Urals leaders originating from the still White parts of the Urals and Siberia – plus no doubt some refugees from other regions – met for a Russian National Conference. Apparently the need was felt to change the situation in Scouting and to do away with the loose Co-operative Scouting Society (created 08-09-1914), and the troops’ autonomy. It was decided to create a National Association of the pattern as was usual in the other countries. The name chosen was The All-Russian Organisation of Scouts. The general situation deteriorating rapidly this plan was never realised.

RUSSKKII SKAUTIZM’S END

The Civil War being over, the Bolsheviks having won, the latter began a process of consolidating their power and eliminating all remaining traces of opposition and democracy, reforming and changing country and society. A new state was founded on December 30th, 1922: the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics or U.S.S.R. under the leadership of Vladimir Iľjitsj Oeljanov (1870-1924), who went down in history as Lenin.

Right from the start The Young Communist Scouts (HOK/IUK/Youkis) had been frowned upon and mistrusted by the more fanatic Bolsheviks who considered it a weak compromise brought about by scout leaders who were not to be trusted and by “softies” in their own ranks who by now had served their purpose and were, in due time, to be eliminated anyway. And so in October 1919 the HOK/IUK/Youkis as well as the still independent Scout troops (and all other non-communist youth organisations for that matter) were banned and disbanded. not – surprisingly – by the temporary Bolshevik government, not by the Communist party but by the Second Congress of the Party’s Youth Organisation! Strange, but that is how it can be in revolutionary times. This did not mean that
Youki or the still independent Scout troops ceased all activities overnight. They continued working but from that moment on were considered to be illegal. The Civil War almost over, on May 19th, 1922 the Bolshevik regime founded the Young Pioneers as a new Komsomol section compulsory for the 10-14 years old. From that moment on the persecution was stepped up and began in all seriousness.

At first the Bolshevik valued Scouting as an educational method. Nadezha Krupskaya, like her husband Lenin, a prominent revolutionary, was one of the Young Pioneers’ main architects and she paid the following tributes to Scouting:

“Scouting contains what irresistibly attracts young people, what gives them satisfaction, and binds them to the organisation forever.”

“That is why it is so important to put Boy Scout methods into Komsomol practise.”

In later years the role of Scouting and its influences were strictly denied. Like so many other historic truths and events this fact was simply erased from the U.S.S.R.’s official history.

And so the Young Pioneers were based upon Scouting adapted. The camping, the games and the hikes, as well as the uniforms, particularly the scarves (now red only) were adopted and adapted and so was the motto: Bud Gotov, later to be slightly changed. In the ranks well trained Scouts and their leaders, if they so desired, were very welcome indeed, but had to fully adjust themselves.

But Scouting is not to be banned easily. It has since been proven many times in many countries when dictators, from the left and the right, banned, disbanded and persecuted the movement.

In the new Soviet Union too, work was continued in secret as could be gathered from messages which reached the London
based Boy Scouts International Bureau in 1924 and 1925 from various parts of the new S.S.R. Russia. The news was that the senders kept high their loyalty to scouting’s ideals and carried on despite the personal dangers and risks involved, hoping for better times to come.

Even better proof of continued activity was found in the minutes of the annual Komsomol congresses. Time and again Scouting had to be put on the agenda for further discussion. Each time the point was pressed, with impatience, that, at long last, the “centres of resistance of the reactionary Scouts and Guides were to be located and destroyed.” And indeed, so it happened, thoroughly, fanatically, cruelly and ruthlessly. There was no mercy, no quarter was given. Thousands were tracked down, rounded up and arrested. Not seldom tortured during interrogations, killed immediately “whilst attempting to escape” or “resisting arrest”, the well known eyewash and bullshit used in all totalitarian states. Such irrespective whether a person was really involved in illegal Scouting or not. Former membership was sufficient to be taken. Hundreds of leaders, male and female, boys and girls, who survived the arrests and the interrogations, were deported to the special concentration camp Soloverski, a former monastery on the White Sea coast, well within the Polar Circle. At this, their final destination, they perished with cold and hunger, hard labour and ill-treatment. This was the bill presented for their loyalty to Scouting and its ideals and that bill had to be paid to the full.

But even so it was not until the 1926 Komsomol annual congress that those in charge of Scouting’s persecution and extermination reported that the total destruction of Scouting and its individual members had been accomplished. And yet, a few remained undetected and survived the slaughter. They, as was found later, kept the Scouting Spirit high and the ideals alive.
Although that may have been the assumed end of Scouting and Guiding within the boundaries of the gigantic country, it most certainly was not the end of Russian Scouting as such. During the revolution, the coup d'État and the civil war close to 2.5 millions of Russians and citizens of other nationalities had fled the country and escaped to foreign lands. They settled, not only in several European countries but also in China, Manchuria, Brazil, the USA, Canada etc. etc. Wherever a fair number of them had gathered there were Scouts amongst them and whenever possible troops were founded. Children, who so far had not been scouts, were encouraged to join up now, so as to give them a firm footing in their new lives in exile.

A fair number came to Turkey where troops were founded, apparently in such a number that, as early as July 6th, 1920 it was found to be justified and necessary to open up a special Scout Bureau in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in order to co-ordinate their activities. Oleg I. Pantuhoff, his wife Nina and their son Oleg Jr. had also succeeded in reaching Constantinople. Immediately after their arrival the bureau’s activities changed, increased and expanded. Oleg Sr., being a dynamic person and the Russian Chief Scout, quickly established contacts with Russian Scout troops all over the world. Considering the – in those days still rather primitive – means of communication it was an achievement that it was possible to hold a general scout leaders congress in Constantinople on March 22nd, 1921. Under Pantuhoff’s inspiring leadership the Ssowet Russkich Skautow or Sovet Russkikb Skautow (The
Council of Russian Scouts) was founded. Though this has not yet been confirmed it may or may not have been that during this meeting a new National Scout Badge (see F) was also introduced.

Apparently not all Russian troops in Exile were willing to accept an Association and a central leadership wanting to maintain the old “troop autonomy” they had known in the homeland. So some seceded and went it alone.

No doubt Pantuhoff had kept and renewed his international contacts but after the above congress he got in touch – officially – with the recently created BSIB, The Boy Scouts International Bureau, based in London. (See Chapter I.) It was one of BSIB’s many tasks to investigate and check whether a movement, applying for admittance to the WAISM met all the requirements and standards as laid down and to report to the International Conference. Whereupon the latter, or in “in-between-periods” the International Committee decided. Apparently the findings were favourable as on August 30th, 1922 it was decided to admit the Russian Scouts as: “the Representatives of Russian Scouting in Foreign Countries.” with, as a very specific and special condition that:

“As soon as the situation in Russia would change in such a way that regular Scouting, according to the International Rules, would be possible again in that country, the recognition would be cancelled.”

The Russian Scouts was the first National movement to be recognised and registered as a WAISM member that was not operating within its homeland’s borders but on foreign territory only. Thus was created a precedent which caused the world movement as such, many difficulties and, in later years, this humane recognition was much regretted. (See Chapter I.)

It so seems that at the time of registration the movement had no official name. When one was introduced has not been traced but in his General Message to All Groups, no 85, dated
September 11th, 1922 Pantuhoff used the name: “Organizatsija Russkich Skautow Za Granitsiej” or “Organisation of Russian Scouts Beyond The Borders”. or O.P.C.F. (Russian abbreviation).

O.P.C.F. groups were operating in Yugoslavia, France, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary, Belgium, Manchuria, China, Argentina, Hong Kong, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and for a short time also in The Netherlands.

Among the many refugees that settled in France. Scout leader A.L. Koshovskion founded the first of a number of Russian groups. On December 19th, 1920 these groups united and founded: “L’Association Nationale des Scouts Russes”. When Pantuhoff installed the above Council of Russian Scouts (22/03/1921) the French association became its French section. But, regretfully as always, some of the groups in France also refused to accept central leadership and wanted to stick to the “group autonomy” which they had known in Russia. So they seceded and went it alone, one group as The National Organisation of Russian Razvedchik the other as the Vitiaz, Knights. Apparently no more than two groups were involved.

In 1929/1930 the Russians established their National Headquarters in Brussels/Belgium. It so seems that during that period the movement’s name was changed once more. On contemporary letterheads and other documents is found the name (in Russian characters): “Natsioninaja Organizatsija Russkich Skautow” or National Organisation of Russian Scouts in Russian abbreviations H.O.P.C. But apparently the old problem of the correct translation of the English word Scout had been under discussion again and somehow a compromise had been reached. Razvedchik or Razvadchik was added to the movement’s last name. now to be known as Natsioninaja Organizatsija Russkich Skautow-Razwdtschikow or National Organization of Russian Scouts-Pathfinders.
Also, as per general message no 186 dated 05/12/1926 the Russians introduced a new, metal membership or promise badge (see E on next page), combining the Arrowhead with St George. In “silver” for leaders and instructors, in bronze for boys and girls. A felt background of various colours indicated the units the boys and girls belonged too (pack, troop, rover crew) and for the leaders the ranks they were serving in. In addition the girls were now permitted to wear a special, woven badge with the three Snow-Drops, so popular in World Guiding, with a ribbon stating: “Remember Russia” and “Bud Gotov” (Be Prepared). Both designs were by Nina.16

It may well have been that in numbers the Russian Movement was small, but its standards and technical skills were first rate and widely admired by many. This was also due to Scout leader Boris Martino, living in Yugoslavia who organised many leaders’ training courses and between 1937/1941 apparently also was in charge of the National Headquarters, at that time residing in Belgrade.

On April 4th, 1931 a young boy by the name of R. Polchaninoff17 joined a Russian group in this country. In later years he was going to play an important role in the Russian Exile movements.

Between the two World Wars the Russians Scouts were very active in the International field and participated in most of the international meetings, camps and other events.18 However small their contingents, they proudly flew the Russian Republican tricolour (white-blue-red (horizontal)) over their camps.

BETWEEN TWO WORLD WARS

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Vladimir Iljitsj Olejanov, better known as Lenin, leader of the Communist Party, the October 1917 Coup d’État and the U.S.S.R., died April 21st, 1924. He was succeeded, after a short interim, by Josef Vissarionovitsj Dzoegasjvili better known by the feared, blood stained name of Stalin.

He will forever be linked with Stalinism, dictatorship and a terror that not only hit the peoples of the U.S.S.R. but of many other countries as well. He kept the world in its chilling grip until his death. His assumption of power was accomplished by simply eliminating his rivals and opponents. In later years, in order to be able to stay in power, he had millions killed, starved to death or deported to camps in Siberia, which almost always meant certain death too. The Bolsheviks misused, raped an almost destroyed socialism’s name and reputation. It was clearly proven that communism had nothing to do with real socialism which after all aims at improving living and working conditions by purely democratic, humane and peaceful means.

The news of the atrocities reaching the outside world, the rest of the world was soon aware of the terror and crimes committed. These facts were of course used as anti-Communist propaganda. Also by Adolf Hitler’s Nazis who, Masters in propaganda, were, however, well matched. Both pernicious systems copied each others’ methods. A propaganda war was waged between the Communists and the Nazis but the democracies feared the former, with their world revolution of the proletariat, more than the latter who were having in their ranks highly “respectable” Captains of Industry, bankers and nobility (including members of the former Imperial Family). The democracies’ leading classes, as far as they were not secret or open admirers of Hitler and Mussolini, were hoping that
in the very end Communism and Nazism would destroy each other. Mistakes, however, can be made and were made.

In August 1939 the astonished world learned that the two, who had been at each other’s throats for years, signed a (Molotow/Ribentrop) pact, promising not to attack each other and, in a secret treaty, divided Eastern and Central Europe in spheres of influence. Thus the U.S.S.R. covered the Nazis’ back and the latter provoked World War II by attacking Poland on September 1st, 1939. On the 17th the U.S.S.R. assisted the Nazis even more, by also invading Poland, stabbing it in the back. Whereupon it conquered, occupied and annexed the areas allotted to her.

WORLD WAR II 1939 - 1945

And so WW II had begun. Now if Stalin had thought that he would be secure and safe, he too made a dreadful mistake. In June 22nd, 1941 Nazi-Germany invaded the U.S.S.R. and initially it seemed as if the latter, utterly taken by surprise, (despite Allied warnings) would be totally beaten and destroyed by the overwhelming forces let loose in the plains. The turning point was the Battle of Stalingrad (now Volgograd) August 1942 – February 1943, when the Red Army, with western support and the Soviet people’s utmost exertion, recovered from all previous disasters and defeats, and slowly got back on its feet. The Red Army began pushing the Nazis in a western direction. A push which would bring that Army to the very heart of Berlin in May 1945. All this at the expense of millions and millions of dead Soviet citizens.

The world was subjected to an enormous propaganda war. The Nazis, masters in this field, covered up their own crimes almost until the very end, but exaggerated the outrages committed by the Stalin regime, as if there was anything to be exaggerated. At the same time the Bolsheviks were trying to make good friends with their western Allies, pulled the wool
over their eyes and attempted to cover up their dirty past and present as much as possible. They pretended that, once the “Great Patriotic War” would be over, it’s system would be changed into a real democracy, with real freedom for the Soviet citizens.

No one in the Western World, particularly in the Nazi occupied countries, believed the Nazi propaganda. But the people, suffering under the Nazis, tended to give credence to the Soviet Allies, partly because people wanted to believe in false hopes, partly because they hoped for a quick end of the war. Also, it cannot be denied, there was a growing respect for the part communists played in the various resistance movements and the partisan forces that fought the Nazis in the occupied territories all over Europe. Further the Red Army’s performance and the civil population’s sacrifices were also known as were the hardships and sufferings of same. Millions died fighting, millions of civilians including almost all the Jews, were simply exterminated. Others having surrendered to the Nazis were starved and/or worked to death in camps. These figures were so large that even the Soviet authorities, fearing unrest, never revealed them, not even after the war was over.

So it is not surprising that those living in the west, and particularly those in the Nazi occupied territories, considered the Red Army as one of the liberating forces. Those in East and Central Europe, who were really “liberated” by the Red Army, had other thoughts and other opinions, but that too was still unknown at that time.

And so, many who ought to have been wiser, wittingly closed their eyes for the past. The world wanted to be deceived, so deceived she was. Of course there were others, sadder and wiser, (such as Winston Churchill) who knew better and spoke words of warning, but in the general euphoria, linked with WW II’s cessation, such warnings were frivolously put aside.
RUSSKII SKAUTIZM DURING WORLD WAR II

During WW II Russian Scouts continued to exist legally in Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, England and some other places. But in an underground mode in the Nazi occupied countries, such as Poland, Yugoslavia, France, Latvia, the Ukrainian and Hungarian Carpathian mountains, and Czechoslovakia, where all Scouting and Guiding had been forbidden. But even in Nazi-Germany, where Scouting had been banned between 1933 and 1937, the Russian Scouts still met. This activity was perilous, scores of Scouts and their leaders were imprisoned and lost their lives. Surprisingly in Nazi occupied Russia, in the city of Pskov/Pleskau, Russian Scouting was revived by some who had survived the extermination of Scouting between 1922 and 1927. This survival was not without risk and, of course, illegal as the Germans, had they known, would never have permitted it.

Contact between the geographically dispersed and geopolitically segregated groups was lost for many years. The NHQ, since 1937 established in Belgrade/Yugoslavia and led by Boris B. Martino, also went underground when the Nazi Armies occupied Yugoslavia in 1941. It is now necessary to read again Chapter I concerning Mr Bogdanovich’s pro-Nazi activities which may explain the general message no 4, dated 11/02/1942 informing the groups in Europe that a new name (N7) had been introduced being: Natsionaljnaja Organisatsija Rossiijskijch Razwdtscheikow or National Organisation of Russian Pathfinders, (N.O.R.P.) or in Russian abbreviations: H.O.P.P., being that of Bogdanovich’s doubtful organisation.

For reasons unknown, the Central office was moved to Warsaw/ Poland in 1942 where, until 1944, it operated. The unsolved question is whether this was under Nazi-leadership or at least influence.
It is understandable that the Russians, who, since the end of the Civil War (1922), had been living in the various East and Central European countries did not feel like staying and waiting to be “liberated” by the advancing Red Army. So in 1944/1945 they took to the roads and they became refugees once more and joined the ever swelling ranks of those fleeing into a western direction, hoping to keep well ahead of the Red Army and reaching those parts of Germany that would be occupied by the Western Allies. Those who made it to West Germany, Austria, and Northern Italy were to be known as the Displaced Persons.\(^{19}\)\(^{20}\)

**THE DISPLACED PERSONS**

The Armies of the Western Allies, having landed in Normandy on June 6th, 1944 (D-Day) gradually liberated France, Belgium, Luxembourg and in autumn/winter 1944/1945 the southern part of the Netherlands, also conquering and occupying parts of Germany west of the river Rhine. In April 1945 they crossed this river and marched into Germany proper. Discovering the concentration/ extermination camps and large numbers of forced labourers of all nationalities, having been deported to Germany to perform slave labours in the war industries. Also the large crowds of East and Central Europeans fleeing in a western direction. At first these were housed in mixed camps, but later, when Nazi Germany had finally collapsed (May 8th, 1945) and the Western Allies were in full control, the various nationalities were, as much as possible, housed in “national” camps.

It was the Allies’ enormous task to accommodate, feed and clothe these refugees and deportees, to sort them out and expedite their return to their homelands. Some, however, had no wish to return to their countries of origin. (See Chapter 1.)
RUSSKII SKAUTIZM AS DP s

It was in these camps that many a member of Russkii Skauts met others who had also fled from the countries in the East they had been living and Scouting in. Despite the DPs’ sad conditions or rather just because of these they soon founded “national” groups. This was greatly appreciated by the Allied authorities running the camps, who promoted everything that might keep the inmates and in particular the children occupied busy and more or less happy.

In the British Zone of West Germany the DP camps were the charges of the various “civilian” COBSRA (Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad) teams including the G.I.S. (Guides International Service) and the S.I.R.S. (Scouts International Relief Service). It was by no means G.I.S.’s or the S.I.R.S.’s task to concentrate on Scouting or Guiding in the camps. On the contrary they were in charge of some of the camps, had many other things to do but of course, blood being thicker than water, it was no wonder that in their limited “spare time” the team members paid attention to the various DP Scout groups. They helped them and, by writing reports to their National Headquarters and the International Bureaux, brought them under the attention of the World Movements. Whereupon the latter took action and various national movements, e.g. in Britain, Canada and the States (also Sweden and Switzerland) began sending assistance.

The teams also talked the military authorities into aiding these Scouts and Guides. This was not so difficult. Thousands of Scouts and Guides were serving in the Allied forces, in all ranks. So asking them to release goods from former German army stock (tents, cooking utensils etc.) and confiscated Nazi movement goods was not so difficult. Hitler Youth uniforms were soon “liberated” and changed into Scout and Guide uniforms.
The Russian DP Scout groups also benefited. When conditions improved and stabilised the various Russian DP groups in the various camps were able to trace each other, to communicate and to force links. The leaders deemed it necessary to meet and with the help of the British and American military authorities, those staying in Western Germany, were able to hold a “national congress” at Munich (München) from November 4th until 6th, 1945. Who were these 25 leaders, coming from several DP camps in Germany? (Those in Austrian or North Italian camps were not permitted to attend, the Allied authorities refused them entry visa for occupied Germany.) Where had they come from? Ten were from Yugoslavia, 4 from Poland, 4 from Estonia, 2 from Hungary, 2 from Czechoslovakia, 1 from Bulgaria, 1 from Romania, and 1 from Latvia. Of these 25 21 were said to have been members of Pantuhoff’s H.O.P.C.-P./N.O.R.S.-P. or had some been involved in Bogdanovich’s H.O.P.P./N.O.R.P. since 11/02/1942? (See Chapter I). It will never been known. So much of this episode in the Russian Exile history has been covered with an impenetrable veil.

Four of them had never been members of the Exile Movement, so apparently they had been living in the Soviet Union until given the chance to flee to the West. But all 25 had been members of Russian Scouting before the revolution. Europe still being in chaos, travelling impossible and postal service in the process of a very slow recovery, they may not have had contact with the Russian groups that, in other countries, had been able to continue their activities in full freedom and the others in France that, after an underground existence during the Nazi occupation had returned into the open and resumed the work. It may well have been that the congress participants were not even aware of whereabouts of their Chief Scout Pantuhoff, who was living in New York, where his wife Nina had died on 12/01/1944. If Pantuhoff knew that the congress was to be held, which is doubtful, and should the above mentioned other groups have known, they would not have been able to obtain the military permits necessary to travel to and in Ger-
many. So little could they have done to influence what was about to happen.

The conference, apparently chaired by SL Boris Martino, founded a new organisation named: Organizatsija Rossijskijh Junych Razwtdtsichikow or Organization of Russian Young Pathfinder. abbreviated in Russian as O.P.H.O.P. and in English as O.R.Y.P. (N8) also known as O.R.U.P.

Now it is very important to pay special attention to the dates. The Russian DP leaders convened in Munich November 4th until 6th, 1945 discussing their future, but unaware of the fact that on November 14th and 15th 1945 another conference was taking place in London, also dealing with their immediate future. (See Chapter I.) It may well have been, is almost certain, that the latter’s participants were not aware of the Munich conference and most certainly they were not informed regarding the founding of a second Russian Exile movement.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING, NOVEMBER 1945

(Also see Chapter 1 for more detailed information)

John R. Wilson (nicknamed: Belge) was the Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau in London and he sat there like a spider in his web, collecting information and reading the reports that reached him from Germany and elsewhere concerning DP Scout activities. He was soon aware that the several DP groups in the various camps were uniting into “National Movements” which they considered to be as the continuation of the original homeland movements now forbidden by the “liberators” and the communist puppet regimes. He realised that very soon these “national movements” would be asking for registration, recognition and re-admittance to the
World Movement as “National Movements on Foreign Soil”. He also realised that they would do so with reference to the two precedents: the Russian Scouts and the Armenian Hai Ari.

He was also aware that the various Scout Movements of the countries in which these two “Movements on Foreign Soil” were operating had never been happy at all with the situation and would certainly not accept more movements of the kind on their territories.

So drastic steps had to be taken by the International Conference or the International Committee. Once more the post-war chaotic circumstances and the lack of proper means of communication were a problem. It was impossible to let the Int. Conference meet, some members had not be located as yet, but the International Committee members succeeded in reaching London for their first post war meeting on November 14th and 15th 1945. A lot of work had to be tackled, many problems new, many old. Wilson reported on his findings regarding the DP Scouts and no doubt the other members added their experiences. They agreed that no more “National Movements on Foreign Soil” could be permitted and they also agreed that the two precedents had to be removed and expelled from the World Movement. And so it happened that was passed:

Resolution 12/45, reading:

“The continuation of the Russian Association was also questioned. The Committee was of the opinion that conditions now, as against those obtaining when the Association was granted recognition, were such that the continuance of recognition was no longer justified. The Committee particularly wished to avoid any circumstances that might compromise the possible organisation within the U.S.S.R. of a Scout Movement that might eventually become a member of the World Scout Brotherhood.”
“The Director (of the BSIB) was instructed to communicate this decision to Colonel Pantuhoff, Chief Scout of the Russian Scouts (National Association) and to inform him that Dr West (BSA) would be pleased to receive him in New York in order to discuss the question if necessary.”

An almost similar Resolution no 11/45 regarding HAI ARI, expelling the Armenian Movement was also passed and approved. The International Committee would however have been acting more elegantly if she had stated the real motivation and had explained to the full why this decision was taken, and necessary, instead of hiding behind a smoke screen stating:

“wished to avoid the circumstances that might compromise the possible organisation within the U.S.S.R. of a Scout Movement that might eventually become a member of the World Scout Brotherhood.”

One may well wonder what possessed these men to phrase it so badly. It may well be that the ordinary citizen in many countries had been deceived by U.S.S.R. propaganda and had fallen for the fairy-tale that the Soviet Union was on its way to become a real democracy with a possibility of a Scout Movement according to the international rules being founded. But these Committee members were, each in his own country, men of importance with connections in government and intelligence circles that they simply must have been better informed regarding the real situation in the U.S.S.R. and as such they cannot possibly have believed in this fairy-tale.

So instead of creating a second fairy-tale, it would have been much better and wiser had they told and explained the simple truth. No doubt all parties concerned would have accepted the bitter facts, though maybe with reluctance. This story, however, raised questions and also caused the introduction of the rumour that “Stalin had asked Winston Churchill to put pressure on the World Movement to expel the Russians.”
story, is pure nonsense. Churchill was a democrat to the very bone and would never have lent himself to such an action and secondly the Committee nor the Movement as a whole would never have admitted to such pressure. Yet this story, until this very day, lingers on so as to prove that “the Russian Scouts were sacrificed to please Stalin.” The World Movement owes this black spot on its blazon to the International Committee’s very bad phrasing.

Pantuhoff sr., H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S.’ Chief Scout must have been bewildered, flabbergasted and shocked when the news of the International Committee’s decision reached him by means of Dr West of BSA. For 23 years his movement had been a loyal member of the World Movement, had accurately stuck to the rules and had always kept its standards and technical skills very high. The Movement had not been involved in party-politics nor in anything else that warranted the expulsion. To be expelled without previous discussion, without any warning of what lay ahead, was a blow in the face. But what hurt them most was the argumentation, which they rightly so considered as a dodge. And indeed no one was better informed regarding the goings on in the U.S.S.R. and they most certainly did not believe in a Soviet Union going democratic and a founding of a Scout Movement. This in their opinion was an utopia, a whitewash or rather an impossible dream.

Of course Pantuhoff did not fail to protest. He also mobilised his many foreign friends and it is a fact that many a National Movement, having received the news, was as flabbergasted as Pantuhoff was. So the International Bureau was inundated with outright protests or requests for additional information. A disadvantage was, however, that the National Movements of the countries recently liberated and in the process of reconstructing their organisations from scratch, had their hands full and paid only a fleeting attention to the matter. Further postal services and other means of communication were still very bad.
And so H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. and Hai Ari were expected to disband, their groups were to join the national movements of their countries of residence. But what the International Bureau (Wilson) and the International Committee had not foreseen was that neither H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. nor Hai Ari never even contemplated the idea of disbanding. They could not and they did not. Hai Ari raised hell, and negotiated so long that in the end everybody got tired and lost interest and the Armenians, until April 8, 1997 when the HAI ARI relinquished its membership voluntarily to make way for the recognition of the movement HASK, revived in the Armenian homeland. H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. with the deepest of regrets, disappointed and no doubt angry, decided to go it alone, united as one but outside the World Movement, though still loyal to the latter’s rules until this very day.

THE RIDDLE/CONFUSION OF THE NAMES

And so the other National Movements had to no longer consider H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. as being a Scout movement and its members no longer as being scouts. A sad and tragic matter, for which the World Brotherhood was not totally to be blamed as alternatives had been presented but not been accepted.

But suddenly everybody, including the WAISM, the BSIB and the various National Movements were confronted with another group of Russians. DPs in West German camps and calling themselves O.P.HO.P./O.R.Y.P. No one, neither WAISM nor BSIB nor the various National Movements involved, knew that the DP-leaders, had been meeting in Munich, nor did they know they had founded a second Russian movement. The Russian DP leaders, on the other hand, during their meeting could not have known that the International Committee had, ten days later, decided to expel H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. from the
World Movement and that consequently their future was also very dim.

So it is not surprising that the outside world, when, at a later stage, confronted with the new name O.P.H.O.P./O.R.Y.P. was confused and really had the impression that there were two movements, the more so as a number of H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. groups, e.g. in France, Australia and some other countries that had belonged to the Free World during WW II, also carried on their activities. So in practice there were two movements of Russian Scouts in Exile.

H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S. expelled


One wonders whether Pantuhoff knew. He, the Father and the Founders or Russian Scouting, was held in high esteem by all Russian Scouts. He was H.O.P.C./N.O.R.S.’ Chief Scout and also O.P.H.O.P./O.R.Y.P.’s. It would be expected that with this dynamic, popular man in charge of both, it would only have been a matter of time before the two movements would unite, but that was not so. He no doubt did his very best to make the two parties meet and many a meeting of the two was held. Such discussions were already under way when the O.P.H.O.P./O.R.Y.P. members were still in the camps and had not yet settled in various other parts of the world, where they founded their own groups immediately, instead of, according to the rules, either as individuals or as groups, joining the National Movements. But all his efforts were to no avail. No doubt disappointed and tired, in 1957 he decided to retire as the O.P.H.O.P./O.R.Y.P.’s Chief Scout and was succeeded by someone else, who, out of esteem for Pantuhoff, did not take the title of Chief Scout but of Chief Scoutmaster. As H.O.P.C./

THE DISPLACED PERSONS SCOUT DIVISION OF THE BOY SCOUTS INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

The DP Scouts of various nationalities in the German and Austrian camps received every assistance but right from the start they were made aware of the hard facts of life.

a) They would never be recognised as “National Scout Movements on Foreign Soil.” The precedents they might have referred to had been expelled.

b) They were told that once their members would have settled in their new countries of residence, where a recognised member organisation was operating, they would have the choice of becoming a member of that association (either as individuals or as a group) or relinquishing their Scout membership.

c) For as long as they were inmates of DP camps in Germany – where there was no recognised or registered German National Scout Movement at that time – they were allowed to join the Displaced Persons Scout Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. The latter (under the leadership of the Briton John R. Monnet) was instituted during the 11th International Conference, 1947 at Moisson/Rosny in France. Their National Bureaux, leading the groups in the DP camps, (or as the DPs saw it their “NHQ”) would have to be disbanded the moment the last DP Scout would have settled in foreign parts or would have merged into the German economy.

All this was quite clear but when the DPs did indeed leave the camps and settled elsewhere, they did not dissolve their movement, did not disband their National HQ and did not join the National Movements of their new countries of residence. They carried on as “National Movements on Foreign Soil” and
kept pressing the International Movement for recognition as such. (See Chapter 1.)

Particularly in the period 1948-1950 large numbers of DPs left the camps\textsuperscript{24}\textsuperscript{25} only a handful of DP Scouts was left behind in Germany and on the 30th of June, 1950 the DP Scout Division closed down.\textsuperscript{26}

The World Movement was patient, but stuck to its decisions and could not be moved. Negotiations went on and on and the problem was a hot item on the agendas of all International Conferences and International Committee meetings until the 18th International Conference at Lisbon/Portugal in 1961. The DP Scouts, now known as Exile Scouts, were told that enough was enough and from that moment the World Movement broke off all connections with them. This meant that they no longer received the official information and magazines, could no longer participate in the international events, could no longer use the Gilwell training facilities, the official campsites etc. etc. In fact they were no longer considered as being Scouts and they were no longer treated as such by the recognised national movements. It was all over, also for the Russian Scouts of both Exile Movements.

Until that fatal year 1961 the Russians had still been able to send one patrol, as part of the German contingent to the 7th World Jamboree in Bad Ischl/Austria, 1951. When Scouting celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1957 with the JIM (9th World Jamboree + Indaba + Rover Moot) in Sutton Goldfield/England, a small contingent – led by Pantuhoff sr. – was invited to come and participate. To the 10th World Jamboree, 1959 at Mount Makiling/Philippines, a small delegation was admitted. It was all part of the World Movement’s process of giving the Exiles (not only the Russians) a chance to determine that they could still be Scouts and still be members of the World Movement, but under the conditions stipulated and not as “National Movements on Foreign Soil”
But after 1961 (see Chapter I) it was all over, even though the lobbying went on and on. Russian and other Exile Scouts were always somehow hanging around in the fringes of the International and other conferences etc. of later years. Always hoping that their presence and contact with the delegates would change their plight. But to no avail.

The Exile movements slowly fell into oblivion and the twilight zone of ignorance. The National Movements of the countries in which they were operating did not get a chance to forget them, but in the other countries the Exile Movements as well as their members were soon forgotten. If in the seventies or eighties, their loyal friends, mentioned them and spoke of Russian or other Exile Scouts, astonishment was their part and the answer was always:

“But there are not really any Russian (or . . . ) Scouts, are there?”

This so saddened the author that in 1987/1988 he decided to refresh the World Movements’ memories and to call attention to them again in order to wrest and rescue them all from oblivion. He did his research and wrote a study titled "The Forgotten Movements". Most of the work was done before the Iron Curtain fell. Copies were sent to WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London, who, in the period of the unexpected revival in East and Central Europe, were very pleased with the background information it provided.27

THE U.S.S.R. AND SCOUTING

The new authorities seemed convinced that in 1926 they had exterminated Scouting and all traces of it. This of course was not the case, since some Scouts had remained undetected, had escaped the onslaught and managed to survive, keeping Scouting alive in their hearts. This was proven by the fact that, as previously mentioned, during the German occupation of the western parts of the U.S.S.R. some brave souls secretly
revived Scouting. Further it was already mentioned that in the DP camps leaders were found who had lived in the U.S.S.R. between 1922 and 1941 and had never belonged to Pantuhoff’s Exile movement.

No country and no government is totally averse of writing its history in the most beneficial way. No historian is totally right or totally wrong but the Soviets were masters in forging and twisting history. Things no longer agreeable, suiting or fitting the system, no longer of importance and rather to be forgotten were “as never having existed” or “never having happened” simply deleted from the official history books and the official encyclopaedias.

This was also Scouting’s and Guiding’s fate and they were in excellent company. But though that way these organisations had never ever existed even the Bolsheviks could not deny that the Movements did exist outside the U.S.S.R. but then it was said:

“Scouting, founded by the English General Baden-Powell, is one of the methods of the ruling bourgeoisie and capitalists to distract the attention of youth from the just fight of the working classes against their exploiters. By means of false slogans and mottoes of patriotism and the brotherhood of mankind, Scouting is misleading youthful thinking.”

When 1953 Joseph Stalin had died the terror ended to a certain extend. His successor was more lenient, openly criticising the late Stalin. And so in 1954, it happened that, to its surprise, the UK Scout Association’s NHQ in London was asked whether it would be prepared to allow a visit by a party of high ranking Pioneer leaders who would like to study Scouting in detail. They came, were shown around, made their study and went home again.
On 25/11/1957 the Komsomol Central Committee permitted the introduction of the 3rd, 2nd and 1st class system with the proficiency badges!

The official tone also changed. In the Bol’shaja Sovjetskaja Entsiklopedija, 1956 edition, book 39, pages 216-217 it is admitted that in pre-revolutionary Russia Scouting had existed but:

“... Scout troops comprised an insignificant percentage of boys, mainly from bourgeois or white collar worker families.”

“In the period of the foreign wars of intervention and of the civil war in the USSR (1918-1920) many Scout organisations operated on the side of the White Guards.”

Reference was also made to the IUK or YOUKI experiment:

“Attempts to resuscitating Scouting in the Soviet republic under the guise of the so-called “Red Scouts” did no go very far, since the very notion of adapting Scouting to the task of educating the builders of the new communist society was unrealistic.”

In the 1976 edition more information regarding Russian Scouting is given. Also is admitted that N.K. Krupskaja, Lenin’s wife, in her book RKSM I BOISCAUTIZM (Komsomol and Scouting)

“pointed out the advantages of using, in the practical work of the communist organisations, some forms of Scout activities which meet the interests of the adolescent age group.”

But that was about it; no good word for Scouting, it was still a bad influence on the youth of the world.

Were Russian Soviet Citizens totally unaware of Scouting? Firstly they no doubt had other things to worry about and secondly the indoctrination and the isolation did not give them a
real insight. Yet the people did not believe everything the Party taught them, many used to listen to radio stations like Radio Free Europe, The Voice of America and The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), broadcasting in Russian and paying attention to many items of general interest, including World Scouting when big events (like Jamborees etc.) were on.

The inhabitants of the “Workers’ Paradise” had their doubts in many fields but could not openly express them. Lastly there were still a few, getting older, that could still remember Russian Scouting.

PERESTROIKA AND GLASSNOST

On March 11th, 1985, Gorbatsjov (Gorbatchev) was appointed Secretary General of the USSR Communist Party and as such became the most powerful man in the Union. Neither the outside world nor the Soviet citizens were aware that financially and economically the enormous country was balancing on the verge of the precept. Though at first hardly anybody noticed it (or paid much attention to it for that matter), things started to change behind the Iron Curtain and after Gorbatsjow had introduced Perestrojka (Renewal) and Glassnost (Openness) changes became apparent in such a tearing, breathtaking pace, that the astonished world was led from one historic milestone to the other, from one surprise to the next. Unbelievable things, never expected, did happen and changed and influenced the world, including the world of Scouting.

Hardly anybody in the World Scouting and World Guiding had, during the last decades, paid any attention to the countries behind the Iron Curtain. Their Exile Movements had been expelled almost 30 years before and had since conveniently been forgotten by most. Also, like the rest of the world, Scouting
and Guiding were surprised and overwhelmed by the happenings in the various East Block countries which no one had expected and so neither Scouting nor Guiding was prepared, in any way, to react to and to face what was coming at them. So it amazed and surprised many (apart from a few historians and insiders) in the World Movements when they found that, once countries like Hungary and Czechoslovakia had broken away from the suffocating grip of communism, Scouting and Guiding were revived after “40 years only”, sometimes resurfacing even before the communist regimes had been definitely brought down. What surprised even more was that the Movements also revived in countries like Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania where the organisations had been banned and disbanded in 1940, almost 50 years ago. But the fact that Scouting and Guiding revived in Russia (and the Ukraine) after 70 solid years, was not only amazing but also the best proof ever that the organisations are indestructible and that, whatsoever happens and in spite of the worst suppression possible, the ideas and ideals linger on, to resurface the moment the possibility is there.
NOTES

1. Oleg Iwanowitsch Panjuchow:
   The Russian characters being completely different from those used in most of the western or European languages, it is not always easy to transfer them into western characters. Also the "westernizing" of original Russian names poses many a problem.
   When Russians, settling in other countries, on entering same, have/had to register with the immigration authorities it often so happened that the names were phonetically written, just as the officer concerned thought he heard them. Was he pressed or stressed, he just jotted down something and from that moment onwards the Russian had to do with his new, slightly different name in a new country. The result is that Russian names, in western characters are often written differently depending on the language used.
   In the various archives and other sources one finds many variations of Oleg's family name, such as Pantiukhov, Pantjuchow, Pantukoff, Pantukhov, Pantuhoff, Panto-
hoff, Pantuchoff etc.
   When Oleg, Nina and their son Oleg Jr entered the USA in 1922 their name was jotted down as Pantiukhov. Oleg Jr, with whom the author has had an ex-
tensive correspondence, used to sign his letters as Pantuhoff and so, out of respect as well as for practical reasons it was decided to use this variation in this study.
   During the Civil War, Oleg I. Pantuhoff was serving in one of the White Armies but in the end had to leave the country, and went to Constantinople/Istanbul, bringing his family. He convened the Congress at Constantinople (22/03/1921), creating the Russian Exile Movement, which was recognized by the WAISM (30/08/1922). With his general message dated 11/09/1922 he gave the Russian (Exile) Movement its first official name, but at the time, having left Constantinople (05/09/1922) with his wife and son, was on his way to New York, were he arrived 11/10/1922. During the thirties the family resided in West Palm Beach, Florida, to return to New York in 1940, where his faithful companion NINA died 12/01/1944. Apparently, well after WW II, he left the States to live in France.
   Oleg I. Pantuhoff Sr was born 25/03/1882 and died in France 25/10/1973. He was interred on the Russian graveyard in Nice. Nina Mikhailovna Pantuhoff was born 15/12/1883 and died in New York 12/01/1944. After Oleg's death her remains were also put in his grave.
   Oleg Olegovide Pantuhoff, the founder's son, born 1910, was last living in Maplewood, New Jersey, USA, where he passed on on October 20th, 1995. A Scout all his life, it must have given him great satisfaction that he was permitted to be one of those contributing to Scouting's revival in Russia. It is most unlikely that – during his long life of service to the Movement – he ever expected to really be able to return to Russia as a Scout and to visit again PAV-LOSK where he – and Russian Scouting – were born.
   A remarkable part of his life was that during WW II – using the officially registered pseudonym Colonel John L. Bates – he served as General Dwight D. Eisenhower's official Russian interpreter.
   Oleg and Nina were the Father and Mother and Founders of Russian Scouting, admired and held in high esteem by all who knew them, including their personal friends the Baden Powells.
2. PAVLOSK (now Pushkin) was cherished by the Russian Scouts all over the world. The Russian Exile Movement O.P.H.O.P./O.R.Y.P. (HQ based in New York) named its training and camping center in the U.S.A. "New Pavlosk", Further the town was remembered in many songs.

3. Built and founded by Czar Peter the Great in 1703, St. Petersburg was originally known as Piterbourg. Under German influence the name was changed into St Petersburg but during World War I (1914-1918) all German names were discredited and so the city changed name again now to be Petrograd. The decisive events of the March 1917 revolution and the October 1917 Bolshevism Coup d'Etat took place in this city, the Empire's and Republic's capital. In order to honour Lenin, the Bolshevik leader, who died in 1922, it was decided that from 1924 the city was to be known as Leningrad. During free elections in summer 1991, before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the city's population demanded the return of the name St Petersburg. On 05/09/91 the Supreme Soviet permitted this change. This was no exception, many cities and villages retook their old names and abandoned their Bolshevism ones.

4. In Russian Scouting, from its early start, during the Exile and the Revival there were/are two trends as far as the translation of the English word Scout is concerned. Some used Skaut or Ckaut, Russified foreign words and others preferred Razvadchick or Razvedchik. The latter perhaps best to be translated by Pathfinder and best to be compared with the German Pfadfinder or the Dutch Padvinder.

5. The Czar's Empire comprised over 100 different nationalities. More than 100 languages were spoken by its citizens. Considering the Russians as oppressors and colonizers, the various nations, far from contemplating themselves as Russians, did their very best to maintain their own languages, their own cultures, religions and customs. Scouting, once known in these regions, was considered as a means to boost national morale. "National Movements" were founded, flourished and expanded in the Russian parts of Poland, the Baltic States, the Ukraine and some of the other countries. These Movements had no desire whatsoever to join Russian Scouting. The latter, also acting as a "National Society" never put any pressure upon them. There was some co-operation.

6. The Beavers' badges (A+B) were exclusively used by this troop and apparently never by the others.

7. The Empire apart from being an autocracy was also a theocracy in which the Established or State Church (the Russian Orthodox Church) had a great influence and a great say. Those not professing the Church's religion, some other religion or none at all were in many ways discriminated and the enormous Civil Service was not open to them whereas in society they were shunned. The large Jewish community had a hard time and was often the general scapegoat. If something went wrong, the harvests, the economic situation or whatever, it was blamed on the Jews, who had to face the consequences. They were subjected to persecution. Sometimes spontaneous, sometimes instigated by the authorities. The infamously and feared word Progrom is a Russian word.
It is no wonder that some of the Jews, in their despair, joined all sorts of revolutionary movements aiming at the overthrow of the established government, thus hoping to improve their plight. Some of the leading Bolsheviks were Jews. But in the later U.S.S.R. they soon found that, as far as the Jewish people was concerned, nothing had really changed. The Jews were blamed and persecuted as before and most of the leading Jewish party members were executed by Stalin.

The Russian Scouts, being totally open, accepted boys and girls – if they so desired – of all nationalities and denominations, including Jews. This was neither understood nor accepted by the fellow Russians.

8. Particularly in the Russian big cities, such as seats of government, trading and commercial centres, seaports etc. there were communities of the Czar's subjects of non-Russian nationality. Children belonging to these minorities were also attracted by Scouting and wanted to participate. If the number of youngsters of one nationality was large enough a special troop could be founded which would than join in with the "national movement" in their country of origin. But if this was not the case, as individuals, they were always welcome to the Russian troops. As most of the Russians (and authorities for that matter) did not consider the minority people as full-fledged citizens, the attitude of the Russian scouts, who accepted the minority children, was not always understood and accepted. The Russian Scouts understood and practised article 4 of the old Scout Law.

9. In Scouting's early days such military opposition was not unusual or exceptional. An almost similar situation presented itself in Imperial Germany between 1910 and 1914. German Scouting was founded by Dr Alexander Lion ("Der Ali"), (an army medic) and Maximilian Bayer (an infantry officer). Their brother officers, including the Oberster Kriegsherr (C.I.C.) Kaiser Wilhelm, considered Scouting as unsuitable for German youth and this for two reasons. Firstly Scouting was of British origin and before 1914, Germany, including the Kaiser, (who was also Queen Victoria of Britain's grandson) out of some sort of an inferiority complex and jealousy detested Britain and everything British. An attitude which would lead to WW I. Secondly the German military thought Scouting "too soft" and "not military" enough and as far as the latter was concerned they were totally right. But Alexander Lion and Maximilian Bayer, though military men, (like B.P. and Pantuhoff and many others) rejected the introduction of military methods and drill in Scouting. They refused to give in to pressure. In the end the two Germans were court-martialled and dishonourably discharged from the forces with a loss of pension. The founders were, however, backed by the educational authorities and when Scouting, in spite of all opposition grew and expanded, some of the opposing officers changed their minds and attitudes. A couple of years later, the two men were rehabilitated, readmitted to the army and promoted without, however, having changed their points of view. Even the Kaiser had to give in and gracefully and kindly inspected the German Scouts.

10. St George is not only England's Patron Saint but also Russia's. Whereas, however, in England and World Scouting St George's Day is/was celebrated on April 23rd in Russia it is/was on May 6th.
11. Two of the leading leaders concerned were Napolkoff and Fomisuk. When the final elimination of Scouting took place they were superfluous and were executed in Kiev in spring 1926.

12. Those opposing the Bolsheviks and their Red Army were divided. Some fought for the restoration of the old Imperial regime, others for the democratic Republic founded in March 1917. Unity in the White opposition was far-fetched which contributed to the Red Army’s success.

13. All-Russia expressed: comprising All Scouts, including all nationalities other than Russian living in the enormous country.

14. How, when and from where the Pantuhoffs left Russia has, so far, not been traced, but since they arrived in Constantinople the assumption seems justified that they arrived from the Crimea.(see 01) Whether they were involved in bringing the Movement's archives to the south, in advance of the Red Army, is also unknown but a fact is that one day the archives had to be left behind in a south-Russian port, (presumably Odessa) just before those, who had so far protected and carried them, had to leave the country. Before they did so the archives were hidden in the house of some trustworthy folks, possibly scouts, who did not intend to flee the country but to stay and face the music. One night in 1933 the place was raided by the Secret Police. The archives were detected, the occupants arrested and taken away to some unknown destination, never to be heard of again. It is not difficult to guess what their fate has been. The house was sealed, the Secret Police and the prisoners left the scene. It was still dark when some Red Army trucks arrived and some officers ordered their men to load the archives. This done the lorries disappeared in the dark of the night. The next day the Secret Police arrived with some trucks to remove the archives and found the place empty. No doubt there must have been some confusion and some explaining will have had to be done.

When the Communist party was still in power but Glasnost and Perestroika had been introduced by Gorbatchev, a WOSM delegation at the government's request paid a visit to Moscow from January 19th until 26th, 1990. There were discussions with government and party officials as well as youth leaders regarding the possible re-introduction of Scouting. During a less formal part of procedures a representative of the Ministry of Defence surprised those present by informing the WOSM delegation of the fact that if they were interested in Russian Scouting's old archives, these were at their disposal in the Ministry of Defence's cellars where they had been in storage all those years. The archivist, so was added, would be pleased to admit to the documents all with an interest. It makes one wonder who the Red Army officers were who had removed the archives from under the Secret Police's very noses.

15. During the Czar regime many Russians escaped the country and settled in France, which was always a safe haven for such refugees and which did not always restrict their political activities. In 1917, during the Revolution, many returned to Russia whereas others left that country and settled in France. On 19/12/1920 Scout leader A.L.Koshovski founded a Russian troop in France, soon to be followed by more, who united in the Association Nationale Des Scouts Russes, later to become the French section of Pantuhoff's first Exile movement. Some, apparently two, of the troops in France could not agree with
a central leadership as introduced by Pantuhoff and preferred to continue the "autonomous troop system" as they had known in Russia. . . And so they ceded and went it alone. One troop as Natsionalnaja Organisatsija Rossijjkjch Razwdtscheikow or National Organization Of Russian Pathfinders or (in Russian abbreviations H.O.P.P.) and the other one as Vitiaz or Knights. Whether they existed long, could not be traced.

16. These metal badges were rather expensive but as the membership was not overlarge, every new member could be provided with on. This situation changed drastically when Scouting was revived in Russia after 1989 and the Russian Exile movement O,P,H.O.P. (based in New York) founded her own groups, which, initially, she also provided with the metal badges. But they soon ran out of stock and found that the manufacture of new ones was a financial problem. Now the BADGERS' CLUBS (Associations of Badge Collectors) of France, Italy and Spain offered to pay for and to take care of the manufacture of woven badges. The first consignment of 50.000 of these badges was presented to the Russians in New York by a Spanish collector. Of course it is a pity that a very attractive, by collectors much desired metal badge has now disappeared but the Spanish, French and Italian collectors' gesture can be admired only. More so as they have been rendering similar services to many another revived East European and African movement.

17. He is fair example of the difficulties already mentioned in (01.) Depending on the languages of the documents in which he is mentioned his name is written in various ways, e.g. Polchaninoff, Poltschaninow, Polcaninowi, Polchaninov, Polczaninow. Signing his various letters to the author-researcher he did not always use one and the same name, but one of the above alternatively. His is also a fair example of a refugee's vicissitudes and life. Born at Nowotscher-kassk in the Don region of Russia on 27/01/1919, son of an army officer serving in the General Wrangel's White Army, he and his parents left Russia via Sebastopol. On 01/02/1931 he was living in Yugoslavia and joined a Yugoslavian Scout group and on 04/04/1931 also a Russian Exile group. He went to a Russian elementary school, and for 8 years to a Yugoslavian gymnasium where upon he read Law at the Belgrade University. His home was in Sera-jewo. A few months before Nazi-Germany invaded Yugoslavia (06/04/1941) on 26/01/1941 he left Yugoslavia. Somehow he landed in Nazi-Germany, and met the US Army in Thuringen on April 11th, 1945. His next stop was a Displaced Persons camp. A refugee once more until he was able to go to the USA arriving and settling there on 09/10/1951. Since 1945 he has been a prominent leader in O.P.HO.P./ O.R.Y.R., is its historian. He was one of the fortunate and privileged "old- timers" or "veterans" that were able to return to Russia after so many years lending a helping hand in the revival of Scouting. In 1993 he was still living the USA but has since passed on. The author owes him a lot.

18. Before WW II they were at the following Jamborees:

- 1924 2nd Ermelunden/Copenhagen, Denmark. Number of participants unknown.
- 1929 3rd Arrowe Park/Birkenhead, England. One patrol of 8 boys from the USA, 1 Rover Scout (Oleg Pantuhoff Jr), SL Nikolai I.Sakhnovski with a number of boys from Belgium, and Chief Scout Oleg I. Pantuhoff Sr.
- 1933 4th Gödöllö, Hungary. A Russian troop from Budapest under the leadership of SL M.G.Popov.
1937 5th Vogelenzang, the Netherlands (Holland). 24 Scouts and leaders all in.

19. The Doubtful:
Not so much the liberated POWs and the concentration victims but all the other refugees and Displaced Persons had to be checked and double checked. It was known that citizens of several countries had collaborated with the German Nazis, had joined their armed forces, in particular the SS (there was also a Swedish and even a British SS unit) but also the Gestapo, SD etc. Some had even committed war crimes. Most of them were caught in uniform but others had donned civilian clothing, forced identity papers and in the chaos tried to disappear in the turmoil. These had to be found and selected and to be returned officially to the governments of their now liberated countries for further judicial treatment.

20. The peoples of the Soviet Union had every reason to hate and detest the Stalin regime and its terror. So when the German armies invaded Russia in various Russian and Ukrainian towns and villages and in the Baltic States, they were greeted as liberators. The people, having suffered under the Stalin Yoke, really thought that with the Germans' arrival better times would be coming and some even dreamt of a restoration of a Free Ukraine or a Free Russia. They were not aware of the fact that the Nazi ideology and idiocy considered them as being inferior, fitting only to serve the Teutonic Master Race as slaves and above all dispensable. And indeed with the arrival of the German death squads, whose task is was to exterminate (first of all) all Jews and communists, their eyes were opened. Further the deportations to Germany began. So they soon found that they had only exchanged the Red Terror for the Brown equivalent and that their ordeal had not been improved at all, whereas freedom remained a dream.

Thereupon some took to the woods, armed themselves and as partisans fought the Germans. Some of these partisan forces were lead by communists and remained loyal to Stalin.

Others, however, fought the Nazis, but the Red Army as well, when it returned. Such in the vain hope to liberate their countries of both. At the time the latter was not known in the West, as it was hardly known that some of these units continued the fight until well in the fifties.

There was another sign that the Stalin regime was not popular. Apart from Red Army units, surrounded and forced to surrender (or be destroyed), Red Army soldiers voluntary defected, not prepared to die for a regime they loathed and that had murdered or starved their families and friends. Some immediately offered their services to the Nazis, as policemen, camp guards or as military personnel, willing to fight the Red Army for the liberation of their homelands. Again they were not aware that it was not the Nazis intention to "liberate" anything but rather to colonize and enslave. The German losses were high. So replacements and reinforcements were to be found. At first they recruited in the north and west European occupied territories, hoping to find fellow Teutons, willing to join "the Crusade against Communism" and to die for Hitler. When at a later stage the Nazis seriously started running out of soldiers they were prepared to even accept the "inferior" peoples of the east. They were given the impression that they would be allowed to fight for the liberation of their homelands.

The Nazis treated their Eastern POWs very badly. Not only were they badly housed, but also almost starved or worked to death. So when the recruiting
started in those starvation camps, it is no wonder that many, out of despair, rather donned a German uniform than starve to death in the camps. A "Russian Army of Liberation" was created, led by a former Red Army General Andrei Vlasov and officered by POW Red Army officers, as well as former White Army officers, who had been living in exile in various European countries. Further Cossack, Armenian and Georgian units were raised whereas the Balts, either voluntary or pressed were serving in the SS mostly. (For full details see: THE LAST SECRET by Nicholas Bethell, a British historian. First published in London 1974 by Andre Deutsch Ltd.) These Russians, Georgians, Armenians etc. were not only in action on the Eastern Front or against the partisans, e.g. in Yugoslavia, but were also employed as occupying forces in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The Soviet Union considered them all as traitors and intended to deal with them as such. But the peoples of the West European Nazi occupied countries considered their compatriots in German uniforms as traitors and collaborators as well. So it is no wonder that they could not but see these Russians, Georgians, Armenians etc. as traitors too, unaware of the various motives that had led these men from the East to fight for Nazi Germany. It was to become a tragedy. Later the Germans had every reason to regret the presence of these units in Western Europe. Those used to man the Atlantic Wall – that was to prevent the Western Allies from invading the continent – surrendered to those Allies without firing a shot. Georgians, stationed on the Dutch island of Texel, revolted in April 1945 and killed all Germans on the island. In Czechoslovakia Russian units helped the Czech resistance to liberate Prague in May 1945. When Nazi Germany was defeated and collapsed, these East Units tried to surrender to the Western Allies, hoping to be treated as POWs. And indeed so they were in the beginning, but Stalin demanded their extradition to the U.S.R.S. At first the Western Allies refused to do so, but when Stalin thereupon refused to repatriate the British, Canadian, American and other Western POWs, liberated from German POW camps in Poland and East Germany and held them indeed, no one was ready to start World War III over these East soldiers and so the handing over to the U.S.S.R. began. (for full details see the above mentioned book)

21. In Great Britain had been founded the COBSRA, The Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad. These Societies were many, e.g. The British Red Cross, the Quakers Friends' Relief Service, St. John's Ambulance, The Safe the Children Fund and the Guides International Service, (GIS), the Girl Guide Hospital Units (GGHU) and the Scouts International Relief Service (SIRS) the latter led by E.E.(Josh) Reynolds and later by John R. Monnet. The members, volunteers, were classified as "civilians" (as were the War Correspondents) but in order to protect them in case of calamities (being overrun by the suddenly advancing enemy and taken prisoner) and to facilitate their work, they were dressed in army uniforms. On these, however, no military badges, but just the Arrowhead or the Trefoil. The former on the left shirt and jacket pocket and the caps, the latter on the caps and the left shirts' and jackets' sleeves. These various units were supposed to work behind the front lines, rendering aid and assistance to the civil population, to refugees etc. as they did in France, Belgium, the Netherlands but also Greece and Yugoslavia. After the German surrender the teams were transferred to West Germany and put in charge of some of the various DP camps. (For further information, see the
book: All Things Uncertain the story of the G.I.S. by Phyllis Stewart Brown, first published by the (UK) Girl Guides Association, April 1966 or “The Least of These” a report on the S.I.R.S. by its leader John R. Monnet, regretfully never officially published by the (UK) Scout Association.)

22. For more specific details see Chapter I.

23. The 6th World Jamboree – Jamboree de La Paix – was held in Moisson/France, 1947 and coincided with the 11th International Conference at Moisson/Rosny. Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian DP Scouts participated officially, the International Bureau, after having vowed their reliability, talked the French government into giving them an official, but very special staying permit for the duration of the Jamboree. No other DP Scouts got such a permit and so the BSIIB’s staff was much surprised when a Ukrainian DP Scout delegation also arrived. Some French civil servant had made a mistake and the police was about to send them right back, when the French government intervened and gave them permission to stay.

24. For reasons unknown some Russian DPs chose to settle in Suriname, at that time still a dependency of the Netherlands. Scout leaders Oleg Levitsky and J. Sawjalow arrived in Parimaribo 13/12/1949. They founded a group on 07/10/1951 and in February 1952 published the Scouting magazine Vpered (Forwards) enclosed in the Russian monthly Vestnik (The Courier). But in March 1952 the last Vestnik was appearing and Vpered was published separately until the last one, no 5 in June 1952. In 1951 the first Russian families had left Surinam and in December 1957 SL Levitsky and his family went to New York, the last Russians to go.

25. Those countries willing to accept DPs were dainty and did not accept over-body. A process of scrutinizing and selection began. Those who were not accepted and had to stay in Germany to find a new future there were classed as “Hard-core”. There could be a number of reasons:
   a) Health: blindness, tuberculosis, chronic medical or mental cases, neurosis.
   b) Economic: Family too large for self-support overseas, unattached youth between 17 and 18.
   c) Personal: a normal criminal record, war crimes, having served in the Armed Forces of Nazi-Germany, particularly in the SS or similar units such as Gestapo, SD etc. or Concentration Camp Guard units.

26. see Chapter I. On 31-12-1948 Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau had 433 Russian DP Scouts registered as follows: 13 groups, 109 Cub Scouts, 239 Scouts, 62 Rover scouts, 23 Scout leaders. Those, already gone to other countries were no longer considered as being DP or Exile Scouts and were consequently no longer registered or recognized as such.

27. The writer, had contacts with the DP Scouts since 1945 and had belonged to those (without any say in the matter or any influence whatsoever) who had opposed the expelling of the Exile Movement in 1961 and the preceding period. Finding that gradually the Exile Movements, after 1961 ignored and lonely, were totally forgotten, he decided to dedicate a special study to them and the history of their homelands’ original movements. When he began his
research, encouraged by e.g. Laszlo Nagy, the Secretary General of WOSM in Geneva (himself since 1948 a Hungarian refugee) and many good friends in the UK Scout Movement. Gorbatsjow was already in charge in the U.S.S.R. But even then it was still early days, and the writer, not being clairvoyant, could not foresee either what the future was going to bring. In summer 1989 he wrote The Forgotten Movements. Sent copies to WOSM and WAGGGS for criticism, improvement, addition and correction. His work, more than 100 pages A4, reached those Bureaux as a gift from Heaven as they did not have the many details and backgrounds that he provided them with. His work was copied and sent to all European International Commissioners attached – as background information – to an invitation to them to come and attend an urgent meeting at Geneva (03-04/02/1990). Copies were also sent to ICs of non-European movements and were later also presented to the representatives of the revived East European movements. The Hungarians, the first to revive, were inundated with requests (from the West) asking for their history. They thought the Hungarian Chapter of The Forgotten Movements so detailed and so correct that they decided to copy and distribute.
CHAPTER 4. Czechoslovakia

This chapter deals mainly with Czech Scouting, although Slovakian Scouting is mentioned as fully as possible. For unknown reasons the Slovak movement chose not to co-operate. Under the circumstances, data were thought from other sources and as much as was available has been included.

Until the end of World War One (1914-1918) large areas of Central Europe inhabited by a variety of nations, were ruled and dominated by the age-old K&K. K&K stood for Kaiserreich (Austrian Empire) and for Königreich (Kingdom of Hungary). The K&K was also known as the Double Monarchy, the Emperors of Austria being also the Kings of Hungary and for hundreds of years these rulers were provided by the House of Hapsburg.

The Czechs were living in an area surrounded by high mountains and were an independent nation which, throughout the ages, played a significant role in Europe’s history. From 1212 Bohemia was a Kingdom with a Royal Family of its own but when the latter died out in 1526, the House of Hapsburg inherited this throne and since the Kingdom of Bohemia was united with the House of Hapsburg in a personal union. Meaning that it became part of the K&K but formally never lost its independence, remaining a Kingdom until 1918, when the last Emperor-King vacated the thrones the House of Hapsburg had occupied for so long and Austria (or what remained of it) became a Republic, Hungary a Kingdom without a King and Bohemia a Republic.

Much can be said to the disadvantage of the Hapsburgs and their regimes. Yet their reign was, generally speaking, easy going and even cosy, be it that they did not tolerate the flaring up of nationalist feelings and craving for independence
cherished by their subjects of various nationalities, religions and linguistic groups. Such demonstrations were cut short with a firm, unpleasant hand. Yet it must also be admitted that the Hapsburgs held their variety of subjects - grumbling, protesting and demanding in their many languages - not only at bay but also from flying at each others throats. Sadly, despite their mutual dislike of the Hapsburgs, they also hated, detested and despised each other, regretfully until this very day.

During World War I (1914-1918) the K&K, the German Empire, Turkey and some smaller countries formed the Central Powers at war with the Allies. The Central Powers lost this war which ended with the collapse of the K&K, Turkey and Germany.

The Czechs declared their independence on October 28th 1918 and formed the Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia, including Cechy (Bohemia) Morava (Moravia) Slovensko (Slovakia) and Podkarpatska Rus (Ruthenia), a mountainous area in the Carpathian mountains.

SCOUTING’S EARLY DAYS: 1910 - 1918

Baden Powell had never expected that the publication of his booklet Aids to Scouting would so strongly effect and be such an attraction to British boys and girls that, in order to lead developments into proper channels the founding of firstly a Scout Association and secondly of a Girl Guides Association (on a national level) was necessary.

But more surprising still, the phenomenon did not restrict itself to the British Isles but spread to many other countries. Chile (1909) being the first country to adopt it and Bohemia being the second, in what was going to be a long line of countries.
ERNEST THOMPSON SETON'S WOODCRAFT INDIANS

A number of Czechs, active in the field of education, soon got an interest in Scouting. One of them was Milos Seiferts who, having read Scouting For Boys, in 1912 founded a school troop. But he also read the book The Birch-Bark Roll of the Woodcraft Indians written by the remarkable, British born but US based Ernest Thompson Seton. “In his book Seton set out an adventurous recreation scheme for boys between the ages of 8 and 15, inviting them to identify with the ideal natural man; the Red Indian Brave.” Seton promoted Woodcraft in the sense of living in the open in the romantic spirit of adventure and independence. The boys worked in small “tribes” of 10-15 years’ old and were called “Woodcraft Indians.”

But . . . “Four years after the foundation in America, the Woodcraft Indians had still made very little impression there” (Tim Jeal, Baden Powell, page 377).

ANTONIN B. SVOJSIK (1876 – 1938)

It was, however, Professor Antonin B. Svojsik who initiated Czech Scouting. By profession a Physical Training Teacher, he was also a great lover of music - as such a member of a vocal quartet of some renown - and of nature. He studied Scouting and recognised it as a very valuable educational system. He liked travelling a lot and during a tour of the United States, he had also met the above mentioned E.T. Seton. Like Milos Seifert, he mixed B.P.’s Scouting and Seton’s Woodcraft or “back-to-nature” to a system which he considered as a valuable addition to the
scholastic world but also as an alternative of the rigid society of those days, in which boys and girls were neither to be seen, nor to be heard and had to act and dress like miniature adults. But besides physical fitness, the outdoor life and B.P.’s moral code, Svojsik introduced an extra dimension to Czech Scouting. He thought it very important that Scouting would also foster the development of the “whole man” making him not only physically and mentally but also emotionally sound and happy. So he added music, singing, handicraft, artistic and creative activities to his Scouting program.

In 1910 Svojsik wrote a handbook for the Scouts already operating in the Czech lands. It was not a translation of B.P.’s Scouting for Boys but a work in which, in a purposeful manner, he managed to combine B.P.’s Scouting and Ernest Thompson Seton’s Woodcraft. Decades later, that other great, Czechoslovak Scout leader of later years - Velen Fanderlik - taking a retrospective view of the history of Czech Scouting stated:

“It was generally accepted that the love of nature, the use of romanticism as educational means and nature as an educational milieu are the merits and influence of Seton, while the comprehensive Scout education, i.e. systematic education of the Scout from the very beginning by special and for the Scout Movement characteristic methods to a well defined aim, are the merits of Sir Robert Baden Powell.”

In the quickly developing World of Scouting, Czech Scouting, right from the start, was not only - at first - an exception but - later - also a great influence, setting an example which was followed by many other rising national associations.

Following in the footsteps of Baden Powell’s Brownsea Island experimental camp (1907), in 1911 Svojsik gathered a number of students for a try out, a putting to the test of his ideas. Some of these students were later to become outstanding Czech
Scout leaders, and amongst them may have been Rudolf Plajner (1901-1987), who was destined to play a very important part in the movement. In 1912 Svojsik organised a camp, lasting 5 weeks, during which Czech Scouting really began and which led to the creation of an independent Czech Scout Movement named Junak-Cesky Skaut, which was officially founded July 15th, 1914.

The name Junak (stately, brave boy) was borrowed from the works of the Czech writer A. Jirasek. The word Junak was of Serbian origin. Many years earlier the Serbs had fought their Turkish oppressors in the battle of Cran Cora (Montenegro) and those freedom fighters, who distinguished themselves, were named “Junaks”. Svojsik, wanting to give an example, chose the name for the movement in 1914. Though the English word Scout, in Czech is Zved, as in so many East and Central European countries, the Czechs preferred to use the original English name which they spelled as Skaut.

In 1916 800 Scouts had been registered and 100 girl Scouts. As in so many countries, where Scouting grew and got a firm footing, the Czech girls, had been watching eagerly their brothers’ exploits, and decided to also play the game and to join in the fun.

THE GIRL GUIDES - SKAUTKA

And so, during World War I, on January 11th, 1915 the Czech Girl Guides Movement was founded thanks to the endeavours of a young Prague lady-student Vlasta Stepanova, (later, after marriage, Vlasta Koseova Stepanova but nationally and internationally to become known as “Aunt Vlasta”)

The first Junak Scout Badge, used from 1914 to 1919.
Strictly translated into Czech the word for Girl Guide, was Průvodce. but Skautka was introduced and used ever since. In July 1915 the first girls held an 18 days’ summer camp in tents, which was a great success. From the beginning the Girl troops were a section of Junak Cesky Skaut, but on February 23rd, 1918 gained autonomy within the movement.

The first President of the Girl Guides’ or Girl Scouts’ Section was Mrs Bronislava Herbonova, a well known writer and married to Dr Jan Herben, a writer/journalist and personal friend of T.G. Masaryk. Vlasta Stepanova recruited her as she did Mrs Emilie Milcicova, who was another one of her teachers.

THE EMBLEMS

When Junak Cesky Skaut had been founded as its first pin-badge, for civil wear, was designed and introduced a triangle showing a Junak and the words Junak Cesky Skaut. As its emblem was created a shield with a Dog’s Head and the words Bud Pripraven or Be Prepared. This heraldic figure originated from the medieval Czech Royal Frontier Guards, named the Psohlavci or Dogs Heads. Both were used until 1918/1919, when the Dog’s Head was combined with B.P.’s Arrow Head.

Antonin B. Svojsik wrote many books on Scouting and Scouting methods - in 1912 no less than six - and from 1915 - 1918 was also the editor Of “Junak” Organ Spolku Junak- Cesky-Skaut, the movement’s official magazine.
In the Austrian administrative centre Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on June 28th, 1914, a number of fatal pistol shots were fired. Fatal in the sense that these bullets did not only kill the heir to the Austro-Hungarian and Czech thrones - the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife - but also that they proved to be the first shots fired in the First World War (1914-1918) which after an escalation of events, began on August 1st, 1914 and divided the world into the Allies (Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Serbia, Romania, Greece Italy, and Japan to be added later) and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey).

All over Central Europe, nations ruled from Vienna (Wien) the Austrian capital, got restive and the pent-up craving for independence and the accompanying revival of nationalism, broke to the surface once again. In several of the areas revolutionary organisations had been formed. But refugees, having settled in the Allied countries, founded national committees that made contact with the Allied governments in order to promote the independence of their countries.

On July 6th, 1917 the USA joined the Allies. Its President Woodrow Wilson, an idealist, considering the various minorities in Europe, declared his plans that had to lead to the self-determination and independence of these minorities. This was very nice and praiseworthy, but the intervention of others caused the plan to fail. Indeed some minorities were able to exercise self-determination, but other minorities were not able to and were sometimes even denied the right by those who, themselves, had been using it. Not all is fair in the world.

In London the Czech and Slovak exiles created such a Committee under the leadership of Thomas G. Masaryk (1850-1937), Edvard Benes (1884–1948) and M.R. Stefanik. It gladly accepted Wilson’s principles of self-determination and aimed
at the founding of a Czechoslovak Federal state. (Agreement of Pittsburgh, USA, May 30th, 1918.) The Committee had by that time changed into a Czechoslovak Government in Exile. Meanwhile many Czechs had been called up for the K&K army and - reluctantly - were fighting a war that they did not consider as being theirs. So many a Czech serving on the Eastern Front, when given a change, deserted and surrendered to the Allies, in this case mainly to the Russian Armies opposing them. The government-in-exile, with Allied assistance, founded and equipped a Czechoslovak Legion, which from than onwards fought on the Allied (Russian) side, until the Russian Empire and front collapsed after the Russian revolution of March 1917, and the Bolshevik coup d’État of October 1917. In Bohemia itself the “Cry for freedom” was also heard and soon after the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy collapsed in autumn 1918, the Czechs proclaimed their independence and republic on October 28th, 1918.

The Scouts were also involved. That very day A.B. Svojsik launched the following appeal to all Scouts, boys and girls:

“Junaci! I call on you all to come and fulfil your duty. Come on Thursday morning, possibly in your uniforms, to the Stare Rychta in Prague I, Rytirska ulice.”

The Rytirska ulice was the street in which the temporary Czech National Independence Committee’s seat had been set up. More than 300 boys and girls, in their Junak uniforms, came and offered their services. Until well into November they worked in the administration, or served as porters, commissionaires, messengers and orderlies. Sea Scouts organised a Postal Service between November 7th and 25th
Czechoslovakia

*NOVEMBER 7, 1918*

*1-4.* (Zumstein)

10 haleru. Blue; 20 haleru. Red

The Sea Scouts provided postal service from November 7 to 25, 1918, for the National Committee of Liberation, while their country was having a new birth of freedom. Under the leadership of their Chief Scout, Roessler Orovsky, official mail was distributed between the city hall, police, parliament, and the railroad station in the capital city, Prague. An ingenious method of producing the stamps for this service involved printing from a typographed plate with the perforations and the embossing made in the same impression. This accounts for the outline of color seen on the perforations. The top inscription means “Czech Scout Post” ; the lower means “In the Service of the National Government.” Cancellation “N. V.” in a circle is “National Committee.” Cancel “Posta Skautu” is “Scouts Post” in black, violet and red inks. Produced from single dies, there are no genuine pairs or blocks. The 10h was for post cards and the 20h for letters with the Scout collecting the fee upon delivery. Each letter was actually “registered mail,” since the receiver was required to sign his own name in a rubber stamped space on the envelope, remove the contents, and return the envelope to the Scout as a receipt for delivery. Because of great intrigue and distrust of political enemies each of some 96 Sea Scouts had his signature on approved lists to be compared by the government officials before they accepted the mail and disclosed their identity. The Scouts, therefore, had to sign their names on the envelopes first, for this proof as official messengers. Forgeries of the stamps and envelopes are known and are cruelly made. Post cards were printed from the 10 haleru plate and are very rare. Both stamps were overprinted on December 21, 1918 “Prijezd Presidenta Masaryk” for one day of postal use (means arrival of President Masaryk). Only 600 copies of each were unofficially printed and are therefore, questionable collectors items. (*#3 and #4*) These are also faked upon genuine stamps, as well as forged stamps. Some catalogs do not list these stamps, since they were issued before the country was organized. Yet, they have seen more postal service than many listed stamps.

*The story of the first Scout stamps in the world*

for which they designed and printed their own postage stamps (10 and 20 Hellers).

When, on December 21st, 1918, Tomas Masaryk, the new Republic’s first president, arrived in Prague, not only did the above Scouts return for duty, but these “Posta Ceskyh Skautu” stamps were sold again, just for the day only printed over with the words “Prijezd Presidenta Masaryk” (Arrival of President Masaryk).

These stamps were not only the first postage stamps of the Czech Republic, they were also the first Scout stamps in the world. Presently very valuable, they are a much desired collector’s item, but hard, if not impossible, to acquire.

**CESKOSLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA**

And so the Czechs had at long last regained their real independence. Slow-
ensko (Slovakia), which for hundreds of years (until 1918) had been a part of the Kingdom of Hungary, was persuaded to join forces with the Ceska Republika and together they created the Czechoslovak Republic (CSR) which included Cechy (Bohemia), Morava (Moravia), Slovensko (Slovakia), Silesia and Ruthenia. The latter region, in the Carpathian Mountains, had also been Hungarian for hundreds of years. The population was very mixed and consisted of Hungarians, Slovaks, Poles, Ukrainians, some Romanians and the original Ruthenians. In the Czech and Slovak languages - which do not differ all that much - the name of Ruthenia is Podkarpatska Rus, in Ukrainian Zakarpatskaja Ukraina.

The new Republic’s frontiers (as far as Bohemia was concerned, the historical borders of the old Kingdom) were officially settled by means of the Peace Treaties which the victorious Allies imposed upon the losers, being Germany (Treaty of Versailles, 1919), Austria (St Germain, 1919), and Hungary (Trianon, 1920). The wise men, who took the decisions, were not all that wise and created many problems, in fact laid the foundation for the Second World War (1939-1945) and Europe’s division into two Blocks after 1945.

The new Republic had a population of 42.3% of Czechs, 25% of Slovaks, 23% of German speaking, 3.4% Ruthenians, 0.6% Poles and 5.7% Hungarians. As part of Slovakia’s southern border was chosen the River Danube. Now it so happened that the flat, northern bank was populated by more than 95% Hungarians and for hundreds of years had been part of the Kingdom of Hungary. These Hungarians were now included in the Republic of Slovakia and cut off from their homeland. They were supposed to be Slovaks. By that time the victorious Allies, in particular France, had already dropped President Wilson’s ideals and principles of self-determination. Instead of showing the wisdom and the determination to create a better, just Europe and to prevent wars, in their revengefulness they gave birth to a monster. (A mistake not made after WW II.)
The new Czechoslovakia, in particular, in the late thirties, was to suffer the consequences.

In post 1918 Central Europe the new Republic was an island of democracy, West European style, but surrounded by states with - in the favourable case - autocratic, but also Nazi, fascist and communist regimes. So the country became a safe haven for political and other refugees, who escaped from the neighbouring states.

SCOUTING IN INDEPENDENT CHECHOSLOVAKIA 1918 - 1939

The day the Czechs proclaimed their national independence, the Junak-Cesky Skaut became a truly National Scout Movement. But in Slovensko, Slovakia, when still Hungarian, the first Slovak troops had been founded in 1913. These were mainly Roman Catholic. There were also some other troops. On the Danube’s northern bank and elsewhere in the region, Hungarian troops had existed since the founding of Hungarian Scouting. Once Slovensko was included in the Republic of Czechoslovakia, with the substantial aid of Junak-Cesky Skaut, the Slovak movement increased in numbers.

Antonin B. Svojsik, the Czech Chief Scout, took the initiative to invite the Slovak Movements to unite with the Junak-Cesky Skaut in one National Federation. The invitation was accepted and on June 7th, 1919, the Scouting Federation was founded and named (in Czech) Svaz Junaku-Skaatu Republiky Ceskoslovenske or in English: The Union of Junak Scouts of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The Girl Guides, who after all
were also a significant section, were not mentioned in this official name. This omission was corrected in 1934 when the Federation’s name was changed into (in Czech) Svaz Junaku Skautu a Skautek Republiky Ceskoslovenske, (in Slovak) Svaz Junakov Skautov A Skautok RCS, (in English The Union of Junak Scouts and Guides of the Republic of Czechoslovakia).

Right from the beginning the Scouts and Guides of the Polish, Ukrainian, German and Hungarian minorities were also invited to join the Federation, which was open to all in the most Scout-like manner and to the great benefit of all concerned. As was proven by the following.

In Ruthenia the Ukrainian troops belonged to the Czechoslovak Federation but, of course, also had a close relationship with the Ukrainian Movement Plast, which operated in the motherland, just across the border. The western part belonged to Poland, whereas the eastern part was the Soviet Republic of the Ukraine. In the latter the communist regime saw to it that Scouting was impossible, though Scouts still met in secret and were supported by Plast in the Polish Ukraine as well as by the Plast in Ruthenia. When, in the thirties, Plast in Western Ukraine - as most Ukrainian organisations - was forbidden and also went underground, thanks to the fact that Plast in Ruthenia was well organised and operating freely within the framework of the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation, it was not only able to take over the leadership, but to also support and provide for the groups in Western Ukraine, that continued illegally.
Czechoslovak Scouting was well prepared for the developments in International Scouting to come.

1922

Preceding the First World Jamboree, Richmond Park Olympia (London 30/07 - 08/08/1920) a two days International Conference was held, attended by all Contingent Leaders, including the Czechoslovaks. Baden Powell unfolded his ideas of an International Body to lead the ever expanding, now truly international, Movement. An International Bureau was founded forthwith, the other plans were first to be discussed by all national movements. Two years later the 2nd International Conference was held in Paris (22-29/07/1922) and it was decided to found the World Authority of the International Scout Movement (WAISM. in 1963 to be renamed WOSM. – World Organisation of the Scout Movement). WAISM. was to be led by the International Committee and to be served by the International Bureau as its administrative and executive centre. (Since 1963 the World Committee and the World Bureau.)

In its resolution 12/1922 the unity of Scouting in the countries with various organisations was recommended and the Czechoslovak Federation was given as the example of the ideal situation desired. During the 3rd International Conference (Copenhagen, Denmark 18- 20/08/1924) the various delegations passed Resolution 17/1924 stating, among other things:

“That where more than one organisation exists there shall be a federation based on the common Scout objective.”

This, in later years, lead to the present Article VI, sub 2 of “the Constitution and By-Laws of the WOSM “reading:

“Only one National Scout Organisation from any one country can be recognised for membership in the World Organisation. A National Scout Organisation may consist of more than one Scout Association participating in a
Federation based upon the common Scout purpose. It is the responsibility of each Federation to ensure that all its constituent Associations meet the requirements of this Constitution.”

The national movements, present at the above 2nd International Conference, were since known as the Founder Members and of course Czechoslovakia was one of them. Antonin B. Svojsik, Chief Scout of the Czech Movement and the Czechoslovak Federation, was chosen to be on the International Committee, the overall body of World Scouting, and served on it from 1922 until 1932.

DEVELOPMENTS

In Britain Scouting had been experimenting with Scouting for the younger lads and the young men. Cub Scouting and Rover Scouting came into being.

During the 1st World Jamboree (1920) hundreds of little boys, a green avalanche of squirming, quickly moving arms and legs, was suddenly let loose on the participants. Thus was introduced the Cub Scout system. Which was taken over by almost all the movements present. That very same year the Czechoslovak movements introduced Cub Scouting, Rover Scouting and in the female section, the Brownies.

In 1924 Scout leader Frank Elstner was the first Czechoslovak to attend a Gilwell Course in the recently opened Gilwell Park near London. Not only did he return a Gilwellian but also a DCC (Deputy Camp Chief), the first, in his movement, entitled to lead a national Gilwell training. In 1925 he organised and led the first course. Felen Vanderlik was the second Czech to go to Gilwell and to also return a DCC.
Czechoslovak Scouting participated in all international meetings, conferences and events organised by the international Scout and Guide movements. Their contingents were present at the 2nd World Jamboree at Ermelunden, Denmark, 1924, the 3rd in Arrowe Park- Birkenhead, England, 1929, (50 men), the 4th in Gödöllö, Hungary, 1933, and at the 5th at Vogelenzang, The Netherlands, 1937, when 320 Czechoslovak Scouts pitched their tents in Sub camp 5. Their camps always attracted much attention, using, as they were small, house-shaped tents with small wooden walls and two wooden bunks filled with straw or hay. These tents fitted their homeland’s various climates and enabled them to camp in all seasons.

The Guides section was also very active in the international field and they were represented at Parad, Hungary (1928), when during the 5th international conference the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) was founded and the Trefoil accepted as its international emblem and badge. Consequently the Czechoslovak Federation also belonged to the Founder Members WAGGGS.

In the twenties the founder of Czech Guiding, Vlasta Stepanova, married Dr Jaroslav Kose and was from that moment on known as Vlasta Stepanova Koseova. The couple settled in Geneva but in 1930 returned to the home country. Whereupon she resumed her work for Guiding and was appointed International Commissioner. Soon to be elected a member of the WAGGGS World Committee. Her knowledge of and experience
in national as well as international Guiding was such that on February 27th, 1938 she was elected to be the Chief Guide of Junak-Cesky Skaut.

Scouting was the largest youth movement in the Federal Republic. It enjoyed the population’s sympathy and, though politically totally independent, the government’s full support. The training of the boys, girls and the leaders of both sexes attained to very high standards and was highly praised and admired by visiting WAISM and WAGGGS officials and other foreign leaders.

With a steadily increasing membership the finest hour was in 1931 when a Slavic Jamboree was held. More than 15,000 Czechoslovak Scouts and their 3,000 foreign guests paraded in the Prague main streets, lined with thousands of sympathetic spectators. Soon thereafter the total membership was about 70,000, an impressive number for so small a country.

DARK CLOUDS ARE GATHERING

In January 1933 Adolf Hitler, the leader of the German National Socialist Party (Nazis), took over in Germany and quickly changed that weak, uncertain democracy into a one-party-dictatorial-state. Among many other things Hitler’s aim was the cancellation of the Versailles Peace Treaty and the re-
unification with Germany of all territories inhabited by German speaking people. Revenge and “Heim ins Reich” (Back to the Homeland) were the principles. The latter slogan appealed to most of the directly involved belonging to the small German speaking minorities just across the German borders. But there were always some amongst them, who did not so much fancy the idea, more so as they opposed Nazism. That in the process territories were also taken, not inhabited by Germans or by people that did not consider themselves as such, did not bother the Nazis very much, they were, in all they planned and carried out, unscrupulous.

In March 1938 Hitler seized Austria and annexed it. Soon thereafter it was quite clear that the next country to be victimised was to be Czechoslovakia. This country was now presented with the bill to be paid for the mistakes made by the victorious Allies in 1919 and 1920 (see above).

In the mountainous border areas of Bohemia - also known as Sudetenland - Czechs and German speakers had been peacefully living together for hundreds of years without really serious problems. But the latter (3,000,000 at that time) - apart from a few exceptions who opposed Hitler and his Nazis - permitted themselves not only to be misled, but also to be incited by Hitler. They fell for the Nazi ideology and indoctrination, and began causing the Prague government trouble. Initially they demanded autonomy, stating that they were being oppressed by the Czechs. But later clearly indicated that they wished the regions to be annexed by Hitler’s Third Reich. Adolf Hitler was begged to come and save them and the Führer was only too willing to oblige.

But Czechoslovakia, which had a strong, modern army, manned its border defences and was not willing to give in. War seemed imminent. A war Great Britain and France did not want and Nazi-Germany was not really ready for either.
Hitler bluffed and the western democracy fell for it. A conference was called at Munich (München) 29-30/09/1938 attended by Great Britain, France, Fascist-Italy and Nazi-Germany. Czechoslovakia, however, was not invited to participate. In order to avert a war, Great Britain and France gave in to Hitler’s demands and it was agreed that Czechoslovakia would have to cede Sudentenland - the area’s name - to Nazi Germany. Thus the country was not only robbed of its border regions and the strong defence works in them, but it was also sacrificed on the Altar of a doubtful peace. An act which the Czechoslovaks, until this very day, have always considered as a betrayal and a stab in the back by the (weak) western democracies, who in 1918/1919 had guaranteed the new Republic’s borders.

And so the German Army marched in and, between October 1st and 10th, 1938, in easy stages, took over the Sudentenland. Welcomed by a delighted and excited population that, however, would live to deeply regret their enthusiasm for the annexation, for Adolf Hitler etc. The Czechs residing in the areas were either forced to depart or were deprived of their civil liberties and rights. Their schools were closed, their associations, even sports clubs, were banned and disbanded – a grim situation.

A bad winter followed. Czechoslovakia, badly let down, soon found its other neighbours knocking at the door, desiring the restitution of the territories that had belonged to them before 1918. Hungary restricted her demands to the return of the Danube’s northern bank with its 95% Hungarian population. Poland asked for the Polish speaking regions, and to top everything Slovakia demanded its total independence and the disbandment of the Federal Republic. This was magnanimously granted by Nazi-Germany and Slovakia continued as a Nazi Puppet-State under the leadership of Monseigneur Tiso, a Roman Catholic priest.
THE EFFECT ON SCOUTING

Twelve days before the above mentioned Munich Conference, on the 17th of September, 1938, the popular Czech and Federal Chief Scout, Antonin B. Svojsik passed on and was mourned by all Scouts and Guides in Czechoslovakia and abroad. No doubt he too must have had his presentiments regarding the times to come and the effects these might have on his beloved Scout and Guide movement. At least the Founder was spared having to watch the attempts to destroy his work of a life time; the movement he created.

As Czech and Federal Chief Scout he was succeeded by Rudolf Plajner, one of his loyal co-operators since the early days, who had been with him for many years and had served as his Deputy Chief Scout. Throughout the movement Plajner was also very popular and effectively known as “Daddy Plajner”. The new Deputy Chief Scout was to be Slava Rehak, also well-known and beloved throughout the movement. With President J. Charvat, Vlasta Stepanova Koseova, and others, these leaders formed a good, strong and experienced team, prepared for the jobs to be tackled.

But the future was very grim and dark. Mr Charvat resigned as President and was succeeded by Vaclav Vlcek, who, however, resigned as soon as the Nazis occupied Prague. Whereupon this task was taken over by Slava Rehak. As far as Scouting was concerned, as a result of the annexation of the border regions, it lost many of its camping and outdoor facilities and possibilities in the splendid and cherished mountains. The Czech groups, which had been operating in the region simply
disappeared for the simple reason that the Czech population had either fled or had been evicted by the Nazis, an ethnic cleansing. But there had also been German Scout groups in Sudetenland, which either belonged to the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation or to one of the about 40 German Scout Movements across the border, that - never recognised by the World Bureaux - between 1933 and 1937 had been disbanded and banned by the Nazis. Once the Nazi annexation was a fact, they either dissolved or were banned and disbanded and the members were obliged to join the Hitler Jugend or the Bund Deutscher Mädel. Some may have fancied that but it is also known that many a true Scout objected strongly, had to flee the country or was arrested to be “re-educated” in some Nazi Concentration camp.

The Hungarian groups in Slovakia returned to the official Hungarian Movement they had belonged to before 1919, as they were now, once more, living in their original homeland, Hungarian citizens again.

The moment the Czechoslovak Federal Republic was dissolved, the Scouting Federation was also abolished. Slovakia got its “independence”. In the new state, all Scouting groups - but the Roman Catholic ones - were, by a November 1938 governmental decree, disbanded and their activities were forbidden. On May 3rd, 1939, the Roman Catholic Scouts were also disbanded and the government thereupon created the Hlinkova Mladez, based upon the Hitler Youth, to which all Roman Catholic Scouts were transferred, whether they liked it or not, and quite a few did not relish it at all.

As was only to be expected, Adolf Hitler broke his given word once again and, under false pretences, ordered his armies to occupy what was left of the Czech part of the former Federal Republic. Which was done on March 15th and 16th, 1939, when the Nazis marched in.
The name Cechy was erased. The region was now named the Protectorate Böhmen und Mähren (Bohemia and Moravia), the German names for Cechy and Morava. A Nazi “protector” was appointed but the title of “persecutor” or “oppressor” would have been more appropriate and realistic. Every trace of democracy was erased. Freedom was swept aside. Every expression of patriotism was suppressed.

SCOUTING IN THE PROTECTORATE

In International Scouting everybody knew what had happened to German Scouting (which had never been a member of the International Movements) as soon as the Nazis had taken over in Germany. Also how Austrian Scouting (which had always been a loyal member of the World Movements) had been treated after the 1938 annexation. The latter had been disbanded on the very first day and its top-leaders and many other leaders had been arrested. So not only international Scouting but also Czech Scouting was well aware of what the latter’s plight was going to be, the moment the Nazis occupied the territory.

Yet, despite everything the Nazi regime imposed upon the population, surprisingly Scouting was more or less left alone and apparently nothing happened. Initially it was not forbidden to wear the Scout uniform but the activities were more and more restricted to indoors only. Nevertheless, in the dense forests, some summer camps were held secretly.

Hitler made demands on Poland but Poland was not giving in and so on September 1st, 1939 Hitler ordered the German armies to invade the country. By that time Great Britain and France had had enough and on September 3rd World War II (1939-1945) began. A fact which raised the Czechs’ hopes for a speedy liberation, more so as they expected the Soviet Union to come to Poland’s rescue. And, indeed, the Soviet Union
did participate but on the Nazi side, stabbing the Poles in the back. So the Czech hopes dwindled rapidly but never totally.

On April 8th, 1940 Nazi Germany occupied Denmark and attacked Norway. On May 10th, 1940 the German Blitz Krieg in Western Europe began. The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg resisted but were overwhelmed and France, against all expectations, collapsed and surrendered on June 22nd, 1940. It so seemed as if Nazi-Germany had almost won and conquered everything. But Great Britain, which stood alone, continued the fight. All countries occupied, placed their high hopes on the British.

Czech Scouting’s position in Spring 1940 was similar to that in 1939. Meetings were held and secret camps too.

The British historian Hilary St. George Saunders in his Book The Left Handshake, page 62,(Dec. 1948) dedicated the following to what happened:

In July, 1940, it became acute. Without warning Scout camps all over Czechoslovakia were raided and disbanded by the German police. They were full of boys wearing the uniforms, which, since the raid had been cunningly planned and carefully executed, they had no time to conceal. The Germans were delighted. They ordered them to take off their uniforms. So it came about that one summer evening boys were seen going home in their hundreds clad in nothing but their underwear. The equipment thus seized was handed over to the Hitler Jugend.”

THE FIRST BANNING - 1940

With the Protector’s decree, signed and dated October 28th, 1940, Czech Junak was banned and disbanded and all its activities were prohibited and punishable. The Prague NHQ was raided and taken over by the Hitler Jugend. Its archives, li-
brary, the stock of uniforms and badges were confiscated and burned. All other possessions such as meeting places, other buildings, official campsites, the Gilwell Training Centre etc. etc. were also taken and all was handed over to either the Hitler Jugend or other Nazi organisations, as were the tents, the camping equipment etc. The NHQ Staff, as well as all commissioners and leading persons like Slava Rehak, Dr Charvat (though resigned) and many others were arrested, some to be released after a short period of detention, interrogation and intimidation, others, such as Slava Rehak and Charvat, to be taken to the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp.

Rehak was to stay in the latter for the duration of the war. Hilary St George Saunders, in his above mentioned book, on page 188, related that in the course of the years a large number of Scout leaders, from all over Nazi occupied Europe, belonged to the camp’s inmates, adding:

“Another of its inmates, Chief Scout Professor Slava Rehak of Czechoslovakia, was also active, and during his period of detention, which lasted several years, not only kept in touch with all Commissioners and Scoutmasters in the camp, but with their aid worked out details for rebuilding Scouting in Czechoslovakia and prepared a handbook for the training of Scouters. A triumph indeed of spirit over matter.”

Rehak was liberated by the US Army when it stood at Buchenwald’s gates in Spring 1945, whereupon he returned to Prague.

After the Nazi interference and measures the Czech Junaks may have been in the sulks, they may have been down and above all else very angry, but their spirit was not broken and they did not give in. Not without the risk of detection and/or betrayal leading to the inevitable punishment and detention, meetings and activities were continued secretly, as in all other countries occupied by the Nazis where Scouting and Guiding
had been banned. As usual illegal Scouting and Guiding led to other illegal activities and many of the older Scouts (girls and boys) and leaders joined the hard core of the Resistance in the cities and villages or the Partisans in the forests and mountains.

The country’s geographical conditions were excellent for armed resistance and partisan activities. Scouts, thanks to their training, were very useful and in demand. In the mountains and forests, which they knew so well as a result of their camping, hiking, training and wide games, they helped to guide refugees, people wanted by the Nazis, escaped POWs and Allied airmen to and across the borders. Trained and used as they were to live in the open, under all weather conditions and during all seasons, they knew how to help themselves and how to survive and they were able to teach many who were less experienced in this field. Their Morse signalling as well as their First Aid was useful. But the younger boys and girls also played their parts. A quote again from the above book, page 63:  

“As war went on and Czech Underground Resistance became yet more active, the perils faced by the Scouts became greater and greater, as did the needs of the Partisans scattered throughout the country. To them the Scouts proved of the highest value. They collected food for them, delivered messages, gave warnings. Sometimes they met with disaster.”

More than 650 Scouts (male and female) paid for this with their lives. They were either killed in action, died of wounds inflicted during the hit and run fights, perished in concentration camps or were executed by firing squads. One of those
executed by a Nazi firing squad, in 1942, was Jaroslav Kose, Vlasta Stepanova Koseova’s husband. And Scouting’s popularity grew all the time.

THE FREE CZECHOSLOVAKS

When, on September 3rd, 1939, World War II had begun, a Free Czechoslovak Committee, which was operating in London, was recognised as a Czechoslovak Government which the Czechoslovaks who had either been living abroad or who had escaped from their now occupied country rallied around. Army units were founded, trained and equipped and Czechoslovak pilots, within the (British) Royal Air Force, formed their own fighter squadrons operating the famous Spitfires and Hurricanes. Thus they played their part in the Battle of Britain (autumn 1940) and later served in other theatres of war. Others - with men and women of other occupied countries - were trained as special agents in a special training-school on the Isle of Wight, later to be parachuted into their homeland to assist and instruct the Partisans and the Resistance. (Such a group executed the German SS General and Protector Reinhard Heydrich in Prague, May 27th, 1942.)

In the Czechoslovak Armed Units in Great Britain and elsewhere Scouts and Guides founded Rover Crews. But civilians, families with children, had also reached the British Isles and were mainly concentrated in the North of England and the South of Scotland. Special Czechoslovak schools were opened for the children. But amongst them Scouting was also promoted and Scout groups were founded, which attracted not only those who had been Scouts in the homeland but also those who had not been. The Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile saw the importance of Scouting-in-exile and, Junak having been banned and disbanded in the homeland, on May 23rd, 1941, the Government-in-Exile officially restored Junak. DCC Velen Fanderlik, an officer serving in the Czechoslovak Army in Britain, organised Czechoslovak Scouting in that coun-
try but also served on the Provisional International Committee, based in London.

THE FIRST REVIVAL - 1945

The Nazis and their fellow travellers were, at long last, thrown out of Czechoslovakia by a) the Czech and Slovak Partisans who, in winter 1944/1945, liberated large inaccessible regions. The Czechs putting a crown on their work and hardships by liberating the capital Prague on May 5th, 1945, before the arrival of the Soviet Red Army from the east or the US Army from the west. b) the Soviet Red Army slowly moving westwards during that winter and c) the US forces who, having conquered and occupied Southern Germany in April-May 1945, launched reconnaissance units across the border into Cechy.

No doubt the Czechs were disappointed when they found that the American Army, which was so near, stopped at the border and did not, in strength, liberate Cechy. They were, however, not aware of the Jalta agreements between the Western Allies and the USSR, implying that Czechoslovakia was to be liberated by the Soviets.

Page 66 of The Left Handshake:
"When, a few weeks before the end of the war the Germans carried out a mass migration of prisoners-of-war from east to west Czechoslovakia, Scouts near the German boundary kidnapped some sixty American POWs who had arrived in an exhausted and starving condition, hid them in the woods and fed them till their compatriots arrived to find them alive and well, and conversing with their hosts."
by means of the American Indian sign language.”

Whether liberated by the Partisans, the Red Army or the US reconnaissance units, the effect was the same as far as the Scouts were concerned. As if by magic the streets were suddenly filled with re-emerging Scouts and Guides. An American Scout leader, serving in one of the US reconnaissance units that broke through and entered Prague, liberated only the day before, reported to BSA NHQ in the States that:

“the streets were green with Scout uniforms”

(In those days the Junaki wore green shirts.) Another American leader wrote:

“I was lucky enough to get as far as Prague last week for a couple of nights and to have a look at Scouting there, Everywhere I went, I saw plenty of Scouts in uniform and boys and girls at work.”

Czech Scouting re-emerged everywhere and on May 8th, 1945 reopened its Prague National Headquarters. Though most of Junak’s members were, at the time, otherwise engaged. (The movement as a whole was rendering special services to the public.) Those who had survived resumed their tasks as soon as possible, The places of others, who had not yet returned or had not survived, were temporarily taken by others.

Slave Rehak, the inmate of Buchenwald concentration camp for almost 5 years and only recently liberated by the US Army, returned to Prague and resumed his Presidency. Velen Fanderek and others returned from Britain. Rudolf Plajner (“Daddy Plajner”), the popular Chief Scout and Vlasta Stepanova Koseova (“Aunty Vlasta”) the equally popular Chief Guide, “resurfaced” like so many others and went to work again in the empty NHQ.

Regrettfully, shortly after his return Slava Rehak, retired from his Presidency, probably because of ill health, the result of his
detention in Buchenwald. His survival of which was a small miracle in itself. Velen Fanderlik, the DCC, who had been in charge of Czechoslovakian Scouting in the Free World, succeeded him temporarily.

The movement was thoroughly reorganised in autumn, winter and spring 1945-1946. On February 10th, 1946 a special congress was held and during it a new leadership was chosen and installed, be it that most of the persons chosen with overwhelming majority were those who had been so popular in the past. Velen Fanderlik was elected President, Rudolf Plajer was re-elected Chief Scout and of course Vlasta Stepanova Koseova stayed in office as Chief Guide. As a 4th vice-president was chosen Jiri Preiniger, rather unknown and not the equal of the persons mentioned. Junak Cesky Skaut was back on its feet again. The Slovak Movement was also revived. Its NHQ in the capital Bratislava had been reopened and Miloslav Strzinek was elected Slovak Chief Scout, Connections between Junak Cesky Skaut and the Slovaks were soon restored. The International Bureau in London reported having received a message, signed by the International Commissioner V. Zidlicky dated Prague 14/02/1946, and stating that the Federation of Czech and Slovak Scouting had been revived.

The movement had to start from scratch. A great problem was the virtual lack of almost everything. Left behind German equipment, such as tents, axes, saws, spades etc. were put at the movement’s disposal. But relief came. The Royal Canadian Air Force flew in, free of charge, the Czech and Slovak handbooks, including the one written by Velen Fanderlik during his stay in Britain. The Boy Scouts Association of Canada had had these printed and the money had been provided by a special
funds to which, during the war, the Canadian Cub Scouts, Scouts, Rover Scouts and Scout leaders had contributed by paying a voluntary, additional weekly amount on top of the normal membership fee. From many other countries relief material, including uniforms etc., arrived.

Soon the Gilwell training courses were resumed and, in order to fill the many gaps, preliminary courses for leaders-to-be started almost everywhere. As ever Scouting was again very popular with the population. This was also due to the Scouts’ behaviour, commitment and the magnificent role they had played during the Nazi occupation.

In 1939 Junak had 70,000 registered members, in summer 1946 more than 120,000 and many more were anxious to join. In fact, in those days, the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation was not only the country’s largest youth movement but also the second largest movement in the World Organisations.

About 650 Scouts (male and female) had been killed during the resistance. Another 350 whilst serving in the Free Czechoslovak Armed Forces. They were not forgotten, neither were those who had served and survived. In 1945 the Movement introduced the Junak Kriz “Za Vlast” (Junak Cross “For the Country”) which was awarded to all in the movement who had served their country. Posthumously in gold, and for the survivors in silver or bronze.

Friends were not forgotten either. The Federation’s new President, Velen Fanderlik, headed a delegation that visited Great Britain in 1946 to thank the British movements not only for their brotherly and sisterly assistance and hospitality shown to the Exile Junakas during WW II, but also for the direct aid, received immediately after the Liberation. That Velen Fanderlik was held in high esteem by the Brits was clear when Glad Bincham (the very popular British International Commissioner)
presented him with the Medal of Merit in recognition of his services to Scouting.

But the Czechoslovak Movements also received, with pleasure, many foreign guests. Those in England and Scotland who had opened their hearts and homes to the Scouts in Exile, were invited to come and visit their old friends in their now free and liberated country. But also many a Junak brought home his English or Scottish bride, mostly a Girl Guide.

The Girls’ section’s highlight of the period was no doubt Lady Olave Baden Powell’s (the World Chief Guide) visit to Czechoslovakia. Together with “Aunty Vlasta” she toured the country and the two ladies were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception, not only by the Girl-Scouts and the Boy-Scouts but by the entire population, that thronged the streets and squares and stopped all traffic.

Less spectacular maybe was a tour of inspection made by John Wilson, the International Bureau’s Director. He arrived on April 25th. Departed on May 7th, 1947, having visited the Czech Lands and Slovakia, always accompanied by his Czech interpreter Karel Grim, who in 1946 had been to Gilwell Park near London and had returned as a DCC, entitled to run Gilwell Courses. Wilson’s general impression, as recorded in his lengthy report, was that Czechoslovak Scouting was well back on its feet, as ever of high quality, having a splendid future and an ever increasing membership.

In 1947 the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation sent a large Contingent to the 6th World Jamboree in Moisson-France. The first post-war Jamboree, named: The Jamboree of Peace.
But was Peace to last?

MINORITIES

In 1945 The Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia had been restored. Podkarpatska Rus (as it was named in Czech and Slovak) or Ruthenia was, however, taken over by the Soviet Union, later to become part of the Soviet Republic of Ukraine and to be known as Zakarpatskaja Ukraina. (Carpathian Ukraine.) Scouting was never revived until 1990. But in the Displaced Persons Camps in West Germany and Austria Ruthenian refugees founded Ruthenian Groups and a “National” Ruthenian Scout Movement which was registered and recognised as a member of the Displaced Persons Scout Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. When, in later years the Displaced Persons spread all over the world, this movement was not large enough to carry on and its members joined the national movements of their new countries of residence.

The Czech and Slovak pre-1939 frontiers were restored. Meaning that again some minorities were found within the borders. The Hungarians on the Danube’s north bank, now Slovak territory again, in general, kept a low profile and their Scout troops, which from 1939 until 1944-1945 had belonged to the Hungarian National Movement, more or less disappeared. In fact they never operated openly and publicly from 1945-1948 and consequently were not represented in the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation again.

The border areas with, now defeated Germany, automatically returned to Bohemia. Its German population, which had so enthusiastically welcomed the Nazis, had mostly fled or had been expelled, apart from the few who had opposed the Nazis and were gladly permitted to stay. So no German speaking Scout troops that could have joined the Federation, were in existence.
During the Jalta Conference (4th-11th/02/1945) President Franklin D. Roosevelt (USA), an idealist who trusted almost everybody, dictator Joseph Stalin (USSR), who greedily wanted to pinch as much territory as possible and the reluctant, demurring but overruled Winston S. Churchill (UK), who did not trust the Soviet Union and later was proven to have been right, decided not only the future of Nazi-Germany (not yet defeated) but also divided Europe into “Spheres of Influence”. Czechoslovakia was so unlucky, as the population was soon to find out, to belong to the Soviet Sphere.

This also explains why the US Army, slicing through Southern Germany in April and early May 1945, stopped short at the German- Czech border instead of advancing to Prague, which the Americans could have reached and liberated easily long before the Red Army could have arrived. A number of small US reconnaissance units were launched across the border, met little resistance and were enthusiastically welcomed by the Czechs. Some, as narrated, came as far as Prague, mostly to withdraw again which the Czechs neither understood nor appreciated. It was not until later that they found out they were supposed to be liberated by the Red Army. On the Red Army’s approach the Yanks withdrew until they were no longer on Czech territory. (In later years the communist regimes denied that the Americans had ever set foot on Czechoslovak territory. Officially they had never ever been there, the Red Army had done all the work!)

Soon political pressure was felt and detected caused by this enforced orientation of Czechoslovakia’s internal and external politics towards the Soviet Union. Though Scouting, in accordance with the International Rules, kept its distance and painfully saw to it that the movement did not get involved in party-politics, the organisation could not avoid being influenced by the general political situation.
Immediately after the war was over, sometimes already before it was over, all over Europe, in West, South, East, North and Centre, men and women suddenly appeared who propagated and promoted the ideal of the “national unity of youth”. This was to be achieved firstly by creating an overall body which was to lead and instruct all re-emerging or reviving youth movements and by secondly, after a period of transition and habituation, culminating in the dissolution of all separate movements and the founding of “one really National United Youth Movement.” This outburst of nationalism and patriotism was soon unmasked as being a disguise for communists and fellow travellers, some of the latter sometimes also misled by the apparent patriotism were soon to retire from the project. In the Western, Southern and Northern European countries this was soon exposed as a communist attempt at take-over and co-ordination to enlarge the communists’ and Soviet Union’s influence on youth. This was sufficient and the attempt failed and soon petered out. But it was different in those Eastern and Central European countries in which the Red Army’s presence added to the communist party’s power and pressure and stifled all resistance.

In this context in Czechoslovakia the Svaz Ceske Mladeze (SCM) or Union of Czech Youth was founded and all youth movements, including Junak Cesky Skaut and the Slovak Scout Movement were obliged to participate as collective members.

In practice the various movements were - not yet - disbanded but subordinated to the SCM’s general leadership. In order to prevent unrest in the still unstable, discontented society, the process would continue in easy stages irrevocably ending with the abolition of all movements and associations and the creation of one party/state youth movement. Behind the scenes the Communist Party was busily preparing the SCM to become that one and only unified, co-ordinated “national” “democratic”
youth movement, making superfluous all other movements and associations.

There was only one disadvantage. During the (very last) free elections held in 1946, against all its expectations, the Communist Party had not gained an overall majority. Of course 38% of all votes was a very good result, but it necessitated a coalition government. But it annoyed the Communists and their Bosses in Moscow even more. The latter were always in favour of 99% of the votes and by various means saw to it that such a result was forthcoming. So they grew impatient and ordered their Czechoslovak comrades to dismiss all pretences of being a democratic party to stage a coup d’État and to overthrow the elected government, changing Czechoslovakia into a communist state.

And so in February 1948 Liberty and Democracy which, in previous years, had been bought at the expense of so much suffering and for which so much blood had been shed, were abolished. The borders were closed immediately and gradually totally sealed up by barbed wire fences, land mines and machine gun towers. Yet many managed to slip out during the early days.

The Second Banning - 1948

News of what had happened in Czechoslovakia soon reached the outside world. The London based International Bureau also had its special sources. Such as the new refugees, many boy and girl Scouts amongst them, and not forgetting the Scouts, Guides, former Scouts and Guides belonging to the diplomatic staffs of the various western embassies in Prague and such people as businessmen etc. So early 1948, on page 164 of its magazine Jamboree, the following, be it restricted and restrained International Bureau information was published:

"Czechoslovakia."
We regret to announce that reliable reports received indicate that one of the results of the recent crisis in Czechoslovakia is that ‘Junak’, the Czechoslovak Boy Scouts Association, has come under political control. Large numbers of Scout leaders have relinquished their posts, or have been forced to do so, and “Junak” has been made a member of one of the ‘Action Committees of the National Front’. Membership of the Association is now apparently to be compulsory for all boys up to the age of 15 years, and its activities are to be State controlled and financed.

All this is directly opposed to the fundamental Scout principle of the freedom of the individual, and ‘Junak’ can no longer be regarded as a member Association of the Boy Scouts International Conference. All registered Associations have been informed of this officially.

We all sympathize deeply with the real Scouts of Czechoslovakia in the present state of affairs. The Scout Movement in that country has amply demonstrated the true spirit of Scouting during the years between the World Wars, by its maintenance during the late war, when it was forcibly suppressed but flourished ‘underground’, and by its excellent development and activities in the past three years. We hope that the time may come when we can be in direct and free communication with them. Meanwhile a considerable amount of discretion must be exercised, and the International Bureau will be ready to advise.”

A month later, on page 200 of the same magazine, the International Bureau reported:

“Our Czechoslovak Scouts have had to break of the associations with their Brother Scouts of other countries.”

What had happened at Prague?
Immediately after the February 1948 Communist coup d’État, Jiri Preiniger, the 4th Vice President of Junak Cesky Skaut, elected 10/02/1946, and 25/02/1946 appointed Chief of the Central Secretariat, surprised his brother Scouts by dropping his mask and revealing himself as a fellow-traveller, making it quite clear to Junak Cesky Skaut and the nation that he sided with the communists and their regime. Pretending that he spoke on behalf of Junak Cesky Skaut he issued a statement giving the impression that the movement, in its entirety, was backing the communist take-over and the country’s delayed “liberation.”

Chief Scout Rudolph Plajner, in a stately manner, reacted immediately, stressing, with unsuppressed indignation, that Scouting had always been and would forever be a non-political movement and that Preiniger’s statements were null and void and had not been issued on behalf of Junak.

But on February 24th, 1948 Jiri Preiniger headed a group of communists, some Scout leaders and policemen, that entered the NHQ in Prague. The building was taken over, the staff and all others present were bodily thrown out of the offices. Rudolph Plajner and Vlasta Stepanova Koseova had to hand in their keys and were placed under house arrest. An Action Committee of the National Front was set up under Jiri Preiniger’s leadership. From District Commissioners upwards all leaders were dismissed, arrested and put into work camps. District Councils were dissolved and replaced by District Action Committees, often consisting of persons not only totally unknown in Scouting and Guiding, but often even without the slightest notion of Scouting. At first the groups were permitted to carry on, but gradually the activities were discouraged and disturbed - sometimes by means of violence - properties were disowned and the archives and libraries, so carefully reconstructed after the Liberation, were completely destroyed.
What the communists and the Soviet Union were after was obtaining as much influence in the non-communist, free world as possible by - under disguise - cunningly infiltrating existing organisations – thus spreading their propaganda and ideas, whilst undermining democracy, with, as the ultimate aim, a total take-over. Would not it have been wonderful to infiltrate World Scouting and World Guiding via the silenced, mutilated and raped Junak?

Preiniger’s Action Committee requested a meeting with representatives of the International Bureau in London. The latter consented and proposed a meeting in Kandersteg, Switzerland. In July 1948, four members of the International Bureau were confronted with a number of Czechs they had never met before, whose names and faces were unknown in the international field and who were not only newcomers but also acted as such. They demanded continued recognition of the Czech Movement, but the IB representatives expressed their doubts and presented the Czechs with a list of questions e.g. could the Czech representatives give the guarantee that Junak Cesky Skaut would be able to carry on as a free, democratic movement in full accordance with International Scouting’s Rules? The representatives made it clear that they could not answer but had to consult with their principals in Prague. So they went home but never returned and the answers were never received.

On page 351 of the 1948 Jamboree magazine it said:

“Czechoslovakia.

The position in this country differs from the two mentioned above since there has been no direct communication to the Bureau, nor has any statement been made public. Questions formulated at a meeting at Kandersteg in July 1948 between representatives of “Junak” and four members of the International Committee remain unanswered. At present, therefore, relations must be regarded as in suspense.”

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The Union of Czech Youth, Svaz Ceske Mladeze, SCM, as mentioned above, was aligned with the C.I.M.E.A., the (Communist) Children’s and Adolescents’ Movements of the Democratic People’s Republics, based in Moscow. This international body arranged a well staged, well directed and much heralded meeting of all member movements in Budapest, Hungary, August 1948.

Amongst the items on the agenda were World Scouting and World Guiding. It was concluded that the capitalist world used Scouting and Guiding as means to mislead, to oppress and to exploit youth. Consequently the World Movements were condemned as being enemies of the working class and an open and official fight was launched against them and their destruction was heralded.

Now the destruction of Scouting and Guiding in the Free Western Countries was not all that easy. but in those countries, under communist regimes or later to come under that influence (e.g. in Asia, Africa and Central America (Cuba)) the plans were carried out. Scouting in Hungary was banned and disbanded in 1948. In Poland, however, the movement was infiltrated, taken over and changed into a Pioneer Movement with an - outwardly Scout-like appearance.

In Jamboree of December 1948, Wilson, the Director of the International Bureau wrote an article “Light and Shade – A Survey of the Scout World During 1948”, part of which was dedicated to:

“Mid-Europe.

Hungary has resigned its short-won membership of the Boy Scouts International Conference. The enforced changes in the administration and leadership of “Junak” have automatically severed official connections with the
present Scout organisation in Czechoslovakia. All hopes of an understanding with the leadership of Scouting in Poland have been dissipated by their pronouncement that they have no connection with International Scouting. Thousands of real true Scouters and Scouts in these three countries are in the shadows. They are not lost to us. We hope and pray with them that sunshine may return and that they may go about their Scouting, free to enjoy it with us and unfettered by imposed restrictions.”

At first it so seemed as if Czechoslovakia’s GSM intended to follow the Polish example, by trying to infiltrate a hollowed-out, bogus Junak-Cesky Skaut into the World Movements. (The Kandersteg meeting, see above) But apparently it was soon understood that this was not to be successful and so, by the SGM’s General Committee’s Degree, signed January 1st, 1951, the - in fact already no longer existing and totally hollowed out - Junak was officially disbanded and banned. Fierce persecution of Scouts (boys and girls) and their leaders followed. Many that had survived the Nazi concentration camps, now found themselves inmates of the communists’ re-education camps. Apparently the powers-that-were had studied well and in detail the Nazi methods used to destroy Scouting, also the failures and mistakes, and were now trying to avoid the latter and to improve upon the method.

For Czechoslovak youngsters up to 15 years, membership of the Pioneers was made compulsory.

THE SHOW COURT CASES

In September 1952, the following article, written by Velen Fanderlik, Junak Cesky Skaut’s President, was published in various Scout and Guide magazines in several Western movements.
Recently the Czechoslovak News agency published details regarding a court case brought against members of the former Czechoslovakian Scout Movement Junak. These facts present a bitter reality.

In the People’s High Court in Prague, on May 16th, 1952 appeared 10 defendants, former members of the Czechoslovak Scout Organisation Junak. The examinations were witnessed by representatives of all democratic youth organisations in Czechoslovakia. The defendants were accused of high treason and the preparation of a revolt to overthrow the present regime. All were sentenced to long-terms in prison. Dr Karel Prucha, teacher at Prague, and in the past the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Junak, editor of the leaders’ magazine Cinovnik, author of various Scout handbooks and manuals, leader of the Moisson Jamboree Contingent (1947) was condemned to 15 years of hard labour. Dr Morislav Strzinek, Chief Scout of Slovakia, Dr Frantisek Nemec, a leading personality, member of the Junak Executive Committee, Karel Grimm, publicity officer, who received his Wood badge in Gilwell Park in 1946, Ivan Miksovic, editor and member of the Press Commission and Frank Janus, Chief Commissioner Rover Scouts, were all sentenced to 10 years.

Four other leaders, Frantisek Novotny, Milan Drazil, Frantisek Reiser and Jan Homolac were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from 6 months to 6 years.

All were accused of having founded an underground Scout movement, intending to resume activities as soon as Czechoslovakia was ‘liberated’. They were also accused of having spread anti-democratic ideas.

What the latter implies is made crystal clear in the following paragraph taken from the official communiqué:
The Scout Movement, founded by the English General Baden Powell, is one of the methods of the ruling bourgeoisie to distract the attention of youth from the just fight of the working classes against their capitalist exploiters. By means of false slogans and mottoes of patriotism and the brotherhood of mankind Scouting is misleading youthful thinking and, by stressing Anglo-Saxon culture and its way of life, deprives youth from their national pride.”

Velen Fanderlik, who at the time was in the Free West, omitted mentioning that he himself, as President of the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation, had been tried in absentia and condemned to death for high treason. He continued:

“It is obvious that the present Czechoslovak regime was looking for a scapegoat to be blamed for the lack of success of the Pioneers Movement, shaped and modelled upon the Soviet example. The Czech youngsters are not excessively enthusiastically inclined to voluntarily join these units lead by inexperienced leaders who, as a kind of schoolteachers, preach the communist political ideology only instead of offering the boys and girls the full opportunity of playing the game of Scouting they were used to. It is self-evident that the youngsters take every opportunity to go their own way, in small groups, enjoying the pleasures of hiking and camping. Such unofficial and unorganised activities have to be labelled “illegal” in order to be able to terminate them.”

At a time, when the Cold War between the Soviets and the Free West was not even yet at its zenith, he continued his article with a general warning:

“Scouts, all over the world, should realise that countries do exist where keeping the Scout Promise and living in accordance with the Scout Law are considered as being crimes and that there are Scouts who have been jailed for the simple reason that they persevered in their
loyalty to Promise and Law and refused to give in or to hitch their wagon to the apparently winning stars, in this case the Red one. Also it should be realised that Scouting in general and the principles and thoughts upon which Scouting is based are being considered as being a danger to the “Dogma of the East” and that every association or movement, whose roots are not in Moscow, is considered being of an ‘imperialistic nature’, serving the western war-mongers and capitalists.”

In the Jamboree December 1952, issue, John S. Wilson, the International Bureau’s Director, dedicated the following to Junak and its leaders:

“Our sincere sympathy goes out to the various former members of the National Council of Junak, who were sentenced in May to terms of imprisonment ranging from 3 to 15 years. They were accused of offences against the present regime in Czechoslovakia.”

Thereupon he repeated what the state prosecution had alleged (see above) and continued:

The formula is unfortunately too well known to require comment. To enter into any formal and public campaign of denial would merely help to foster propaganda. This makes us all the more sorry for our Brother Scouts and their families and friends.”

WIPED OUT?

Was this the end of Czechoslovak Scouting? Those in the Free West, familiar with its history, did not believe that where the Nazis had failed, the Communists would be more successful. And indeed the Scouting Spirit was kept alive in various ways and by various means.

Scouting’s top-leaders might have been removed from public life and might have been imprisoned, with or without mock trials. Leaders who had been working on group level were of-
ten marked men and women, sometimes losing their jobs or having to be content with far lesser ones, far below their capacities, experience and know-how. Their children were often refused the continuation of their education at universities and same was sometimes denied to other students for the simple reason that they had been Scouts. The younger Scouts, Cub-Scouts and Brownies were to be compulsory members of the Communist Youth Movement The Pioneers.

Despite the oppression, the persecution and the hardships, thousands remained loyal to Promise and Law and maintained their connections, as Velen Fanderlik stated in his above article. Some continued meeting regularly, went hiking and camping. Illegally celebrated Thinking Day and St George’s Day, secretly renewing the Promise that meant so much to them. Some leaders, in order to stay with the boys and girls entrusted to their care and leadership, joined the Pioneers and in their units continued Scouting in disguise, so as to prevent their charges from being totally indoctrinated with communist ideas.

Some, who were betrayed or trapped and taken in the act, had to pay dearly for their loyalty to the Scouting ideals by serving prison sentences, spells in re-education camps, loss of employment etc.

In this Democratic People’s Republic, Scouting, so the authorities thought, had been stamped out for ever. But like the Nazis before them, they could not have been more mistaken. They too underestimated the Spirit of Scouting. One may cover a blazing camp fire with a layer of sand and the flames will disappear, but underneath the logs continue smouldering, the wood turning into glowing charcoal and it only needs the addition of a little fresh air to let the flames rise sky high again. And so it happened, twenty years later, in Spring 1968.
IN EXILE AGAIN

For the second time in ten years Czechoslovak Scouting had been banned. What made it even more painful and hateful was that this time the persecutors were not foreign enemies, but compatriots, some of them having been brothers in arms in the fight against the Nazis.

Before the borders were sealed and the Iron Curtain was let down, thousands managed to escape to the west. Velen Fanderlik was, at the time of the communist coup d’État, serving his country as a diplomat stationed abroad. The new regime recalled him, but wisely enough, he did not return and consequently was sacked. Whereupon, for the second time in 10 years, he was a refugee and had to ask for political asylum. John S. Wilson, the Director of the International Bureau, who knew him very well, having visited Displaced Persons Scouts in - still occupied - Southern Germany (08-22/11/1948) in Jamboree 1948, page 25, wrote:

“One of my happiest and yet saddest experiences was to meet at the Rally of Scouts from Valka and Fischbach DP camps Dr Velen Fanderlik and his wife Slavka. For the second time in ten years they are refugees. The only consolation I had was that they had to leave their country, not because of his membership of the International Bureau but for national - and yet not political – reasons, which I am not at liberty to mention. I am hopeful that I may be able to get them to London and that he will help in the Bureau for a time.”

Velen Fanderlik did indeed go to London and for some time was employed by the International Bureau. But wherever Czech and Slovak refugees settled, the Scouts gathered and founded Exile groups which rallied around Velen Fanderlik and under his capable leadership formed a Czechoslovak Junak-in-Exile, to be temporarily recognised by and registered with the Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bu-
The DP Division was, however, disbanded on June 30th, 1950. The Junak, like the other Exile Movements, (see Chapter I) did not want to disband. Its groups did not desire to join the national movements of their new countries of residence and consequently, during the 11th International Conference at Lisbon, 1961, Junak was also expelled (or rather expelled itself) from the International Movement. Which Velen Fanderlik must have experienced as a sad and painful moment. He who, in so many capacities, had always served the International Movement with such loyalty and distinction had, however, also been one of those who had laid down the internationally approved rules which caused this. (For further details see Chapter I.)

THE SECOND REVIVAL – 1968

Until and after his death in 1953 the iron fist of Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union’s dictator, who, via his satellites, also ruled so many other “workers’ paradies”, rested heavily on Czechoslovakia. Under his successors a de-Stalinization set in with moments of apparent leniency and periods of renewed oppression. But not so much in Czechoslovakia, which was hardly affected, ruled as it was by loyal Stalinists. During the sixties there were cries for freedom and liberalisation, all over Eastern and Central Europe. Not only did the people get restless, dissatisfied, fed up and impatient, but even within the ranks of the several communist parties various fractions began to stand out against the pretence of general total agreement. Emerging, some of these fractions demanded “a communism with a
human face”. A process which began in Hungary in 1956 with a spontaneous People’s Revolt, which regretfully failed, was crushed by Soviet tanks and drenched in blood. Later Poland was to follow with general strikes. In Czechoslovakia in 1967, certain party fractions demanded liberalisation. Dictator Novotny was overthrown in January, 1968. General Ludvik Svoboda (whose son had been murdered by the Nazis for the simple reason of being a Scout) became the Republic’s new President and Alexander Dubcek (1921-1992), a Slovak, took over as the party’s First Secretary and the head of government. The two of them supported the general desire of reformation and liberalisation. Though, as it was expressed, the political climate of the period still corresponded to “the leading role of the communist party” there was good promise of the introduction of the desired “communism with a human face”, not yet, however, to be compared with or to be mistaken for western democratic socialism. The short era that began in January 1968, was to become known world-wide as “The Prague Spring of 1968”.

SCOUTING AND THE PRAGUE SPRING OF 1968

And so it had been thought that Scouting had been erased, had been forgotten totally? Like a crocus after a long, severe winter, Scouting re-emerged as if it had never been away. Which in fact it had not been, having led – for the second time – an underground existence. Its revival was therefore immediate, as soon as the Prague Spring began.

Chief Scout Rudolph Plajner’s and Chief Guide Vlasta Stepanova Koseova’s calls were answered immediately by more than ten thousand Scouts. Officials, executives, commission-
ers, leaders, boys and girls reported back. Back in uniform, most of them. Some Pioneer units revealed themselves as having been Scout groups in disguise. New groups were founded by the dozens. In a very short time more than 50,000 members had been reregistered. Proving firstly that Scouting cannot be destroyed and secondly that the lessons of underground Scouting during the Nazi-era had been learned well and had been put into practice again during the communist times.

Yet Scouting’s very first re-appearance and performance in public was of a very sad nature. On January 3rd, 1968, so on the eve of the liberalisation and the rebirth of Scouting, the very popular Slava Rehak died. He was mourned by his Scouts and hundreds attended his funeral.

The general liberalisation was such that it was possible to take re- possession of the NHQ building. Also communications with foreign countries, so long forbidden and impossible, were permitted again. Of course Junak immediately resumed its contacts with The International Bureaux of WAGGGS and WAISM. (WAISM’s International Bureau was in the process of moving its seat from Ottawa, Canada to Geneva, Switzerland where, now named the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, WOSM, its international bureau (renamed World Bureau) settled in its new premises on May 1st, 1968.) Junak’s staff also communicated with British National Headquarters in London, the other national movements and many old friends, but also with the Exile Movement under the leadership of Fe- len Vanderlik, residing in Canada. WOSM sent a delegation to Prague which was admitted to the country without the slight- est problem and got an overwhelming reception. Junak repre- sentatives went abroad “to recharge their Scouting batteries” after so many years of imprisonment within the borders of their own homeland and the lack of essential international Scouting contacts. Not only did they go to meetings, they were also invited to attend courses in order to get up-to-date.
On March 28th, 1968 Junak was officially and openly refounded as an “open, totally independent, non-political youth movement”. An application for recognition and registration was sent to the Czech Ministry of the Interior (Home Office). Old traditions were revived and new plans for the future were made with great enthusiasm. It was all so very hopeful and so promising. It all seemed as if things were going back to normal and one cannot but admire the unbeaten buoyancy, the outbursting energy and the deep loyalty to Scouting displayed by all concerned after so many dark and wasted years.

Czechoslovak Scouting was back and so was the Federation now named Ceskoslovensky Junak and consisting of Cesky Junak and Slovensky Junak.

But from Moscow Big Brother Breznev was watching. He was not at all pleased with nor in favour of what he called the Prague experiments and developments and thought “Communism With A Human Face” a contradiction in terms and for once he was right, it was. Very rightly he feared that the “Prague Spring” might contaminate the other Soviet-Block countries, including the Soviet Union itself and so he decided to act and end all Dubcek’s well meant experiments.

On August 21st, 1968 the “Prague Spring” ended. The still limited and restricted first traces of liberty were ground by the tracks of the Warsaw Pact tanks, lead by the Red Army that occupied the country. A furious and deeply disappointed people had to watch, with clenched fists and grinding teeth, as their high hopes for a better existence were smashed. There was some sprinkled resistance, in other places the population spoke to the Soviet soldiers, who themselves were surprised
and confused now that they had to occupy a “friendly” country, a “Workers’ Paradise”. An extra dimension of insult and humiliation was added by the fact that for the second time (East) German tanks were involved in this foreign occupation.

Liberties gained during the previous months were gradually repealed and though the newly installed regime took it in easy strides, in 1969 Alexander Dubcek was forced to retire and to hand over to the Stalinist hard-liner Gustav Husak (1911-1991) who became the new party leader and the new head of government, in 1975 to replace General Svoboda as President. But by that time all visible traces of the “Prague Spring” had definitely been erased, including Scouting.

THE THIRD BANNING - 1970

Surprisingly, after that fatal August 21st, 1968 and against all expectations, Scouting, one of the many results of the “Prague Spring”, was allowed to carry on. More amazing still, the movement was officially recognised and registered by the Ministry of the Interior (Home Office) on October 21st, 1968. A last act of the Dubcek supporters still in office? An oversight on the part of their hard-line successors? Or an attempt to keep the people quiet?

On November 24th, 1968 Cesky Junak held a congress and Rudolph Plajner was again elected Chief Scout. On December 1st, 1968 Plajner was also elected as Chief Scout of Ceskoslovensky Junak (The Federation) and Antonin Sum as its President or chairman. Surprisingly the movements were allowed to carry on openly and were also permitted to maintain and enlarge their newly won international contacts. Thousands more were seeking admittance to the movements rather than staying in or returning to the Pioneers.

It was all too nice to be true. Scouting was no doubt hoping for the very best, keeping its fingers crossed, but no doubt
also preparing for the very worst, a new banning and a new underground continuation. And indeed on June 17th, 1970 fate struck again. By order of the Federal Ministry of the Interior the Federation was banned and disbanded. On October 2nd, 1970, the Czech Ministry of the Interior also forbade and dissolved Cesky Junak.

Once more all possessions were confiscated by the Pioneers, whose membership was made compulsory again.

A sad affair, but this was the third time and the Movement had experience in these matters and was ready to beat the communists with their own weapons. Some groups boldly joined the Pioneers and continued Scouting. Others went on under the cover of “youth tourists clubs”, “nature protectors” as units of the Red Cross, or even the Svazarm (Youth Army Clubs). What they all had in common with the others who went it alone, was that they carried on Scouting and not so secretly either. The elected Scout commissioners, female and male, who continued their tasks in secret, the leaders who persisted in working with the youngsters, lifting their spirits and strictly sticking to Scouting’s ideals, earned everybody’s admiration as did those who enabled them to continue the good work. As an unknown writer stated in a report which reached the NHQ of the British Scout Association:

“... but they did not lose faith in their ideals, the belief that their Scout education would not be forgotten, even after many years, and that the day would come when they would again openly practice their ideals.”

MORE EXILES

When on that fatal day, August 1968, the Warsaw Pact tanks rolled in, many a Czechoslovak realised that once again the Free
West would not lift a finger to stop this new violence and/or come to their rescue. And so, once again thousands preferred to leave their homeland, rather facing an uncertain future in some Free country, than have no future at all. Many Scouts were amongst them and so the already existing Junak Exile groups were enlarged or new ones were founded in several countries. All under the leadership of Velen Vanderlik who, during the Prague Spring, had not risked a return to his homeland.

Approximately 8,000 Czechs and Slovaks settled in Switzerland alone and the many Scouts amongst them, in co-operation with Swiss Scouting, founded new Junak groups, the first one being named the Pochoden (The Torch) which operated in the Swiss city of Baden. More such groups were active in Luxembourg, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. They wore the normal Czechoslovak uniforms with on the shoulder seam a name tape stating the name of their country of residence with a Czechoslovak Flag on either side. A quarterly, Sip (Arrow), was published and almost every year the Exiles from all over the world held a “national” Jamboree, which they named “Ex- ilorees”.

THE EFFECTS OF GLASNOST AND PERESTROIKA

On March 11th, 1985, Michael Gorbachev was appointed Secretary General of the Communist Party of the USSR and as such became the most powerful man in the Soviet Union and the communist world. At the time neither the outside world nor the Soviet citizens were fully aware that financially and economically the enormous country was balancing on the verge of the precipice. Though at first hardly anybody noticed it (or paid much attention to it for that matter) the situation behind the Iron Curtain slowly started changing. Suddenly Michael Gorbachev introduced Glasnost (Openness) and Perestroika (Renewal) and thereafter a succession of unexpected, unbelievable and until than impossible events and develop-
ments began that, in the past, would not have been possible or would have been smothered in blood immediately. Soon all the communist satellite countries were also affected, beginning with Poland and Hungary.

In 1988-1989 Hungary shed the shackles of communism and strode the road to freedom and democracy. But not only that, in summer 1989 the country also opened her part of the Iron Curtain separating her from Austria, permitting her citizens not only to pass the border freely in a western direction but also allowing them to return after a visit to the West. On top of that thousands of East Germans, holidaying in Hungary, were free to cross the border into Austria en route to West Germany. The Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR or German Democratic Republic – East Germany) protested vehemently, but the Hungarians could not care less.

In summer and autumn 1989 communist Eastern Europe was in a turmoil. The situation changed almost daily, flabbergasting its rulers, its citizens and also the Free World, which watched with increasing surprise and disbelief. These were great, exciting times, with something new almost every day. The East Germans in the DDR took to the streets, shouting “Wir sind das Volk” (We are the people) demanding their rights and their freedom, things they had never known. (In fact not since 1933) Regretfully they also expected that the “Workers’ Paradise” they had been living in would magically change into another Paradise where the streets were paved with gold. The reality was different and consequently disappointing, as they and the other nations were soon to discover.

THE IRON CURTAIN ROSE AND THE BERLIN WALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN

What followed was that one most appealing event that stunned, surprised, gladdened and electrified the world even more. On Thursday, November 9th, 1989 at 2100 hours, a
DDR government’s spokesman announced, that the Berlin Wall would be opened that very minute. This Wall not only divided the city, but was also the most impressive and depressing symbol of the Iron Curtain and the division of Europe. Now, figuratively speaking, it came tumbling down, permitting the East Berliners to mingle freely with the West Berliners after so many years.

The era of the Cold War and its ever-present threat of nuclear war had ended. One after the other the communist regimes collapsed. Unbelievable to those who, for decades, had been wondering whether they would live to see the end of it all or whether they would perish in an atomic holocaust, which always seemed imminent.

Czechoslovakia remained rather calm and quiet but below the surface it was seething and fuming. Mid-November the students took to the streets demanding the resignation of the government and the Stalinist president Husak, the overthrow of the communist party and the return of freedom and democracy. The regime sent its armed riot police to clear the streets and there were clashes. But soon it was over and on November 17th, 1989, the Velvet Revolution took place under the leadership of the play-write and Charta 77 dissident Vlaclav Havel (a former Scout) and the returned, still very popular Alexander Dubcek.

THE THIRD REVIVAL - 1989

During those tense and exciting days the walls were covered with all sorts of posters and pamphlets calling the people. An outstanding one showed the Junak Arrowhead and informed the nation that, once more, Scouting too had returned into the open. A temporary address in Prague was given as the seat of the provisional NHQ and information centre. The commissioners, lawfully elected during the 3rd Conference in 1968, resumed their tasks. Most of them having secretly continued
their activities since 1971, they were all fully prepared to resume these openly. Normal Scouting was resumed and events took a swift course without too many difficulties, apart from the usual financial ones. Complete groups resurfaced, dropping their hitherto disguises and continuing their Scouting openly. In addition new groups were quickly founded.

Regretfully some did not return and some empty places had to be filled. On June 23rd, 1987 the ever popular Chief Scout Rudolph Plajner – Daddy Plajner – at the age of 86, had passed on and so did not live to see the third revival of the movement he had dedicated his life to. On February 2nd, 1985 Velen Vanderlik had also died in Trail, Canada. He had spent most of his life in Exile but had always served the Movement and the Exile Movement. During those hectic times Scouts were everywhere. In November Scouting had immediately made official contact with the World Bureaux WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London. These, like so many western Scout and Guide movements, were also totally surprised and flabbergasted by the turn of events in East and Central Europe. Communist propaganda had been so thorough that the general impression had been created that Scouting and Guiding- and every trace of them – could not but have been rooted out totally. And indeed, the revival of Scouting in Russia was surprising, but insiders, a few “Scouting historians and researchers” doing their lonely jobs, who had had illegal connections behind the Iron Curtain, had always been convinced that during the wasted and lost decades some in the other unfortunate countries were bound to have been fostering the Scouting and Guiding Ideals. Those “some” had kept the spirit alive, just waiting for the precious moment when the communist regimes would be tottering on the brink of their unexpected and unbelievable breakdown and total
collapse, which moment would offer them the long awaited opportunity of stepping out of oblivion and reviving Scouting.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 1989

In the magnificent Prague City Library’s large hall, the solemn proclamation is read of Junak’s official return and the restoration of all public Scouting activities.

In the afternoon, in the Clementinum Court yards, this ceremony is repeated in the presence of four thousand, uniformed Scouts (male and female).

What a great, glorious, unforgettable, moving moment and experience this must have been. To be publicly back in uniform again, to be free again, after so many years.

December 28th, 1989. Cesky Junaks’ and Slovensky Skauting’s statutes were approved by the Czech and Slovenian Ministries of the Interior, meaning official recognition.

January 6th and 7th, 1990. Cesky Junak’s inaugural meeting was held, attended, for the first time, by WOSM representatives.

February 1st, 1990. The Federal Ministry of the Interior approved the statutes of the Federation of Cesky and Slovensky Skauting, whereupon Scouting was, nation-wide, officially recognised by the Federal Government.

February 5th, 1990. At the Prague National Museum a general meeting of Slovaks and Czechs was held. The Federation of Cesky Junak and Slovensky Skauting was reinstated. Several foreign guests were present, and WOSM, Geneva was represented.
February 6th, 1990. The two WOSM representatives were handed an application for a renewed membership of WOSM.

May 10th – 11th, 1990. A Federation delegation visited WOSM in Geneva for talks and explanations concerning the application for a renewed membership of WOSM and WAGGGS, which requests were, thereafter, to be duly processed by the appropriate bodies within these world organisations.


The latter two conferences were followed by a Federal Conference during which Vaclav Brichacek was elected Federal Chief Scout. Mrs Olga Havel, – once a Girl Scout – the Republic’s newly elected President Vaclav Havel’s wife agreed to be the Federal Movement’s Honorary President. WOSM and WAGGGS were represented at these meetings.

FOR THE LAST TIME: THE EXILES

Coinciding with these important May meetings a National Camp was held to which the members of the Czechoslovak Exile Movement were also invited. To some of them who had kept the flag and the Scouting traditions of their homeland high under foreign skies, this was a return to the homeland after many, many years of forced exile. Others, however, experienced this as a first visit to a homeland they had never ever seen or visited before, having been born in exile. In 1991 the Exiles organised their very last "Ex-
ileoee” but with a great difference. This time they pitched their tents not on foreign soil but on that of the old homeland. At a special meeting it was emphasised that the Exile Movement had performed a great and valuable task, but that now the time had come to disband. The homeland was free and Scouting was free and revived. The Exile Movement, as the other Exile Movements founded in 1945 and after, had always refused to meet the World Movement’s demands to disband and to let the boys and girls join the National Movements of their new countries of residence. The reason being that they wanted to stay together until Scouting was free to perform again in the homeland. (See Chapter I) At last this was a reality and now the Exile Movement, having fulfilled its task and having kept its word, with a clear conscience could at last meet the International Conferences Committees’ demands as formulated in the second part of the forties. So the Exile movement could be disbanded. The Exiles were not Exiles anymore and were able to join the national movements of their countries of residence, whereas at the same time they could still consider themselves as being “members-in-foreignlands” of the revived and free Czechoslovak Scouting Federation.

The Exiles were requested to remove from their shirts the Exile Movement’s badges and to replace them by the new ones of the revived movements. Which the Exiles, some deeply moved, gladly did. They too were home again at last. Perseverance, loyalty, neglect and suffering were thus rewarded and they richly deserved it.

ASSISTANCE

During an extra, special meeting of West European International Commissioners WOSM and WAGGGS in Geneva, February 3rd and 4th, 1990, Scouting Nederland, the National Movement of the Netherlands, was allotted Czechoslovakia as a partner. SN’s two ICs flew from Geneva directly to Prague.
and participated in the events of February 5th, 1990 officially representing their movement. From that moment on a program of co-operation, was set in motion. But the two ICs were not the first Dutchmen to visit Prague.

Immediately after the Velvet Revolution a Czech Exile and former Scout, living in the Netherlands, had visited his homeland and after having met old friends and having seen the revival of Czech Scouting, he – being back home again – contacted the District Commissioner of the District of Delfland, Gerard Waardijk. He explained that Czechoslovak Scouting needed almost everything and inquired whether the district would be able help. Thereupon this former Scout, spending Christmas in his old homeland, made lists of the requirements, mainly office equipment. During the District’s New Year’s reception DC Waardijk informed the leaders that a relief action was to be organised. On January 25th the Czech former Scout accompanied the DC, who was at the wheel of a mini-bus loaded with office machines and equipment. On January 26th, at 1400 hours, the DC Waardijk handed over the material to the Chief Scout Anthony Sum. Since then DC Waardijk has made many trips to Prague and other places, not only delivering all sorts of goods, but, as an advisor also attending various congresses and meetings. His work is greatly appreciated by the Czechoslovak movements and his name will no doubt be listed in the annals and go down in Czechoslovak Scouting’s history.

But not only Scouting Nederland gave assistance, many other National Movement, particularly the (British) Scout Association and the (British) Girl Guides Association, acted likewise. Materials were sent but also instructors to run special courses, including English language courses for leaders.
TASTING THE WEST

It will not come as a surprise that in Czechoslovakia, in 1989 – Scouting and Guiding as those who revived it remembered it from before 1948 and 1971 was restored. This Scouting and Guiding had secretly been fostered, cherished and kept alive by people that grew steadily older. During the periods of banning and persecution, they had remained loyal to the movement but as it was hardly possible to practise the outdoor activities, during the secret meetings the idealistic and moral sides of Scouting were accented more and more. In their government inflicted isolation these “illegal” secret Scouts and Guides were not able to communicate with Scouting and Guiding in the free countries, with the exception of the short periods in which Czechoslovak Scouting had been permitted to resurface in 1968. Consequently they were not aware of the many changes that Scouting and Guiding in the West underwent, how, as the movements should, they had adjusted to the possibilities and the demands that the changing times had offered or made.

So when, as in the other former East Block countries, Czechoslovak Scouting was revived for the third time in 1989 it was still firmly rooted in the Scouting practised before 1940, during 1945-1948 and 1968-1971. As soon as this Scouting was back on its feet again, the Czechoslovaks, (as the Scouts and Guides in the other revived movements) reached out to the “Brothers Scout and the Sisters Guides” in the West, not realising that even these expressions had long since been abandoned in the western movements. Thus they were confronted with changed situations, abolitions of ceremonials and customs which they had cherished and kept alive all the time. This came to them as totally unexpected and sometimes very incomprehensible.

On the other hand representatives of the Western Movements either visiting the former East Block countries or receiving
guests from those countries were confused when meeting the
leaders who, in their eyes, often were “elderly men and/or
women” having “old fashioned ideas”. These Westerners
sometimes did not always understand the mentality of these
leaders, nor were they – having lived in the free West all the
time – in the least aware of the difficult times, the hardships
and the sufferings that these leaders had experienced whilst
keeping their Scouting ideals and ideas alive. Some of the
younger Westerners did not hesitate to boldly tell these “old
men and women “that “the time had come for them to hand
over to younger leaders, then to go and quit the movement”.
They simply forgot that these younger leaders had to be found
and, in addition, had to be given some training first. No won-
der that such confrontations and pronouncements deeply hurt,
shocked disappointed and sobered up the Czechoslovaks and
the leaders of the other East and Central European Move-
ments.

The young Czechoslovak boys and girls, visiting camps in for-
eign lands, pleased to be able to do so at long last and proud
of the correct uniforms they were able to wear, were con-
fronted with the western style uniforms as worn and appar-
ently permitted by some of the Western movements. As some
young Czech Scouts, having participated in a western National
Camp, expressed it: “They looked like Christmas trees with
badges wherever possible. It was messy.” In the same report
these youngsters expressed their disappointment that the Left
Hand Shake and the Salute were no longer used in the West,
that beer and other strong drinks were consumed in some of
the camps and not in such small quantities either.

It is not surprising that all this led to frustra-
tion, amazement and deep disappoint-
ment. The younger leaders agreed that
they would have to adjust their Scouting
but that, most certainly, they would not
adopt everything. As a neutral observer
expressed it: “The East can certainly learn a lot from the West, but the West can learn so much more from the East. May the process lead to a general renaissance of World Scouting.”

WELCOME BACK CZECHOSLOVAKIA

But re-emerged Czechoslovak Scouting was of good and high quality and its statutes and standards were such that the WOSM and WAGGGS representatives soon found that all requirements of a re-entry into the World Movements were met.

WAGGGS held its 27th World Conference in Singapore (June 12th – 23rd, 1990), and the Czechoslovak Federation (a 1928 Founder Member) was re-admitted as the 25th Associated Member. The 400 delegates, representing 83 countries, gave the Federation’s delegates an overwhelming reception and when the decision was taken to readmit the Federation, this was not only loudly applauded by all but also experienced as being a very emotional moment. Particularly so by the members of the Czechoslovak delegation and even more so by Vlasta Mockova, who had been present at the 11th World Conference (Evian, France, 1946), the last one the Czech and Slovak ladies had been able to attend.

“The Conference’s emotional, unanimous welcoming of Czechoslovakia as an Associated Member of WAGGGS was also a personal tribute to Vlasta’s lifetime of dedication to Guiding.” (Eurofocus,(WAGGGS magazine) September 1990.)

“She had been involved in Girl Guiding most of her life and in 1946 had been at the last World Conference attended by Czechoslovakia. While she had not expected to attend another World Conference, she had never doubted that her country would eventually re-join
Less than a month later, in Paris, France, more than 1000 delegates, representing 131 national Scout movements, gathered for the 32nd WOSM World Conference. (June 23rd-27th, 1990).

The representatives of the Czechoslovak Federation and the Hungarian Federation were given a standing, prolonged and well deserved ovation when it was announced that their movements (Founder Members of 1922) were re-admitted to WOSM. As one of them expressed it:

“...It was not until then, on that platform, that I realised that we were really free again after all those wasted, dreadful years.”

or as a Czech wrote:

“It was a small miracle considering that a year earlier we were still under communist domination and were only dreaming of reviving Scouting.”

A former Czech Scout sent a message which was read to the World Conference:

“I send my greetings to the 32nd World Conference of Scouting and I am happy that the Czech and Slovak Scouts have once again taken their place in the great worldwide movement. From my own experience I know of the importance of a Scouting training for the understanding of human principles and very simply for the Friendship of the human race. I wish your Conference a complete success.” Vaclav Havel, President of the Czechoslovak Republic.

That very summer the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation counted 94,000 registered members. 74,000 males and 20,000 females and the numbers never stopped growing.
It is not surprising that in a country where Scouting had always enjoyed great popularity, had always been firmly rooted in the population and thousands had been active members, the former Scouts and Guides also united and did not just sit and watch but assisted the reviving movement wherever possible. Their value was recognised by the Federation and it was a Federal decision, May 1990, to found as a fourth Federation Section, a national Unit of Former Scouts. This section was admitted to the IFOFSAG (International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides) during the latter’s General Assembly at Thessaloniki, Greece, 1991.

Czechoslovak Scouting was back home again at last, as it so well deserved to be.

DISBANDMENT OF THE CHECHOSLOVAK SCOUTING FEDERATION

As of January 1st, 1993, the Czechoslovak Federal Republic ceased to exist. Slovak Nationalists had demanded full independence and the disbandment of the Federal Republic. So now there were two new fully independent states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Where there had been no frontier, there suddenly were frontier posts manned by police and customs officers, passports had to be shown. A country was split in two.

This had its repercussions. The Czechoslovak Scouting Federation was also dissolved and each separated movement had to seek WOSM’s and WAGGGS’ recognition. Cesky Junak (readmitted to WOSM on 30 June 1996) and Slovensky Skauting (readmitted 30 December 1997) decided to continue a close co-operation, particularly so in the field of training.

May both movements, with their long and varied histories, be permitted to flourish and to operate successfully and in complete freedom for many years to come. They certainly deserve it.
A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED

The Czechoslovak Federal Republic was not inhabited by Czechs and Slovaks only, far from it, as has been explained before. The north bank of the River Danube, with 95% of its population Hungarian, had been separated from Hungary in 1919 and had been incorporated into Slovakia to be again returned to Hungary in 1939 and thereafter to be retaken by Slovakia in 1945.

The various minorities had Scout movements of their own, which, before 1939, had been members of the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation. When in 1939 the above North bank had been re-taken by Hungary, the Hungarian Scouting groups returned to the Hungarian National Scout Movement. Between 1944-1948 the over-all political situation was such that the Hungarian minority in Slovakia kept a very low profile and the Scouting groups did not openly operate any more, though mutual contacts were maintained.

During the Velvet Revolution of December 1998 and the revival of Scouting, Hungarian Scouting, in Slovakia, also stirred again. In the 19/01/1990 edition of a Hungarian language Slovak Daily an article, written by the young Gyula Hodossy, was published propagandising Scouting for Youngsters belonging to the Hungarian minority in Czechoslovakia.

On the 9th of February 1990, Gyula Hodossy was one of the men and women creating a Committee promoting and preparing the revival of the Hungarian Scout Movement in Slovakia. Which was founded on March 11th, 1990. In Hungarian the name was Szlovakiai Magyar Cserkészszövetség and in Slovak Zvaz Skautov Madarskej Narodnosti or the Hungarian Scout Association in Slovakia. Gyula Hodossy was chosen to be its
President or chairman. On April 6th, 1990 the Slovak Ministry of the Interior granted its official approval and recognised the movement. Whereupon the association approached the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation and applied for re-admission to same. Czech Junak did not object but the Slovensky Skauting found herself in a difficult position.

Nationalism was at large in Slovakia and some Slovaks aimed at the disbandment of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic and the founding of a totally independent Slovakia, an aspiration fulfilled as of January 1st, 1993. Some of these nationalists also showed a special attitude towards the Hungarian minority which, in their opinion, should at last cease to consider themselves as Hungarians, drop their culture and language and become 100% Slovaks.

This attitude greatly hampered the Slovak movement to assist in brotherhood, the Hungarian minority movement’s aspirations to become a third party in the Czechoslovak Scouting Federation. Though the Czechs did not object, the Hungarian-Slovaks were being kept on a string and decisions were postponed endlessly until the 1st of January 1993 came and the Federal Republic and consequently the Scouting Federation ceased to be which made things only more difficult and so the problem has not yet been solved.
Part of the front-page of the Czech Scouting Magazine "JUNÁK", the last one published before the third ban in 1970.

The front page in 1910 (as a truly National Movement) as well as the banners and mottos were depicted and the last line clearly indicated that the Czechs were convinced that one day there would be a new revival. They never lost hope nor despaired not even during the darkest hours.

Czech Scout Emblems from 1910 to 1990
CHAPTER 5. Poland - Polska

Jeszcze Polska nie zgineta poki my zyjemy.
(Poland has not perished yet, as long as we are alive.) First line of the Polish National Anthem, dated April 15th, 1797.

When Scouting came into being in the United Kingdom and spread swiftly all over the world, Poland was not a free country. It was not even on the map.

The Poles had the misfortune of being surrounded by powerful, greedy, unreliable and treacherous neighbours aiming at the suppression and annihilation of the Polish population and Poland’s destruction as an independent state. As early as 1772 the Kingdom of Prussia, Tsarist Russia and Imperial Austria annexed large Polish territories, an act repeated in 1793. In 1795 these three states divided what was left and thus Poland as an independent nation ceased to exist.

Each time Polish refugees settled in foreign countries and were very active in promoting their case; the freedom and independence of their country. Those staying behind resisted their arch-enemies. All, drenched with an everlasting craving for freedom, remained loyal to their homeland wheresoever’s they were, keeping alive its traditions, culture and language.

The Austrian Empire was beaten by Napoleon, self-made Emperor of France, and in 1807 the proud Prussians also suffered defeat. By means of the Peace Treaty of Tilsit (1807) Napo-
leon forced both countries to surrender and abandon their Polish possessions. Whereupon he founded the Duchy of Warsaw (Warszawa) which, in 1808, was enlarged with Galicia. He also created, equipped and trained a Polish Army. So when (1812) war broke out again between Russia and Napoleon and the latter’s Grande Armée marched to Moscow and St Petersburg, Polish Army units accompanied the French. The severe Russian winter defeated Napoleon and his Allies and the retreating French were followed by the advancing Russians. As far as Poland was concerned this was the end of a temporary freedom of some sort and during the famous Vienna Congress (1814-1815) the Great Powers of those days united the Duchy of Warsaw with other Polish regions. For appearances’ sake a Polish Kingdom was created and Tsar Alexander I of Russia was so kind as to become its King, meaning that the kingdom was dominated by Russians and the Poles had no autonomy, liberty of self-determination at all. So the Poles revolted in 1830–1831. This revolt was smothered in blood, as was the 1863 one, after which the Russians decided to abolish the Kingdom of Poland and to annex its territory which now became part of Russia again.

The Poles living under Prussian or Austrian rule were not much better off and it is admirable that the nation, despite all oppression managed to keep alive its language, patriotism and culture but above all its burning desire for freedom.

During World War I (1914–1918) Tsarist Russia collapsed in 1917, soon to be followed by the German and Austrian Empires. The Poles took their chance and on November 7th, 1918 declared independence, founding the Independent Polish Republic. But they still had to fight for it and their War of Inde-
pendence lasted well into 1920, when real peace and independence were attained at last.

This freedom was not to last long. On September 1st, 1939, Adolf Hitler, the Führer and dictator of Nazi-Germany, ordered his armies to invade Poland. The Poles defended their country bravely but were overwhelmed when that other arch-enemy Russia – then named the Soviet Union –stabbed a knife in their back by also invading the country in order to secure its part of the spoils. Once again Poland was divided by its neighbours.

SCOUTING’S EARLY DAYS, 1909 - 1918

In divided Poland Scouting was first mentioned and explained on October 2nd, 1909 in the weekly Swiat (World), published in Warsaw, but it was an article in the magazine Slowo, published in Lwów, a month later, that had a greater impact and really roused people’s interest.

Andrzej Malkowski (born 1889), a Polish student, living in the city of Lwów (in the Austrian part of Poland and consequently in those days also known as Lemberg) obtained a copy of Scouting For Boys which he translated. In spring 1911 he and a number of friends arranged a meeting giving full information regarding Scouting and on May 22nd, 1911 he founded the first ever three Polish Scout (two boys’ and one girls’) troops in Lwów. A National Headquarters (Naczelna Komenda Skautowa) was founded in Lwów and a Scout magazine was published. In the latter, on November 15th, 1911, the texts of the first Polish Promise and Law were publicised. In December 1912 an NHQ for the Girl Guides was opened. Both offices assisted and instructed the Scout troops founded in the three occupation zones.

Andrzej Malkowski proved to be a great propagandist, organiser and leader and was fully supported by his wife, Olga
Drahonowska Malkowska. Thanks to them Scouting spread all over the three zones into which Poland had been divided.

In most of the East European countries the English words Scout and Scouting were used. In Polish written as Skaut and Skauting but in April 1912 it was decided to replace them by Harcerz and Harcerstwo, whereas the Girl Scouts were renamed Harcerka. These words were first printed in a handbook published in June 1912 and they gradually replaced the English terms.

In mediaeval times, Polish soldiers guarding their country's strongholds used to keep each other awake and on the alert by shouting the word czuwaj literally meaning “stay awake”. It was Olga Drahonowska Malkowska who remembered this custom and introduced the words into Scouting. It has been the Polish Scout motto ever since.

Considering the attitudes of the three foreign powers, occupying Poland and oppressing its nationality and nationalism, it seems almost unbelievable that Polish Scouts somehow managed to participate in the National Scout Camp held near Birmingham, England in July 1913. They were there and proudly flew the Polish national flag White and Red. They were inspected by Baden Powell and they made a very good impression. Baden Powell decided to recognise them as Scouts. The three ambassadors of the oppressing powers, “accredited at the Court of St James” in London, already displeased by the public display of the Polish flag, were angered by this recognition and lodged a note of protest with the British government. The latter refused to intervene and so the gentle-
men directly approached Baden Powell, who also ignored their complaints.

In 1912 Kazimierz Lutoslawski designed the Krzyz Harcerski (the Scout Cross). His design was based upon the Virtuti Militari, an old Polish military cross which, in independent times, had been awarded in cases of the highest bravery. This Scout Cross of a silver coloured metal was about 2 cm high and wide and included the words “Czu Waj”. Ever since – but initially apparently in the Austrian and German zones only (and may well be not in public) – it was worn as the Promise and Membership badge on the left side of the shirt. In the Russian zone the P.O.S. (Polska Organizacja Skautowa – Polish Scouting Organisation) was operating under difficult circumstances. In spring 1915 a Promise or Membership badge was introduced being the Lilijka Harcerska or Scout’s Lily in copper. On the Arrow Head’s blades the capitals O for Ojczyzna – Fatherland, N for Nauka – Education and C for Cneta – Virtue. This badge was also worn on the shirt.

POLISH SCOUTS ON FOREIGN SOIL 1

Throughout the ages Poles were forced to flee from their occupied country. Some because their resistance made them liable to arrest and prosecution, others because they could no longer live without freedom. These Poles settled in a number of foreign countries and large Polish Communities had come into being, e.g. in France and Belgium (in the mining regions) In these communities Polish Scout troops and Guide companies had been founded. So rapid was the growth that it had been found necessary to create a special Polish Scout Headquarters in Paris. These Polish troops considered themselves morally and spiritually attached to and belonging to the Movement in the homeland and they accepted the leadership of Polish NHQ in Warsaw.
This war, which was to go down in history as the Great War and later as World War I, began on August 14th, 1914. Germany invaded Belgium to attack France whereupon Britain came to Belgium's rescue. The German Command intended to beat Belgium and France before the arrival of the British Forces and consequently concentrated on the Western Front, neglecting its Eastern Front with Russia. So initially the Russians were able to advance into German and Austrian held territory and to conquer and occupy some of it. But when the Germans found that their planned quick victory in the west was not to be, they withdrew some of their armies and sent them to the Eastern Front. Now it was the Russians' turn to retreat and soon they had lost all of Eastern Poland which was now also occupied and ruled by the Germans and the Austrians.

On May 27th, 1915 the Germans, as part of their attempt to quell the unrest, the passive and active resistance and the emerging patriotism that the war caused in Poland, amongst other things, also ordered the immediate banning and disbanding of Polish Scouting in their zone. This in itself was no problem, the Scouts carried on illegally be it not without risk.

In the pre-war years communications between the Polish Scouts in the German and Austrian zones had apparently been easier than those with the Scouts in the Russian zone. But the German/Austrian occupation of Eastern Poland, after Russia's retreat, changed the situation and better contacts were created resulting in the Scouts, operating in the – now former –
Russian zone, coming to an agreement with the others. There was a splendid compromise regarding the badges used. The Krzyz Harcerski was accepted by all Polish Scouts as the Membership/Promise badge and the P.O.H.’s Lilijka Harcerska was, from that moment on, accepted by all Polish Scouts as the badge to be worn on the caps.

The war destroyed large areas of Poland, the population suffered many hardships but was biding its time and never had hopes been so high. In March 1917 the Russian Tsarist Empire collapsed and was replaced by a democratic republic which in October 1917 was overthrown by the Bolsheviks. The latter made peace with Imperial Germany and ceded Eastern Poland to Germany and Austria. By late summer 1918 it was clear that the Austrian Empire was on the verge of disintegrating and indeed it also collapsed. In autumn 1918 a revolution of a kind meant the finale for the German Empire which was converted into a republic, its Kaiser Wilhelm II having fled to the Netherlands. Both countries were suing for peace and on November 11th, 1918 at 1100 hours precisely, an Armistice ended the inhumane bloodshed, be it not in Poland and some other East European countries.

By that time Poland was in a state of total uproar and turmoil.

The arch-enemies and oppressors were down on their knees and Liberty seemed to be for the taking. The great moment, the Poles had been waiting for so long, had come.

On November 7th, 1918 Poland declared its independence and a free Polish Republic was born, 4 days before the war officially ended. Independence and Liberty at last for the first time since 1795, not counting the doubtful Napoleonic interlude. What a glorious moment this must have been, a moment which can actually only be fully appreciated, valued and understood by those outsiders who in their own lifetime experi-
enced foreign occupation and suppression. That beautiful, mighty moment of Freedom!!

NATIONAL SCOUTING

Even before the Independent Polish Republic was born representatives of all Scout and Guide organisations of the previous Russian, German and Austrian zones held a congress at the city of Lublin on November 1st, 1918. It was decided to unite all organisations into the National movement the Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego, or Z.H.P. the Polish Scouting Union.

World War I might well be over, the Polish struggle only just began. The Red Army, the armed forces of the new Bolshevik regime taking over the former Russian Empire, also intended to retake the former Russian zone of Poland, which, only recently, it had ceded to Germany and Austria. The Poles desired no such thing and resisted, fighting bravely to defend their newly won liberty. It was a hard struggle for freedom and thousands of Poles fell on the battle fields.

All Poles, old and fit enough to be able to carry arms and fight for their country, were mobilised and amongst them many Scouts. It was decided to organise the Scouts in special units and the first Scout Battalion was formed in Warszawa but the same happened in many other cities and regions. Those Scouts and Guides, either too young or unfit to fight, performed special duties and in less than no time more than 15.000 Scouts and Guides were involved in either the armed forces or in rendering services to the government, to the Red Cross, working in hospitals, preparing food and clothing for the soldiers, caring for the wounded, the refugees and the homeless. Further the Scouts ran the postal services, etc. Many a Scout, boy or girl or leader, lost his/her life. So did Andrzej Malkowski, the Founder of Polish Scouting, who died when on January 16th, 1919, the ship “Chania” hit a mine and blew up. His widow, Olga Drahenowska Malkowska, also
deeply involved in Scouting – as most of the founders’ wives were – carried on until well after World War II, all the time active and playing a not to be underestimated important part in the development, not only of Polish Scouting but also of World Scouting and World Guiding.

The War of Independence ended in 1920. Poland had risen again. A country badly destroyed but free and ready to tackle the job of reconstruction in every field, on every level and impatient to begin a national life of its own.

BETWEEN WARS, 1918 – 1939

Despite the demands made by the fighting for the frontiers of Independent Poland, Scouting developed favourably. All Polish Boy Scouts and Girl Guides having united in the Z.H.P. were now led from their respective – now truly – National Headquarters in Warsaw. At last the movements were able to concentrate to the full on Scouting. Quality and standards were of a very high level and Z.H.P. adhered strictly to the rules as laid down by Baden Powell. On August 10th, 1919, the NHQ published the text of a new Promise and Law which remained in force, without any serious changes, until 1944.

A Polish Scout contingent participated in the 1st World Jamboree at Olympia, Richmond Park in London (1921) and was one of the Founder Members of the International Conference, the overall international governing body of organised World Scouting, created during the 1st International Conference in Paris, 1922. (See Chapter I.) Thus Z.H.P. was internationally recognised and registered as a member of the World Authority of the International Scout Movement (WAISM, in 1963 to be WOSM).

Z.H.P.’s boys section sent participants to all international events such as World Jamborees, Rover Moots, National Camps, etc. and its own DCCs, having been trained in Gilwell
Park near London, ran the Polish Gilwell training courses. A fair contingent went to the 3rd World Jamboree at Arrow Park near Birkenhead in the U.K. in 1929. During its closing-ceremony Baden Powell presented every contingent leader with a Golden Arrow, the Jamboree’s symbol. (Mrs Marguerite de Beaumont, in her book on Baden Powell The Wolf That Never Sleeps reports that the Polish Arrow returned to Britain in 1939. A Polish Scout, having succeeded in escaping from Poland, after the Nazi-German attack, arrived in England and in his limited luggage carried the Golden Arrow. Mrs de Beaumont, at the time residing in Wiltshire, was handed this Arrow for storage and display in her group’s quarters. Whether the Arrow was ever returned to Poland is not known.)

Representatives of Z.H.P.’s Girls section went to all International Guide Conferences, starting with the 2nd International Conference at Cambridge, England in 1923. The 7th of its kind took place in Poland in 1932. In 1928 the Girl Guides held an international meeting in Hungary, which B.P. and Lady B.P attended. WAGGGS (the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) was founded and its international emblem (Trefoil) chosen. The Polish Girl Guides/Girl Scouts were represented and thus belonged to the Founder Members.

Between Z.H.P. and the Hungarian Scout Movement a very close friendship and co-operation came into being, the importance of which was proven in September 1939 and thereafter. So when the 4th World Jamboree (1933) was held in Gödöllö, Hungary it was no wonder that a Z.H.P. contingent of no less than 1500 Scouts and Scout leaders attended.

Also in 1933 Z.H.P. was able to welcome BP and Lady BP and family who, accompanied by hundreds of British Scout and Guide leaders, made a cruise in the Baltic in two steamships, visiting the Baltic States and also dropping anchor in the port of Gdynia. A large Polish Scout and Guide camp in the vicinity
was visited. The BPs were overwhelmed by the enthusiast reception.

On July 11th, 1935 the 25th anniversary of Polish Scouting was celebrated with a large national camp in the forests of Spala, near the Polish President’s summer residence.

In 1937 a substantial Polish contingent participated in the 5th World Jamboree, Vogelenzang, the Netherlands. In Sub camp 6 – 180 Scouts, in sub camp 9 – 400 and in the sea Scout camp 147. The Dutch hosts were much impressed, not only by the square caps and the wide capes, but also by the modes of transportation used by the Contingent. Some came by train, which was not unusual, but others cycled all the way from Poland, whereas the air Scouts arrived in their own motor-planes out of which some – using parachutes – jumped. To top it all a sea-going sailing vessel, manned by sea Scouts, arrived in the port of Amsterdam.

In 1938 there were well over 200,000 Polish Boy and Girl Scouts. Polish Scouting enjoyed great social prestige as well as official patronage and enjoyed the nation’s goodwill and popularity.

In August 1939, despite the international situation, the first Girl Guide and Girl Scout Jamboree was held in Hungary. The Polish and other girls were only just able to reach their homes, when WW II broke out.

THE YEARS OF TRIAL AND ORDEAL 1939 – 1945

During the thirties the political situation in Europe changed and deteriorated rapidly. Adolf Hitler, the possessed and obsessed Fuehrer and dictator of Nazi-Germany, not only annexed Austria (1938) but also occupied Czechoslovakia (1939). The latter, despite all previous guarantees given, was badly let down by France and Great Britain and, for that mat-
ter, by all its neighbours who sacrificed Czechoslovakia, hoping that, by giving in to Hitler’s demands, they would appease him and prevent war.

But encouraged by his earlier successes and the weak reactions, the Fuehrer thereupon demanded parts of Western Poland but found that the Poles were not willing to give in and in every respect were prepared to defend their country and freedom. Hitler, however, felt rather certain that Great Britain and France would again do nothing to stop him and so he ordered his armies to invade Poland on September 1st, 1939 at 0445 hours local time. So once again the Poles had to fight one of their arch-enemies. But this time France and Britain, by now fed up with Hitler, to the latter’s surprise, disappointment, dismay and anger, did not acquiesce and the conflict began. Hitler began a war that would lead not only to the total collapse of his Nazi party and his Thousands Years’ Reich but also to the total devastation and division of Germany and Europe. He also caused the destruction of Europe and the death of millions of soldiers and civilians.

So, very sadly, Poland’s Liberty did not last very long.

Poland had anticipated this war and it came as no surprise. Z.H.P. had been preparing as well and particularly the girls had been trained for special duties such as operating the telephone exchanges, organising field kitchens for refugees, caring for the wounded and for lost or orphaned kids, also manning First Aid and Red Cross stations. This training, given in the months prior to the outbreak of war, proved to be of great value to the population during the long years of Nazi barbarity and brutality that were to follow. NHQ Guider Josephina Lipinski was in charge of this operation. Some special training was also given to the boys. It was, however, to be expected that the leaders and Rover Scouts would be called up for military service but the younger ones were also ready to play their parts when the conflict escalated and war began.
On September 17th, 1939 the Poles were attacked by their second arch-enemy, now named the Soviet Union. Stabbing the Poles in the back, the Red Army crossed the borders and the situation became hopeless and desperate. The Poles fought to the very last, simply refused to surrender and many managed to escape across the mountains in the south or the sea in the north. The fighting petered out, exhausted units or individuals might be forced to surrender, Poland as such never did.

The Poles, experts in this field as they were after many earlier experiences, had prepared also for a foreign occupation. Z.H.P.’s esteemed president Dr Michael Grazyński left for France and later settled in London, the vice president, Jan Mauersberger took over. The Chief Guide – Maria Krynicka – left Warsaw and – with her young family – had to live in the country and efficient Jozefina Lapinńska replaced her as previously arranged. Olga Drahenowska Malkowska, the Founder’s widow, also departed and reached London where she was provided hospitality by the Baden Powells. Chief Scout Zbigniew Trylski, serving as an Army officer, was interned in Hungary, his unit having reached the border fighting the Germans all the way. From there he handed in his resignation as Chief Scout but, in his absence, already on September 27th, 1939, Florian Marciniak was elected in his place.

DIVISION AND DEPORTATIONS

And so once again the two aggressors divided Poland. Eastern Poland was brutally annexed, oppressed and exploited by the Soviets, never to be returned to Poland, not even after 1945 when the Soviets and the Poles were supposed to be “allies”. The western part was annexed by Nazi Germany and declared German territory whereas the central part was turned into a Nazi-Protectorate under the notorious Nazi, war criminal and outright killer Frank, who, after the war, during the Nur-
emberg Trials, was condemned to death and hanged by the neck.

Thousands of Polish soldiers were now Prisoners of War in either German or Soviet custody. Those in Soviet hands were sent to Siberia, but most of the officers were killed, e.g. in the Forest of Katyn. Further the Soviets rounded up all leading civilians and intellectuals who were also deported to Siberia or murdered on the spot. The Soviet as well as the Nazi occupation authorities banned all Polish activities. The Nazis, in their racial fallacy, their megalomania and contempt of all races but their own Teutonic one, had decided that the Poles were to be reduced to nothing but slaves, needing no other education than a little reading and a little counting to ten. Poland was to be reduced to a pool of manual labour. Universities were closed and school education was almost made impossible whereas social life came to a standstill. If found and caught, those involved in education – from university professors to schoolteachers – were arrested and deported to concentration/extermination camps or killed immediately. Such was the lot of the professors of the oldest Polish University of Cracow. Invited to a meeting with the German authorities they found that they were arrested and deported to a concentration camp.

RESISTANCE

Sadly all this was not new to the Polish nation who had had to endure all this many a time in its long history. And so the Poles were experienced in passive and active resistance and knew how to deal with the new situation, as the occupiers were soon to find out.

Neither the Nazi nor the Soviet occupation permitted the activities of Polish organisations existing before the war. The only social activities permitted – and only on the territory of the Protectorate – were those of the Red Cross and the Rada
Główna Opiekuncza, the Central Social Care Council. It is not quite clear whether Z.H.P. was officially banned and disbanded by either the Nazis or the Soviets, certain it is that neither of them permitted its activities. There is no doubt that Z.H.P. had prepared for the situation and had constructed a skeleton of an underground organisation. So it seems that Z.H.P. more or less faded away into illegality. The initial turmoil over, the Scouts and the Guides reorganised and adapted to the new situation. The Scouts organised in the illegal Szare Szeregi (Grey Ranks) and the Guides or Girl Scouts in the underground Koniczyna (Trefoil) or the Badz Gotow (Be Prepared). In the same way as before the war the NHQ/ZHP for both organisations existed – now underground – with at first Jan Mauersberger and – after his death – Tadeusz Kupczynski acting as presidents. The three organisations worked secretly and initially independently of each other but in the cause of time their paths often crossed.

Polish resistance was organised according to the structure of an army, and was named the Armia Krajowa or Home Army. The above mentioned underground Scout movements came to an arrangement with the Armia Krajowa and were officially recognised by same, meaning that the Scouts and Guides, serving in the Underground Groups, received Armia Krajowa status and the Home Army’s High Command assigned funds to the Scouts and Guides for specific work and the general Scout training.

Every effort was made to keep the Z.H.P. members together and many parents having been killed, murdered or deported, the groups became “the Family” in which the older ones helped, dressed, fed, comforted and educated the younger ones. Szare Szeregi and the Badz Gotow stressed the importance of school education and so the younger Scouts and Guides were made to attend the legal and illegal schools and the completely illegal small groups being taught at grammar school level.
The Scouting activities for the younger members were as normal as the circumstances permitted. Meetings were held in secret places and without the uniform. Another effort at normality was the maintaining and continuing of the Scout leaders’ training courses as new leaders were constantly needed. The organisations managed to hold regular training sessions and training camps throughout the war. These were held in various places, such as private homes, during day outings or at pre-arranged secluded places where the participants used to arrive in ones or twos, so as not to attract the enemies’ unwanted and dangerous attention. The Gilwell Training courses were also resumed and such camps were held in the large, dense forests just outside Warsaw, near Bialystok or in the Carpathian Mountains. The camps were well guarded by armed Szare Szeregi members. The warrants and Gilwell Certificates were reduced to so small a size that they fitted inside a matchbox, the covering matches hiding them. This was necessary as, if the Nazis found them, such a piece of paper was likely to cost the proud owner his/her life.

The Guides were very active in the underground schools, the Red Cross, hospitals and clinics. They also organised workshops, laundries and mobile kitchens thus providing employment, as well as cover, to those engaged in the underground activities.

But most Guides and Guiders desired to be more directly involved in the Armia Krajowa (AK) and acted as couriers carrying not only messages, orders and reports, important papers, false identity cards and other falsified documents, but also they undertook the even more dangerous task of transferring munitions and arms from one hiding place to another. When caught the death penalty was the result. In Poland, as in other Nazi-occupied countries, experience taught that – initially at least – the Nazis were less suspicious of women, hence they undertook these dangerous tasks.
The youngest Scouts and Guides, attending the secret Scout schools and Scouting activities, knew that one day, when old enough, they would be expected, and expected themselves, to join the adults in the resistance. These youngsters were very much involved in the “small sabotage” such as gassing out cinemas when German movies were shown, setting off stink bombs in restaurants catering for the Nazis only, daubing anti-German, patriotic symbols in public places, such as the V for Victory, swastikas hanging from gallows and the famous drawing of an Anchor, a combination of the Capitals P and W, the Armia Krajowa’s adopted symbol, standing for “Polska Walczy” (Poland is fighting).

VICTIMS

Allied propaganda, during and after World War II, often depicted (particularly so in the movies) the Nazis as outright, stupid fools and it is often forgotten that in their various police forces (Gestapo, Sicherheitsdienst etc.) some very sharp-witted, shrewd and well trained professional policemen were serving. In fighting the Resistance they knew how to act and hit back. Thousands, who will remain nameless, became their victims. Arrests, torture and death awaited those who were unlucky enough to be caught in the act of resistance. Reprisals were taken in the most brutal and savage way.

Underground Scouting did not go unpunished either.

The Polish Chief Scout Florian Marciniak (elected 27/09/1939) and Stanislaw Sedlaczek, who had been Chief Scout from 1919 to 1921 and from 1925 to 1932, were in charge of and led the Scouting activities of the Szare Szeregi. Whenever and wherever possible they visited and inspected the Scouts, the schools, the training camps and the Scouts serving in the AK, the armed resistance. Florian Marciniak was trapped on May 6th, 1943 and taken to Gross Rosen concentration camp. On February 20th, 1944 a bored guard beat him to death with an
iron bar. Stanislaw Sedlaczek, however, was arrested by the Nazis on May 17th, 1941 and was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp, where he was brutally murdered on August 3rd, 1941.

Immediately after Florian Marciniak’s arrest Assistant Chief Scout and Commander of the Szare Szeregi district of Warsaw, Stanislaw Broniewski, took over and he was lucky enough to survive the war. In the 1996 he was still alive and living in Warsaw.

Another much respected and able Scout leader was Aleksander Kaminski, a pedagogue and the originator of the Polish Cub Scout system. During the war he served in the Armia Krajowa’s GHQ and the Szare Szeregi’s NHQ. Throughout the Nazi occupation and during the Warsaw Uprising he was editor-in-chief of the Armia Krajowa’s illegal newspaper Biuletyn Informacyjny and in the years 1941 – 1944 he was commander of the “Small Sabotage Organisation”. He was fortunate enough to survive the Nazi occupation and the Soviet “liberation”. From 1945 until 1947 and from 1956 until 1958 he was to play again an important role in Z.H.P. as will be related later.

THE ARMED RESISTANCE

Armed resistance was everywhere. In the cities and villages, in the forests and the mountains. Older Scouts and leaders were organised in the so called Grupy Szturmowe (Shock Groups) and began to participate in the armed resistance, leaving the “small sabotage” in the hands of the 15 to 17 years old. Some of the Armia Krajowa’s partisan units consisted of older Scouts, Rover Scouts and leaders. In Warsaw, in September 1943, the Scout Shock Groups formed two separate Scout Battalions. One was code-named Zoska (Sophia) the other Parasol. Zoska was originally the code name of the leader of the Warsaw Shock Groups, Tadeusz Zawadzki, killed in action in August 1943. The name Parasol was chosen because its
members intended to become parachutists once the war would be over.

By the end of 1942 the Armia Krajowa was to such an extent well organised and equipped that it was able to go into the offensive. With the other partisan units the Szare Szeregi fighters took part in blowing up bridges and trains, disrupting the flow of Nazi supplies to the Eastern or Russian front. German convoys were ambushed and small garrisons and depots attacked. This offensive brought the war to the Nazis in Poland and made their position very unsafe and unpleasant. Of course the Nazis retaliated with great brutality, but soon most of the excesses of cruelty were tempered when the GHQ/AK ordered the execution of a group of selected Gestapo officers.

Apart from their normal activities in this field the Scouts of the Warsaw Zoska Battalion performed two daring feats of arms. On March 26th, 1943, in the streets of Warsaw, in broad daylight, a heavily guarded German prison-van was stopped. All prisoners were liberated. The purpose of this operation – code-named Operation Arsenal – was to release Jan Bytnar, the Scout commissioner of the Warsaw South District.
Another feat was carried out in the early morning of the 1st of February, 1944. SS General and Hohere Polizeiführer Franz Kutchera, the German Chief of Police in Warsaw, was shot whilst being driven from his home to his office. He died instantly but during the action 4 Rover Scouts were killed and one wounded. None of them, however, fell into Nazi hands. After the war both daring acts were immortalised in a movie. A similar attempt to execute the notorious war criminal Hans Frank, in charge of the Protectorate, did not succeed.

A thousand stories could be told of how Scouts and Guides, but not they alone, took their share of the armed resistance.

And Scouting carried on. In ruins of the cities, in the forests and in the mountains. In the POW camps in Germany and Siberia, in the German concentration camps, e.g. in Ravensbrück, the women’s camp, where Polish Girl Scouts founded a Guide Company Mury (Walls). Those who survived the camp’s ordeal have ever since continued to meet as Old Scouts.

FIGHTING BEYOND POLAND’S BORDERS

But Polish Scouting and Guiding also carried on outside the unhappy homeland. When the Germans advanced and the Soviets stabbed the Poles in the back, many managed to escape. Some Polish naval vessels having defended bravely their
home waters and home ports, sailed westward through the Baltic despite German air attacks and via the Danish waters and the North Sea reached the Scottish ports. As a welcome addition to the British Royal Navy they continued the fight for their country’s freedom participating in the Battle of the North Atlantic and the Invasion of Normandy (June 6th, 1944.)

Polish army units, mixed with civilian refugees, fighting rear guard actions, retreated to the Polish-Hungarian and the Polish-Romanian borders. Rather than fall in German or Soviet hands they had themselves interned in these, at that time, neutral countries.

 Particularly the Hungarians, despite German pressure, permitted them to continue their journey to France where they joined the Polish Army that had already been raised in September 1939.

When on May 10th, 1940, Nazi-Germany opened its offensive in the West, attacking the Netherlands and Belgium in order to reach France, these Polish units bravely defended French territory until in June 1940 France collapsed and had to sign an armistice. The Polish Government, which had settled in Paris, went to London and many of the Polish soldiers and civilians, including women and children tried to do so too. On their arrival in Britain these Poles were taken to Scotland and the adjoining regions of Northern England where, once again, a Polish army was raised and trained and care was taken of the civilians.

A Polish Tank Division (1. Polska Dywizja Pancerna) was organised, equipped and trained in Britain. Commanded by General S. Maczek, it landed in Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6th, 1944, fighting its way to the north, liberating parts of France, Belgium and the Netherlands, ending its march when it occupied parts of Northern Germany (Spring 1945).
(1429 soldiers were killed in action during that long campaign.)

The 1st Independent Polish Parachute Brigade (1. Brygada Spadochronowa), under General Stanislaw Sosabowski, also equipped and trained in England, played its part in the Operation Market/Garden (September 1944 in the Netherlands) also known as the Battle of Arnhem, which failed. Ninety-nine Polish paratroopers were killed near this city. (Sosabowski was the man who, during the briefing on this enormous undertaking, expressed his doubts as to the success of it. He spoke the now famous words: A Bridge Too Far.)

Polish Pilots had their own Fighter squadrons in the (British) Royal Air Force and helped defend the British Isles during the Battle of Britain (1940/1941).

POLISH SCOUTS ON FOREIGN SOIL – 2

Hungary

As has already been mentioned the Polish Chief Scout Zbigniew Trylski had been interned in Hungary. Thanks to the firm friendship and special relationship that had come to being between Z.H.P. and the Hungarian Scout Movement, he was released from that internment by the Hungarian Chief Scout Pál Teleki. Not being able to serve Z.H.P. in Poland anymore, he sent in his resignation as Chief Scout and remained in Hungary for the duration of the war. With Hungarian aid he founded Scout-schools and education centres for Polish youth at Szikszó and other places. He also took charge of the Scout troops established in the refugee camps. Further he assisted the many Poles who, after their arrival in Hungary, via the Middle East, found their way to France to join the Polish Army in that country. It was not until 1946 that he left Hungary and went to London where he served the Z.H.P. National Committee
until 1972 when he returned to Poland to die at Kracow at the end of that year.

Soviet Union

When Adolf Hitler rewarded the Soviet Union, his September 1939 ally, by invading the country in June 1941, the Poles suddenly found themselves to be “reluctant Allies” of their second arch-enemy. The Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and the Free Polish Government in London signed a treaty. This included that some 120,000 Polish soldiers and civilians, since 1939 prisoners in the Soviet Union, were released. Some of them joined a Polish Army Corps raised within the Soviet Red Army, but most of them preferred to put as much distance between them and the Soviet Union and rather took the long and difficult trail from Siberia to Iran. Throughout 1942 they arrived in Iran settling in Polish Refugee Camps run by the Free Polish Government in London. After an initial rest and badly needed medical treatment, re-clothing etc. the adult men joined the Free Polish Army raised in the Middle East under the command of General Wladyslaw Anders, who himself had been released from a Soviet prison.

Far from Customary Skies

The many children, most of them having lost their parents, were taken to special orphanages. Others went to special schools in Teheran. Scouting and guiding developed and blossomed and eventually there were 5 Guide companies and 3 Scout troops attached to that one Teheran school alone.

Some of the kids, in a very bad state of health, were sent as far away as Mexico or New Zealand, the latter inviting 800 of them. Many others travelled to East Africa and joined those already settled there since having made good their escapes in September 1939 via Hungary. There were 18 Free Polish camps in Kenya, North Rhodesia (now Zambia), Tanzania and South Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), in those days British colo-

The Government of British India offered hospitality to 10,000 Poles released from the Soviet Union and in April 1942 the first Camp was opened at Jannagar, followed by others at Karachi and Valivada near Bombay. Here too the Z.H.P. National Committee, based in London, was very active and at its peak had 15 Guide companies, 5 Scout troops and 10 Cub and/or Brownie packs.

Polish Scout groups were also formed in Ain Karim near Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Nazareth and Gaza in British controlled Palestine and at Heliopolis (Egypt) where the Polish Air Training Centre for the Middle East had been established.

Whereas in Africa and India the Polish Girl Guides or Girl Scouts were in the majority, in the Middle East the Boy Scouts were. This for the obvious reason that the Middle East was chosen as the place where General Wladyslaw Anders’ Army was re-organised. Consequently the boys, approaching the military age of 17, were kept in the Middle East and so for obvious reasons there were more Scout groups. In the Armed Forces Polish Rover Crews were founded. General Anders’ Army was later to play an important part in the fighting in Italy and gained great fame during the ferocious Battle of Monte Cassino in 1944.

The Free Polish Government and its military authorities fully realised the importance and benefits of Scouting and Guiding and nominated Scout commissioner Stanislaw Sielecki responsible for its further development in the above areas. He set up a Z.H.P. Middle East Committee, under the responsibility and leadership of the Z.H.P. National Committee in London. The latter co-ordinated the training (including Gilwell), supplied the uniforms, badges and literature and provided all other assis-
tance, including the financial means, partly furnished by the Free Polish Government in London and by the various Scout and Guide Movements of the free world. Eighteen leading Scout leaders were exempt from military service and sent to the Polish refugee camps in the above mentioned areas to generally overseas Polish Scouting. Their important work continued until 1948 when the camps were closed.

France

As related earlier there had always been Polish Scouts in foreign countries – such as France and Belgium – who considered themselves members of Z.H.P. and followed the Warsaw NHQ rules and instructions. It had even been found necessary to open a Z.H.P. Branch-HQ in Paris. It has also been told how a large number of Poles, military personnel as well as civilians including children, escaped and how some of them went to France. That way the number of Polish Scouts in that country increased and Z.H.P.’s Branch HQ in Paris was suddenly considered to be the centre of Polish Scouting abroad.

Great Britain

After the fall of France (June 1940) members of the Z.H.P. Paris office also managed to get to London. For the Polish children who arrived in Britain, the Polish Government, now residing in London, opened schools but Scout groups and Guide companies were also founded with the assistance of the British Scout Association and Girl Guides Association.

Olga Drahonowska Malkowska, the Founders’ widow, who had settled in England, was not only a personal friend of Lady B.P., but she was also a member of the WAGGGS World Committee. Having arrived in London she got involved in the WAGGGS International Bureau as well as the Boy Scouts International Bureau. No doubt an advantage. She gathered around her the remains of the Paris Z.H.P. HQ and a number of Scout leaders who had arrived in Great Britain. The Z.H.P.
National Committee, mentioned before, was founded and it was decided that for as long the Z.H.P. NHQ in Warsaw was not able to operate unobstructively, the Z.H.P. National Committee would take its place as the highest authority. And indeed all Polish Scouts and Guides, where ever they were in the free world, recognised the Committee’s executive powers, following its instructions, receiving its support.

The National Committee and all the groups still considered themselves as loyal units of Z.H.P., now suppressed in Poland, and so as members of the Z.H.P. that in 1922 had been recognised and registered by the International Conference of the World Association of the International Scout Movement (WAISM, since 1963 WOSM) and in 1928 by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). In later years this attitude and point of view were to be of great importance.

Dr Michael Grazyinski, Z.H.P.’s President also arrived in London en together with Olga Malkowska led the National Committee. They also had the special function of liaising with the Polish Government- in-Exile, the International Bureaux, the British movements, the other movements in exile and to represent Polish Scouting in general.

The Polish groups in Britain were led by leaders, male and female, who also had other things on their plates, such as serving in the Polish Armed Forces.

In the armed forces there were many Rover Scout Crews, founded by the soldiers, sailors and airmen. In one of the Polish Fighter Squadron, serving in the British Royal Air Force (R.A.F.), almost all pilots and most of the ground crew were Rover Scouts. The Squadron was commanded by Wing Commander the Baron von Kroonenberg, himself a Scout leader, who also acted as the Rover Scout Leader.
In June 1941 Nazi-Germany attacked the Soviet Union. Nothing seemed to be able to stop the German forces as they sliced through the Soviet defences, surrounding and destroying huge Soviet Armies, occupying vast areas, reaching the outskirts of Moscow and Leningrad (now St Petersburg) and the banks of the River Volga in the city centre of Stalingrad (now Volgograd). It was due to the immense efforts of the Soviet people and the aid received from the Western Allies (the cold winters not to be forgotten) that – to everybody’s surprise and Hitler’s disappointment – the tide turned and the Red Army recovered. The Nazi-German retreat began and in summer 1944 the German armies had been forced to vacate most of the Soviet Union’s territory. Following the retreating Nazi-Armies en route to the west, the Red Army re-occupied Eastern Poland which the Soviets still considered to be Soviet territory.

In July 1944 the Red Army reached the eastern banks of the River Vistula, on whose western bank the Polish capital Warsaw is situated. The Nazis retreated to the west bank, expecting the Red Army to follow immediately. This expectation was also shared by the Warsaw Armia Krajowa (AK), but with a difference. It was eager and ready to liberate the capital by means of its own resources, power and efforts before the Red Army arrived on the West bank. This would have been the proper thing and the Warsaw AK fully deserved the honour of liberating the capital.

So, in order to forestall a liberation of Warsaw by the Red Army, the AK commander, General Bor – code name for Tadeusz Komoroski – ordered the Warsaw Uprising to dislodge the enemy and to liberate the city. On August 1st, 1944, the Armia Krajowa opened the offensive. The struggle was expected to last a week at the most but went on for 63 days,
on that very same August 1st, the Red Army stopped its offensive, did not cross the river and made no attempts to assist the Polish Freedom Fighters in their desperate battle. The Soviet Leadership in Moscow knew that these partisans were not communists and were not acting under communist command. The Soviets considered them as “fascists, reactionaries and capitalists” and knew only too well that it was to be expected that their scheme, the take-over and sovietising of Poland, would be met by the fierce opposition of these very same patriots now so bravely fighting the Nazis. So why not let the Nazis do the dirty work and permit them to exterminate and butcher this expected opposition so that – in times to come – they would not be able to interfere with the plans Moscow had for Poland.

The Uprising came as an unexpected surprise to the Nazi occupation and they were almost beaten and expelled from the city. So if only help had come from across the river, the Armia Krajowa could have been victorious and Warsaw could have been liberated by its own people. It would have been an honour well deserved.

The Nazis, having recovered from the first surprise, noting that the Red Army made no move to come to Warsaw’s rescue, slowly got the upper hand and an overwhelming ascendancy. The brave Poles gradually short of arms and supplies had to face the bitter realities.

The British and US governments tried to persuade the Soviets to interfere in the battle of Warsaw. But they were given the lame excuse that the Red Army was not ready for that. Its supply lines stretched to the limit had to be restored and to be consolidated and its armies to be supplied again before a new offensive could be opened. Whereupon the US and Britain offered to let their air forces drop arms, munitions and other supplies over the city. The distances to be covered by the planes from either Great Britain or occupied Italy were, how-
ever, too long for a return flight and so the Soviets were asked to provide airfields for re-fuelling. Such airfields, as Britain and the US were told, were not available. So all the RAF and the USAF could do was sending a few very long distance planes that could make the round-trip and dropped some supplies, but it was a drop in the ocean.

The Free Poles were furious. The Polish parachutist regiment (1. Brygada Spadochronowa) trained and equipped in Britain, demanded to be dropped in the city, but the slow transport planes available (Dakotas) could not cover the distance and the fighter planes, necessary to protect and defend them, could not either.

And so, with an “Allied” army just across the River Vistula, in the afternoon of October 2nd, 1944, the Warsaw command of the Armia Krajowa was obliged to sign the surrender. Nearly 18,000 members of the AK and about 150,000 civilians had been killed during the heroic Uprising.

These numbers included a large number of Scouts and Guides, 4,000 of which had been involved in the uprising, be it as soldiers or auxiliaries acting as couriers, carrying messages, orders, arms or ammo, as nurses etc. etc. The two Scout Battalions Zoska and Parasol, being very well trained units, were sent to places where the fighting was most difficult and dangerous and both lost 80% of their forces. Another all-Scout battalion, code named “Wigry” (the name of the pre-war leaders training camp) was also involved.
Younger Scouts and the Guides also did their duty. They acted as couriers, carrying messages and orders from the AK GHQ in the central part of Warsaw to the cut off parts of the city, using “special routes” being the city’s sewage system. It was not only extremely dangerous but also very unpleasant. The Guides also concentrated on the wounded (soldiers and civilians), the mothers with children and the elderly hiding in the cellars. Jozefina Lapinska and several Guiders organised a “home” for children who became separated from their families or whose parents were killed.

On the evening of the day of surrender the survivors of the Scout Battalions gathered around various fires burning in the ruins of what had once been Warsaw. There was no joy but sadness. At some the Scout Law was read, the Promise reaffirmed and the National Anthem sung: “Jeszcze Polska nie zgineta poki my zyjey.” (Poland has not perished yet, as long as we are alive.) A loud “Czu Waj” concluded the event and a long, restless and sleepless night followed.

The next morning the survivors surrendered their arms and themselves into the hands of the merciless Nazi-SS, who ignored the conditions of surrender signed and proved once more that a Nazi’s word could not be trusted. Many surviving soldiers and civilians – male and female, adults and kids – lost their lives in mass executions. Others were taken to the various concentration camps and died there. Surprisingly some were really treated as Prisoners of War and taken to POW camps in Germany. General Bor and his staff were brought to the famous Colditz Castle, the special POW camp for “difficult” Allied officers. Those who survived the camps were later liberated by the advancing armies of the Western Allies, including their own Free Polish Army, fighting in West Germany.

Shortly after Warsaw’s Armia Krajowa’s surrender, the Soviet Red Army crossed the Vistula in many places and “liberated” the Ruins of deserted Warsaw.
A STATUETTE

In Warsaw’s rebuild city centre today’s visitor will find a small statuette on a concrete socle a bronze representing a small boy – his feet in German army boots, which are far too large, his head covered by a too large WW II type German steel helmet also too large with a painted ribbon of White and Red, the Polish National Colours, and a Polish Eagle. He is holding in his hands a large automatic machine pistol. Behind the statuette a wall with a plaque provided with the Krzyz Harcerski (the Membership/Promise Badge) and a dedication to all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Szare Szeregi and the Badz Gotow who fought and died during the Warsaw Uprising. The monument by the sculptor Jerzego Jarnuszkiewieza is called “The Little Insurgent”.

It was erected and unveiled on October 1st, 1983, thanks to an initiative of the Warsaw Scouts in remembrance of their many brothers and sisters that fought and died during the Warsaw Uprising in summer 1944.
A worthy tribute reminding of the sacrifices made by the Polish Scouts who, inspired by the Scout Promise and the Scout Law, preferred to fight for freedom rather than to be slaves. A sacrifice never to be forgotten and a monument to remind the Scouts and Guides of the World that Scouting and Guiding can be so much more than just a pleasant way of passing one's leisure time, that it is also an ideal, a way of life, worth struggling and sacrificing for.

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA 1944 - 1949

“Liberation”? Slowly but steadily the Nazi-Armies were driven out of Poland and by the end of 1944 most of the pre-war Polish territory had been “liberated” by the Red Army.

The Free Polish Government in London had always intended to return to the homeland the minute part of it had been liberated. But the Soviets installed a Communist Polish Government in the city of Lublin and made it clear that a return of the London government was out of the question. Later, under British and US pressure, some sort of a compromise was reached and – in June, 1945 – the two governments “merged” and a “Government of National Unity” was installed which settled in Warsaw, was recognised by the British and US governments in July 1945 and was, of course, strongly influenced by the Soviets.

But was all this to be considered as a Liberation or as the start of a communist occupation and take-over with all the usual matching symptoms?

Whereas the Allied armies, liberating the West European countries were greeted with great enthusiasm, overwhelming rejoicing and friendship, the Poles, excluding the Polish communists, reacted differently assuming a waiting attitude, ready to
resist again if necessary. This was not without reason because wherever the Red Army ensconced itself a new reign of terror began. Thousands of Poles were arrested and deported to Siberia. Non-communist resistance fighters and partisans having fought the Nazis bravely were suddenly dubbed “fascists” and picked up.

Among them Scout leaders and Scouts, members of the Szare Zeregi and the Badz Gotow. To name but one, Jozef Grezesiak, a well-known pre-war Z.H.P. Scout leader, an officer in the Armia Krajowa and a commander of the Szare Szeregi in the Wilna (Vilnius) District. Having welcomed the “liberators” at the head of his well armed partisans, he was, on March 21st 1945, suddenly arrested and disappeared. Later he was tried by a “Polish” court, was found guilty of being a “fascist and an enemy of People” and was condemned to 10 years of hard labour to be served as an inmate of a Siberian labour camp. He was fortunate in so far as he survived, was released and returned to Poland in 1955. His fate was shared by many (Scouts and non-Scouts) but not all of them were so lucky as to survive or return.

Poles who had escaped to the West and served in the Free Polish Army, Navy and Air Force became “unwanted” and were, generally speaking, not permitted to return to Poland. The Polish navy vessels, that escaped to England in 1939 and played their part in the Battle of the Atlantic – keeping Britain’s and the Soviet Union’s life lines open – were duly returned to Poland but the communists wanted the ships, not the men and so skeleton crews were sent from Poland to bring the ships home.

Their original crews were stranded in Britain, augmenting the Poles-in-Exile.
Many Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen settled in Britain, the Netherlands, the USA and wherever possible but always far away from the homeland.

BACK IN THE OPEN

On January 1st, 1945 The Armia Krajowa was officially disbanded and so were the Szare Szeregi and Bad Gotow, being official AK units.

By that time Z.H.P. was back in the open all over Poland and had resumed its normal activities. But some of the groups, for the larger part consisting of orphans, also acted as “family communes”, the leaders taking the responsibility for the total education and upkeep.

At this stage it should be understood that when the Nazis, in the countries they had occupied during WW II, banned and disbanded the Scout and Guide Movements, this was considered to be a hostile and unlawful act which was not accepted and certainly not by the WAISM and WAGGGS in London. Neither WAISM nor WAGGGS cancelled these movements’ memberships and so, when their countries were liberated and the movements re-emerged, the organisations did not have to ask for re-recognition as members of the world movements.

Re-opened Z.H.P. NHQ in Warsaw immediately resumed contact with the International Bureaux of both World Movements and of course with the Z.H.P. National Committee in London as well. During the war, via Sweden and Switzerland, some contact between the Z.H.P. in London and in occupied Poland had been possible, so it was more a matter of bringing the relationship back to normal conditions, than creating a brand new one.

Z.H.P., as all other National Movements, was invited to attend the various post-war international meetings and other activi-
ties and the Z.H.P. Chief Guide, Wiktoria Dewitzowa, went to the WAGGGS 11th World Conference in Evian, France in 1946.

Z.H.P.’s attitude and actions during the Nazi occupation and the resistance had much impressed the population and had made Scouting immensely popular with the people and so the movement was a part of society not easily expelled from it. Thanks to this popularity and the population’s support Z.H.P. blossomed. Also most parents preferred their children to be Scouts rather than having them join the various communist youth movements that sprang up with government and party support. Early 1946 Z.H.P. counted 250,000 registered members, and was the country’s largest youth movement.

INfiltration

But the Soviet backed Polish Government of “National Unity” was soon replaced by an “all-communist” one which, acting under Moscow’s orders, began sovietizing the country. In general the communist take-over process varied from slow infiltration to sheer intimidation according to the pressure exercised by the communist party. It also depended upon the popularity and resistance of the institutions or associations concerned which varied widely. Neither the Government nor the Party and in particular the latter’s youth movement Z.M.P. or Zwi-azek Mlodziezy Polskiej (Union of Polish Youth) had any use for Z.H.P.. But Z.H.P. proved a difficult nut to crack and its popularity was such that the unpopular government trod carefully so as not to create more unrest among the greatly disappointed and hostile population.

And so, initially, Z.H.P. was saved by its popularity and its glorious past but the process of elimination had begun and the communists infiltrated fellow-travellers into Z.H.P. and undermined its activities. There were intimidations, provocations and trouble was caused wherever possible. On the other hand
the Scouts did not hide their opinions either and there were clashes.

In April 1946 a National Youth Meeting was convened in the city of Szczecin (former German Stettin) and 60,000 Z.H.P. members participated, forming a large majority. One of the speakers was Boleslaw Bierut, a leading member of the communist party and later to be a President of the People’s Republic. During his speech his words were drowned by singing, chanting, shouting and clamour. This made him, the government and the party very angry and very much aware of their unpopularity. But even then the authorities did not ban Z.H.P., though action was taken.

The situation gradually changed for the worst. In autumn 1946 a pre-war Guider, but also a pre-war communist, Pelegia Lewinska, was sent by the party authorities to be a member of the Z.H.P.’s Supreme Council and soon she was its General Secretary. Her task and that of her helpers and fellow travellers was to make changes in Polish Scouting and Guiding according to the wishes of the Communist Party. One of them was the introduction of the age limit of 15 years for boys and girls. Once over 15 they could no longer belong to Z.H.P.’s organisation. The aim being to make room for communist youth organisations. Further the fellow-travellers and communists, now firmly established in Z.H.P.’s NHQ, expelled a large numbers of good, experienced and reliable Scout leaders, male and female, and banished them from the movement. They were replaced by “reliable” persons most of whom had no Scouting experience at all. In two ways this was a stupid thing to do. Firstly the expelled leaders did not sever their relationships with each other and so an “underground” Scouting came into being which neither the government nor the communist party could control or influence in any other way but by force and police actions. Secondly the new “leaders” lacking Scouting experience and background ran the groups as general “youth clubs” which, apart from the uniform, did not
resemble Scouting. This of course did not bother the authorities who were aiming at the Scouting’s total disappearance.

At the time the International World of Scouting was preparing for the first post-war (6th) World Jamboree, to be held at Moisson, France (1947). As usual invitations were sent to all registered and recognised movements, including Z.H.P. in Warsaw.

But in April 1947 the Government and/or Party ordered its puppets in Z.H.P. NHQ to cancel Z.H.P.’s membership of the World Movements, which they obediently did. (Strangely enough it was not until 1948 that the girls’ section had to cancel its WAGGG’s membership.

Now it should be explained that the Western World, misled by Soviet propaganda during WW II, had expected changes in the Soviet Union and “a communism with a human face”.

The Scouting World was also not aware of what was exactly going on in the countries “liberated” by the Red Army where Scouting and Guiding had so far been permitted to carry on. Of course the Boy Scouts International Bureau and the World Association of the International Scout Movement (WAISM) knew that strange things were happening in Z.H.P. but yet the latter’s letter of resignation came as a shock.

In Jamboree, the International Bureau’s monthly international magazine of December 1948, John S. Wilson, the Bureau’s Director explained:

All hopes of any understanding with the leadership of Scouting in Poland have been dissipated by their pronouncement that they have no connection with International Scouting. Thousands of real true Scouters and Scouts in this country are in the shadows. They are not lost to us. We hope and pray with them that the sunshine may return and that they may go
about their Scouting, free to enjoy it with us and unfettered by any imposed restrictions.”

POLISH SCOUTS ON FOREIGN SOIL – 3

As soon as Z.H.P.’s NHQ in Warsaw had revived, the Z.H.P. National Committee in London, relinquished its world leadership of the Polish “groups on foreign soil” and again subjected itself and the groups, it was responsible for, to the Warsaw NHQ. It continued to act as Warsaw NHQ’ Branch Office. But gradually the London based people in charge, watching developments in Poland with an eagle’s eye, got the hang of what was actually going on in Poland in general and within Z.H.P.’s NHQ in Warsaw in particular. As soon as the Warsaw top authorities sent the fatal letter of resignation to the B.S.I.B. in London the Z.H.P. office in London acted. It took the name: Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego Poza Granicami Kragu – Z.H.P.p.g.K. – (“Z.H.P. Beyond the Frontiers”) Z.H.P.p.g.K. called a meeting of all Polish leaders operating outside the homeland. It was decided that:

A) the Z.H.P.p.g.K. refused to accept the Z.H.P. Warsaw’s withdrawal from the World Movements, the decision having been taken under pressure, by the wrong persons and so invalid.

B) that the Z.H.P.p.g.K. still considering the groups it represented a section of the original Z.H.P., registered and recognised by the International Conference in 1922, would – for as long as Z.H.P. in Poland was unable to act freely – take over the leadership so that Z.H.P. could still be considered to exist as a member of the World Movements.

S. Sielecki, until then chairman of Z.H.P. Middle East, was elected chief of this Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego Poza Granicami Kragu and the Z.H.P.p.g.K. office in London as to be its (temporary) NHQ. Pre-war President Dr M. Grazynski – still in England – agreed to retain his post as a symbol of continuity.
Thereupon the Z.H.P.p.g.K. in London made an appeal to the World Authority of the International Scout Movement to transfer the 1922 recognition to her. But the WAISM could not but remain true to the International Conference decisions taken in 1937 and later reconfirmed in 1947 that only those National Movements could be recognised and registered as WAISM members that operated within the borders of their homelands. (See Chapter I) and so Z.H.P.p.g.K.’s request could not be complied with. The movement led by the Z.H.P.p.g.K. could – on a temporary basis – be granted the status of an “Exile Movement” and as such could be registered with and recognised by the Displaced Persons’ Division of the International Bureau only. This was a great disappointment and thousands of Polish Scouts, all over the world, were placed in an uncertain and difficult position.

But there was another great disappointment to come their way. Polish Scouts Abroad had prepared to participate in the 1947 Jamboree of Peace in Moisson, France, as a section of Z.H.P.’s Homeland contingent. Z.H.P. Warsaw, having retired from the World Movements, no such Homeland Contingent was forthcoming. But the Z.H.P.p.g.K., not yet having been registered as a member of the D.P. Scouts Division, could also not send a contingent to this first post-war Jamboree. Imagine the boys’ disappointment.

Of course Z.H.P.p.g.K. protested vehemently and negotiations and lobbying began in order to influence and alter WAISM’s decisions.

The 11th International Conference WAISM was held in Rosny, Moisson in 1947 (see Chapter I) and laid down the rules for the DP Movements. All Displaced Persons Scout Movements that had come into being in the West German, Austrian and Italian refugee camps were lobbying supported by the
Z.H.P.p.g.K.. Their appeal for recognition was received with great enthusiasm by the Movements of the countries which, during WW II, had also had to endure Nazi occupation and banning. Regretfully they were a minority and when it came to the vote, they were overruled. Yet the problem was such a hot item that in 1947 no final decision was taken and the whole issue of Exile Scouting was postponed until the next Conference at Elvesaeter, Norway in 1949, to be pushed forward again and again. Years of lobbying, talks and negotiations followed. The DP or Exile Movements, in particular Z.H.P.p.g.K., were well aware of the internal troubles the International Conference was having coping with this issue and they knew that they had supporters amongst several National Movements in the IC.

As a result of the International Conference’s indecision the Poles and the other Exile Movements were still able to enjoy the services provided by WAISM and were also still invited to attend the various international events such as the (9th) Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton, Goldfield, England (1957) when World Scouting celebrated its 50th anniversary. As during the 16th International Conference (1957) at Cambridge, England, again no decision was taken Z.H.P.p.g.K. and the others were also represented at the 10th World Jamboree (1959) at Mount Makiling near Manila, Philippines.

The final decision was not taken until the 11th International Conference of 1961 at Lisbon. Until than the Z.H.P.p.g.K. and the other refugee organisations had still been fostering hope that things might end in their favour, but they were to be disappointed. The Exile Movements, as they were now labelled, were given their last chance. viz. an “Associate Membership”. Most Exile Movements were willing to accept it but not so Z.H.P.p.g.K. which was not prepared to accept anything but a full membership with all the full rights and fringes. And so, for many respectable and understandable reasons, Z.H.P.p.g.K. expelled – not only itself, but also the other Exile Movements
from WAISM (since 1963: WOSM) and they were condemned to go it alone. Thousands of good and loyal Scouts, by their own choice, were locked out. A dramatic moment, a black page in World Scouting’s history. long to be remembered by some but soon to be forgotten by others. The sad story and era of The Forgotten Movements had begun. (See Chapter I for more details.)

But the Polish Scouts-in-Exile were undaunted. Disillusioned maybe, very bitter perhaps, but certain that they had made the right choice. And so they carried on and no one could stop them. Z.H.P.p.g.K. organised its own training, its own “national” events, such as Jamborees, and invited the other Exile Movements and – via their NHQ – the Scouts of the various recognised National Movements to participate. Most of the latter responded. Also most of the National Movements, in whose countries the Exile groups were operating, invited the Exiles to come and participate in their national camps, training courses and/or to use their facilities.

In May 1966 the Z.H.P.p.g.K. celebrated the Millennium, the thousand years of Christianity in Poland and 100 of their Scouts went to Rome to visit the Pope.

In 1969 the first Polish World Jamboree was held at the foot of Monte Cassino in Italy, commemorating the brilliant part the Polish Army had played in the Battle for that mountain and monastery in 1944, and remembering those who fell, giving their lives in the fight against Nazism and for the Freedom and Independence of Poland which, regretfully, was not attained.
By that time Z.H.P.p.g.K. had over 13.000 registered members all over the world.

In 1970, during a Supreme Council meeting in London, Dr Grazyinski relinquished his office as legal President and Zygmunt Szadkowski was elected his successor.

The Z.H.P.p.g.K. never gave up its efforts to return to the World Brotherhood of Scouting and Guiding. During the 24th (WOSM) World Conference at Nairobi, Kenya (1973), three – uninvited – Exile leaders were present as observers, hoping to still influence the situation. They even participated in some of the official activities which caused the World Bureau WOSM some distress and the relations, up to that moment rather cordial – turned chilly.

Olga Darhonowska Malkowska, the Polish founder’s widow, had, as mentioned, spent WW II in London and had acted as President of the Z.H.P. National Committee and worked for the WAGGGS as a member of the World Committee. The war over, she did not return to Poland but, as a World Committee member, she was present at the 11th WAGGGS World Conference at Evian, France in 1946. Meanwhile, in England, she ran a home for Polish orphans. In the early sixties, when she was in her seventies, she went back to Poland and made her home in the mountains of Zakopane, where she and Andrzej Markowski had been married in 1913. In 1978, a British Guider – Janette Wylie – and her daughter, a Guide, accompanied Mr Wylie to an international congress at Warsaw. One day the three visited – at Zakopane – a small museum and, to their surprise, found that a very crippled old lady by the name of Malkowska was living in a room in the museum. The name did not ring a bell. When Janette remarked that the old lady spoke very good English, the latter revealed that she had been in England and in particular in a place called Foxlease. Further she said that she had attended various WAGGGS international conferences and that the lady, who had started Polish Guiding,
was still living in Zakopane. When the Guider returned home she looked up the history of Girl Guiding and discovered who this old lady really was. (WAGGGS’ Eurofocus 03/93 no 13.) Olga died on January 15th, 1979, on the sixtieth anniversary of Andrzej’s violent death.

In New York, on November 7th, 1976 the Z.H.P.p.g.K. was one of the Founder Members of the Associated International Scout and Guide Organisations (A.I.S.C.O.) uniting most of the Exile Movements.

In 1976 the Second Polish World Jamboree was held at Kaszuby in Canada and from all over the world Polish Scouts, other Exiles and many friends belonging to National Movements gathered. A strong Z.H.P.p.g.K. was ready to face the developments in Poland to come, though no one knew they were coming nor even dared to expect them.

AN ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE

In 1947 the International Bureau had not accepted the Warsaw notice of withdrawal without further investigation and for some time the bureau was still in communication with the Warsaw Z.H.P. NHQ.

Now the communists, aiming at “World Revolution” and world domination, were trying to get a grip on the youth of the non-communist countries so as to increase their influence and to undermine Freedom and Democracy. The idea they fostered was that, if they were able to have their sovietised Polish (and other) Scout movements recognised, they would be able to not only infiltrate World Scouting and World Guiding, but would indeed have an additional chance to increase their in-
fluence and propaganda and to reach their aim. With this in mind the fellow-travellers, now in charge of Z.H.P. Warsaw were willing to negotiate with the International Bureau. But it did not work out the way they wished it to do. First of all there were Scouting’s International Rules which even their kind of Z.H.P. would have to meet and could not. Secondly the leaders of World Scouting and World Guiding were not born yesterday and by now were well aware of what communism was and aimed at and also of what was going on in Eastern and Central Europe in general and in Z.H.P. in particular.

In 1948 in Jamboree Magazine the Director I. B. Wilson put it as follows:

“In view of statements made in the press and elsewhere, it seems desirable to describe briefly the present relations between World Scouting and Poland.

Negotiations with Poland for recognition of its Scout Association were carried on for some time after the war. The crucial point was that an assurance was required that the Scout Promise and Law in terms acceptable to the International Conference would be the basis of Polish Scouting. In spite of many requests for an answer to an inquiry on this matter, no reply was received from Poland.”

Which ended the matter as far as World Scouting and World Guiding were concerned. Z.H.P.’s notices of withdrawal were accepted.

THE RAPE

And so Z.H.P. in Poland had (not yet) been banned or disbanded but had been infiltrated, mutilated and taken over by the Communist Party, a process which reached its close in winter 1948-1949. Pretence was made that Z.H.P. Warsaw (the name was retained!) was still an authentic Scout Movement and some, inland and abroad, fell for that.

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The original Z.H.P. top, the popular leaders who had led Szare Szeregi and Badz Gotow and had survived, had been removed from office and were replaced by communists and fellow travellers who considered their Z.H.P. activities as an important milestone in their party-career and an approach to higher posts on party, government or civil service level. The imposed age restrictions mentioned had also changed the movement. The Scout Law and the Scout Promise were changed beyond recognition, and later the traditional badges and uniforms were replaced by those copied from the Pioneers of the Soviet Union, the “workers’ paradise.”

AUGUST 1948 BUDAPEST

Since the ending of World War II all over Europe (East, Central and West) certain coteries of men and women were trying to create their ideal of United National Youth Movements with the intent that all existing youth organisations would disband and – under the misleading motto of a National Unity of Youth – would join one new, national youth movement. It was soon found, particularly in the West, that this was mainly the work of communists, disguised or not, or their well-camouflaged fellow-travellers, attempting to increase not only their party’s grip and influence on youth, but also the Soviet Union’s. These efforts were seen through almost everywhere, be it that in the Free West the intent failed almost completely, whereas in Eastern and Central Europe the Red Army’s presence added pressure and stifled all resistance.

The ZMP – Związek Młodzieży Polskiego (Polish Youth Union), the overall institution comprising and ruling all Youth organisations was a strict copy of the Soviet Union’s Komsomol. The ZMP in turn was a member of the International Committee of (Communist) Children’s and Adolescents’ Movements (CIMEA), a federation of all the overall Youth Organisations in the De-
mocratic People’s Republics and the Communist Youth Organisations in the Free Western Countries.

In August, 1948 the CIMEA (CIMEA) staged a well organised and well directed enormous public meeting in Budapest-Hungary. Its movements in the western countries were also well represented. World Scouting and World Guiding were one of the topics on the agenda and they were discussed, the verdict being:

The Scout Movement, founded by the English General Baden Powell, is one of the methods of the ruling bourgeoisie to distract the attention of youth from the just fight of the working class against their capitalist exploiters. By means of false slogans and mottoes of patriotism and brotherhood of mankind, Scouting is misleading youthful thinking and, by stressing Anglo-Saxon culture and its way of living, deprives youth of their national and class pride.”

A vote was taken and with the usual 100% majority, so typical for communist meetings, condemned World Scouting and World Guiding and the official open fight was launched against both, the natural enemies not only of the communist world but of the workers of all the countries not yet benefiting of the blessings and advantages of communism.

Now the destruction of Scouting in the Free Countries was not going to be all that easy, but the movements, still active and prospering in some of the Soviet ruled countries, were an easy prey and soon experienced the consequences. In 1948 the Scout and Guide Movements of Hungary and Czechoslovakia were banned and disbanded and made liable to persecution. Continuation of the activities, in whichever disguise, was punishable and was indeed punished. Leaders were arrested, jailed and/or dispatched to re-education camps, not much better than concentration camps.
But in Poland Z.H.P., though hollowed out, was not banned, which was not surprising as the take-over process, mentioned earlier, was in full swing. That did not mean that in its ranks there were no real Scouts and real Scout leaders left and that all resistance had died down.

In 1949 the bureaucrats in charge of the organisation thought it proper that in ZMP’s framework, its members would have to march in the (political) May Day Parade. The Scouts assigned to this task remembered that this day was the “Day of the International Solidarity of All Workers” and during the march they felt entitled to unfold and carry the national colours of the major Western countries. This was not the communist party’s and government’s intention but could not be stopped during the parade. So the authorities were very angry and, since there was no longer any need to pretend, this was the end.

The movement came under the ZMP and finally, in 1950, it became a kind of youngest part of same and the name was changed to O.H.P.L. Organizacja Harcerska Polski Ludowej – Scout Organisation of the Polish Republic. Though the word Harcerska was still used this organisation had nothing in common with Polish Scouting as it had ever been. Z.H.P. had ceased to exist in Poland.

It is, however, of importance to bear in mind that Z.H.P. was never disbanded, nor banned, just taken over and misused.

UNDERGROUND SCOUTING

But was this the end of Polish Scouting?

Considering the Polish character in general and that of Polish Scouting in particular it was only to be expected, and not at all surprising, that the Poles resisted this new suppression of an attack on their freedom even though this time the suppression
was not so much by a foreign power as by fellow-countrymen, backed by the Soviet Union and its Red Army’s bayonets.

No one in Western Scouting familiar with Polish Scouting’s attitude and exploits during the Nazi occupation could believe that the Scouts would not resist and would not go underground to carry on. And indeed news of such activities soon reached Z.H.P.p.g.K. as well as the International Bureaux in London and some of the Western Scout Movements. The top leadership, removed from office, perhaps had to take a low profile as no doubt their every step and more was being watched by a zealous secret police, who, consisting of Poles too, was even more dangerous than the Gestapo or the Soviet Secret Police had ever been. Scout leaders having been expelled from their groups also had to be careful, but yet, in some places, in different disguises, for instance as nature study groups, real Scouting continued illegally. All over the country illegal groups sprang up like crocuses in the spring time.

The policing of the population was almost complete. Not one single social group escaped the omnipresent Party State’s rule. No autonomous organisation remained, no form of social life existed which was not governed and controlled; all that remained of civil society took refuge in the conscience, in religion, in internalised ethical and social values and, finally, in the family which continued to exist and resist.” (Miklos Molnar: Democracy Rises In The East, 1989.)

For the upholding of Poland’s independence and the restoration of its Freedom, countries like France and Great Britain had gone to war in 1939. That war was won, but the benefits had not gone to Poland, which was still not free and independent in name only.
INTERLUDE 1956 – 1979

Unrest

Not only the Poles were dissatisfied and fed up with their regime. Particularly those Eastern and Central European countries, who in better times – before WW II – had known democracy and independence, were restless, each one being a powder keg and only a small spark was needed to cause a major explosion of pent-up anger and frustration. In 1953 Josif Vissarionovitsj Dzjugasjvili, better known as Joseph Stalin, the Russian dictator and the master of the communist world, died. Ruthlessly he had reigned with an iron fist. He disposed of everybody suspected of opposing him, including his closest collaborators. During the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1956), his successor Nikita Chrustsjev publicly criticised Stalin and it so seemed as if a period of relative liberalisation set in. In the suppressed nations the Stalinist masters were replaced by more liberal minded ones. In Hungary this lead to an armed revolt in 1956, which more or less coincided with a period of general unrest and strikes in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Poland’s Soviet “manager” Boleslaw Bierut, who has been mentioned before, faced the possibility of an Hungarian style revolt or immediate abdication. The party chose the latter and he was replaced by Władysław Gomułka. Unlike Beirut, who had spent WW II in Moscow, Gomulka had been a leader of the Communist Partisans. In 1945 he was appointed vice-prime minister in the Government of National Unity but – being a Pole in the first place – because of his independent, liberal attitude he soon fell in disgrace and, by Moscow’s orders, was arrested, tried, condemned and sent to prison in 1948. In spite of his experiences he remained a communist idealist and in 1956 when he was suddenly released from prison and publicly rehabilitated he thereupon had to succeed the very unpopular Beirut as leader of the country and the party. This
saved Poland a drama Hungarian style as, considering the nation’s dissatisfaction and by now open protest, his new government launched a policy of apparent leniency and relative liberalisation.

Z.H.P. – 1956

The opportunities thus offered were seized and everybody made the most of it, including the Scouts.

O.H.P.L. gradually stopped pretending to be a Scout movement.

But once again Scouting proved its will and power of survival. The Scout leaders, having been expelled by the communists, and having formed illegal Scouting, now surfaced. But there were also others who, disguised as leaders of the O.H.P.L., in their groups had secretly carried on Scouting and now did so more openly. These loyal men and women enthusiastically called a national meeting and in the historic city of Łódz they met in December 1956.

It was decided to “Revive” Z.H.P. Scouting. Please note that they chose the word “Revive” and not “Refound”, as in their opinion Z.H.P. – founded 1918 – had never been banned and disbanded but had only been taken over and misused by the communists. So what they did was re-take possession of the name Z.H.P. and re-introduce authentic Scouting, pure, non-political, fully independent, with the original Promise and Law, the uniforms and the badges. Professor Andrzej Kaminski, a Scout of great standing and experience, a former NHQ commissioner, and a leader of the Szare Szeregi, and who was popular and of undefiled repute, was elected President of the Supreme Council of this revived Z.H.P.

(Note: From now on this Z.H.P. will be referred to as Z.H.P. – 1956. This is not meant to be an “abusive name” having a negative connotation, but must be seen as a means to prevent
confusion in the minds of the non-Polish readers, for the bene-
fit and information of those for whom this study was written.)

Z.H.P. – 1956 carefully approached the Z.H.P.p.g.K. in Lon-
don. But the latter having its doubts as to whether a return to
authentic, independent Scouting methods with the traditional
Scout Promise and Law would really be possible in an, after
all, still communist state, was reluctant and seemed not to be
able to share the enthusiasm Z.H.P. – 1956 displayed. So the
relationship between the two Z.H.P.s remained lukewarm and
without real commitment though London gave some assis-
tance. The Z.H.P.1956 enthusiasts no doubt experienced this
as a cold shower.

Z.H.P. – 1956 also reported back to the International Bureaux
of the two World Movement. But these also preferred to tread
lightly and to watch the developments. They too doubted very
much whether in a still communist and atheist Poland it would
be possible to incorporate “Loyalty to God” in the Scout Prom-
ise. But both institutions sent “Fact Finding Missions” to War-
saw to investigate and these were enthusiastically welcomed
with open arms. Some of the Western National Scout and
Guide Movements (e.g. West Germany, Sweden, France and
Austria) were less reserved in their attitudes and opened up
direct communications with Z.H.P. – 1956.

Most parents preferred their children to be in Scouting rather
than in the Z.M.P. A preference which was greatly promoted
and encouraged by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church
and the other religions and so thousands of boys and girls
joined the movement, desiring to be Scouts again and to wear
the old, traditional green/grey Polish Scout uniforms and
headgear. The boys the green four- cornered square Scout
cap and for the girls the same was also introduced be it in
grey. Each groups had its own scarf.
Z.H.P. – 1956 reintroduced with pride the Krzyz Harcerski, which had been abolished by the O.H.P.L. Some real Scouting literature was produced and published. The proficiency badges’ system was also reintroduced. A new cadre of Scout leaders (female and male) was trained by reliable leaders.

All seemed well but regretfully did not end well.

In their enthusiasm the Z.H.P. – 1956 members repressed the thought that it might be possible that one day, the Communist Party and Government, having recovered from the 1956 shock and back on its feet again, might wish to get a new grip on the movement. And indeed what the Z.H.P. p.g.K. in London and the World Movements had foreseen and feared was about to happen. The Communist Party control, initially nonexistent was reintroduced step by step, ever so slowly but definitely.

In 1958-1959 history repeated itself and a large number of Scout leaders was once again removed from their posts including Prof. Dr Andrzej Kamiński, who, as an extra punishment, was also relieved from his post as Dean of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Wroclaw. Still well remembered and honoured by all Scouts, he passed on on March 15th, 1978.

And so, on NHQ, county, and district level lots of the real Scout leaders were once again replaced by communists or fellow-travellers. Some
leaders working in the groups were also expelled or left be it in a far lesser degree. The Party had decided not to make the same mistake for the second time. Z.H.P. – 1956 was not to be banned or disbanded. The Scouting methods were not to be (immediately) replaced by the Pioneer system, but this time the Scouting training was to be used as a means to sovietise the young Poles.

“External marks (terms, symbols, badges, uniforms (A) were maintained, but the principles of Scouting were modified to meet the requirements of a mass organisation: renunciation of spiritual development, dependency vis-à-vis the Communist party, absence of voluntary membership (all school children were obliged to be members of the official youth movements, including Z.H.P. – 1956) (B) bureaucratisation and absence of democratic functioning. On the international front Z.H.P. – 1956 again belonged to the International Committee of Children’s and Adolescent’s Movements, the purpose of which was to federate all national Pioneer organisations” (Dominique Bénard, European Scout Office-WOSM, report 21/12/1990).

On two points Dominique Bénard was misled.
A) After the second communist take-over the older Scouts (girls and boys) were organised into the H.S.P.S. or Harcerska Sluzba Polsce Socjalistycznej (Scout Service for Socialist Poland). For some years these older Scouts and Guides wore different uniforms: green trousers or skirts and light-brown blouses with red scarves and red berets. (Some, participating in the Nijmegen 4 day long distance marches in 1989 were thus dressed.)

B) This was incorrect. In the years 1950-1956 all school-children were obliged to be members of the official youth organisations. But after the liberalisation of 1956 this no longer applied and membership of Z.H.P. – 1956 was voluntary. Yet Z.H.P. – 1956 was still a
mass-organisation, especially in the primary schools because the tradition of previous years still persisted in the minds of the headmasters who often tried to have as many children as possible belonging to the Z.H.P.1956 groups in their schools.

After the 1958-1959 take-over, ZHP – 1956 thereafter was meant to exist primarily as a replacement of the Pioneer organisation, which had been disbanded.

Thus at first it tried to eliminate the Scouting movement altogether, which failed as it survived again as Z.H.P. – 1956, then to impose upon Z.H.P. – 1956 an alien form and substance and finally to arrogate the name and the symbols while distorting the basic ideological and programmatic principles.

In 1979 Z.H.P. – 1956 was again at its closest in spirit and methodology to the Soviet Pioneers. Yet the Scouting techniques were of high standards and quality and the handbooks were very much like those used by the Free World Scout and Guide movements. This was an attempt to appease the members and – to the outside world – let Z.H.P. – 1956 still look very much like a real Scout movement, and a “return to authentic Scouting”.

So the high hopes of the 1956 enthusiasts were shattered once again. The take-over was a fact and, from the government’s and party’s view, such a success that the party did not regret the disbanding of the Pioneers. Z.H.P.1956 thus became the one and only authorised youth movement and had the monopoly on the state subsidies which were considerable, be it that about 2,000 professionals absorbed a large part of the resources. In 1979 the movement could claim nearly 3 million members, viz. 1.1 million cub Scouts, 1.2 million Scouts (boys and girls), 800,000 senior Scouts and 150,000 Scout leaders (male and female).
Yet all of these measures failed because the ideas of Scouting itself proved strong enough. Most of the leaders forced to retire carried on illegally. Others, permitted to stay, sabotaged and carried on Scouting as it should be. And so, an underground movement of real Scouts existed within as well as outside the movement which would re-emerge spontaneously at the first sign of liberalisation.

But of course Z.H.P. – 1956 was not a member of the two World Movements and consequently was not invited to attend the various international meetings, Jamborees etc. organised by same. But some of the National Movements in Western and Northern Europe, even at this stage of developments, were still in contact and so it could happen that some Polish troops, no doubt carefully selected, were permitted to attend National camps in various western countries. The hosts could not but establish that such troops were good troops with high technical standards in no respect different from genuine western Scout troops. On such occasions the Poles kept the political side of Z.H.P. – 1956 very carefully in the background, and – when asked – the matter was played down as being negligible. Of course the host movements must have had some inkling of the real situation but, very rightly, advanced the motive that they provided these Z.H.P – 1956 kids with a fine opportunity to taste western, free and authentic Scouting. This was praiseworthy and – in later years – paid dividends.

A POLITICAL ORGANISATION?

Particularly after 1989, Z.H.P – 1956 was accused of being a communist movement. It certainly cannot be denied that the
professionals, the bureaucrats in charge, operating the NHQ were party members, die-hard communists or dyed-in-the wool opportunists. Also it cannot be denied that Z.H.P. – 1956, after the 1958/1959 take-over was an instrument used by the Party and the Government to indoctrinate Polish youngsters with communist ideas and ideals. But did it really work that way and did it really have the effect the communists desired?

It can also not be denied that the Party’s attempts were greatly thwarted by the steadfastness and loyalty to authentic Scouting of many leaders within the movement. The bureaucratic structure of same was so complicated that those at the top, behind their desks and telephones, were not always aware of what exactly was going on at the grass roots level which was a level difficult to control. Particularly in the urban areas not all the leaders, loyal to real Scouting, had been expelled and were still active in the units. Had they been, the movement would simply have collapsed and so they could not be spared. Now most of these leaders, were, despite everything, very much aware of their obligations towards the youngsters entrusted to their care and leadership and so, however much they objected to the whole situation, they stayed at their posts, not collaborating but ignoring and sabotaging – as much as possible – the directives received from the bureaucrats in Warsaw. They did their best to stick to authentic Scouting and to avoid the total indoctrination of the youngsters by keeping alive the traditions and rules of traditional Scouting. This was not easy. It was sabotage and not without personal risk but the training they gave was such that a sound basis was laid and a cadre was developed from which later the leaders of the 1989 change were to come forward.

“Furthermore it should be pointed out that all the leaders of the alternative associations come from the ranks of Z.H.P. – 1956, within which they were able to discover Scouting and be trained. Contacts with Z.H.P. –
1956 groups at grass-root level enabled them to see how Scouting should be practised.” (Dominique Bénard, ESO/ WOSM, report 21/12/1990.)

No doubt some of these leaders, having been detected, were later expelled and replaced by others, but not all of them.

THE SCHOOLTEACHERS

Throughout the history of Polish Scouting Schoolteachers had always made up a pretty large percentage of its leaders, particularly so in the girls’ section. From the beginning of the twenties special training courses were organised for teachers, male and female. This was necessary to provide leaders for groups to be founded in small villages and country areas. This tradition did not die but faded away after the 1949 party’s take-over. But in the Organizacja Harcerska Polski Ludowej or O.H.P.L. in the years 1950-1956, when membership was compulsory for children, each primary school class became a “troop” and teachers became – sometimes rather reluctantly – O.H.P.L. leaders.

When ZHP – 1956 was established lots of people who had been leaders, Scouts or Guides before WW II, and those who, in Underground Scouting (1939-1945) and during the short relatively free period of 1945-1948 had been trained to become leaders, returned to Z.H.P. 1956. As mentioned, after the changes of 1958 some leaders left the organisation, lots were expelled and some stayed on. Where to find the replacements and also new leaders? The Warsaw bureaucrats found an amazing solution. The schoolteachers and students of pedagogical departments! Those students having the vocation of becoming schoolteachers were neither all of them communists nor party members, nor were they all interested in Z.H.P. – 1956’s activities. Whether the Party really believed that during their studies the students could be turned into convinced and loyal communists is not known but at least they were supposed to become an instrument in the indoctrination
of the pupils. Now as part of their schoolteacher’s education they also had to undergo a three month Scout training, whether they liked it or not. Their final examinations also demanded proof of their abilities in and knowledge of Scouting techniques and proficiencies. Having passed the tests successfully they were given their teacher’s certificate and their Scout leader’s Warrant. Whereupon they were appointed to some school and at the same time were allotted to the local Scout group near that or attached to that school.

Compulsory leadership, what a brilliant but foolish idea! (Approximately half of the 150,000 Z.H.P. – 1956 leaders were schoolteachers.)

As was only to be expected not all of them were really interested in Scouting and so they were not involved emotionally. Their attitude was one of total indifference. Those being convinced communists may have displayed a fanatical leadership, not – however – aimed at good Scouting but at educating good party members. Yet there were also some who got really interested and later developed into really good Scout leaders.

Particularly the Z.H.P. – 1956 groups in the rural areas depended mainly on the schoolteachers, but were often run like general juvenile activity clubs dressed in a uniform but a far cry from authentic Scouting. But in the urban regions most of the groups had real Scout leaders and were very close to authentic Scouting.

So, generally speaking, the Z.H.P. – 1956 leaders could be roughly divided in three fractions:

a) the real, true Scout leaders, not having been expelled, who rejected and strongly opposed the ideas and methods introduced by “the top” and stuck to real Scouting as much as possible. They were the ones that were to play an important part in the future.
b) the leaders chosen and trained by “the top” and sometimes convinced communists or at least fellow-travellers.

c) those in the middle. Either with no interest at all and just doing things because they had to or some who wanted to work with kids but did not really understand what was being done by their superiors and did not understand the changes taking place in their own attitudes.

A GLIMMER OF HOPE

In October 1978 the Polish Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, was – unexpectedly – elected head of the Roman Catholic Church and as Pope John Paul II settled in the Vatican. The Poles – not the Roman Catholics amongst them only – were delighted and rejoiced. The Party and the Government were less enthusiast and with good reason. The new Pope’s first official visit to his homeland in 1979 broke the bond of fear through which the communists had ruled for so long and had maintained their power.

This visit also precipitated and ushered in a new period in Polish history; the events of the memorable year of 1980, which also brought the creation and birth of the Free Trade Union Solidarnosc, whose leader and founder was the – until then – unknown shipyard worker and electrician Lech Walensa, in later years to be the first non-communist President of the Republic.

But the Pope’s first visit also caused a panic amongst the Z.H.P.– 1956 bureaucrats, who had long since lost real contact with the movement’s grass-root level. They were amazed to find that several thousands of Scouts of “their” organisation attended the various religious services and even participated in the organising of such events. This happened without Z.H.P.– 1956’s knowledge let alone consent, which of course
would never have been granted. The Warsaw NHQ hit back by expelling not only many leaders but also by disbanding groups which had been involved. But only a limited number as otherwise the “Top” would have lost its face.

It must have been quite a shock to be faced with the reality that, despite the efforts of years, the Z.H.P. – 1956 top had not been able to destroy real Scouting in the ranks. Like most of the servants of authoritarian and/or dictatorial systems they had not been aware that since the end of the 1956’s liberalisation and the communist take-over of Z.H.P. – 1956 in 1958-1959, a new phenomenon had presented itself in the very ranks, viz. that of an illegal Scout Movement within the Movement which had become the principal pillar of resistance of Scout leaders, strongly supported by the Roman Catholic Church and other patriots, including the expelled Scout leaders and other anti-Communist supporters of authentic Scouting such as the “former” or “old” Scouts and Guides.

The “expelled” leaders had kept contact with their groups, with the other good and loyal leaders on group level who had remained active. Gradually a network of clandestine relations was woven which expanded slowly reaching its top when Cardinal Wojtyla was elected Pope.

It was this Movement within the organisation that helped organise the Papal visits of 1979 and after. It was the discovery of same which woke up the Top-bureaucrats from their slumbers and made them face reality. The indoctrination had been a flop.

By then it was too late to stop this clandestine movement. Initially individuals belonged to it, later whole groups and districts joined. 
In the Clandestine Movement the original, traditional Scout Promise and Scout Law were re-introduced and the members distinguished themselves by wearing – on their uniforms – a
tiny, copper badge with the authentic Promise and Law engraved. Those involved considered their return to the authentic Promise and Law as an open and true act of resistance and liberation.

“In 1980 the “underground” Scout leaders of Warsaw obtained permission from the Church for a text of the Promise and Law to be engraved on the wall of a Franciscan Cloister in the heart of the old town. From then on this spot became the meeting place for “true” Scouts for all collective ceremonies and celebrations (investitures, marriages of leaders, etc. etc.)” (Dominique Bénard, (E.S.O./WOSM) 26/04/90 – Report on the Mission to Poland, 05-09/01/1990.)

THE SOLIDARITY PERIOD 1979 - 1981

Since 1947, with an arrogance and haughtiness bordering on megalomania, the Communists and their regime, had ignored the freedom, the wishes and desires of the people, and were now confronted by the nation’s pent-up rage and the loud cry for Freedom.

The Free Trade Union Solidarnosc became a power not to be neglected nor ignored, though at first it was. Early 1981 it had a registered membership of 10 million members and had attracted international attention and, above all, support.

1979 – 1981 was a period of relative freedom enjoyed by the Poles from which authentic Scouting benefited. In Z.H.P. – 1956 “illegal” Scouts were operating, but many more “illegal” groups existed outside its organisation. The latter benefited the most from the fourteen months of national survival under the aegis of the Independent Trade Union Solidarnosc.

In August 1980 the expelled but also the real Scout leaders still active in Z.H.P. – 1956, with Solidarnosc’s support, raised demands for a return to the basics of real and authentic
Scouting without party- political influence and indoctrination, fully democratic and independent, in every respect: a Scout Movement meeting all the World Movements’ demands. The campaign was spearheaded by young, enthusiast, real Scout leaders including those who had stomached Z.H.P. – 1956 for so long in order to protect Scouts and real Scouting, which they had continued and preserved.

KIHAMS

A large number of “illegal” groups within ZHP –1956 identified themselves with Andrzej Malkowski, the founder of Polish Scouting. And so Kregi Instruktorow Harcerskich Im Andrezej Malkowskiego (Andrzej Malkowski Scout leaders’ Circles) or Kiham for short came into being in September, 1980. They became an open opposition within Z.H.P. – 1956 centralised in the form of their “Consultative Body”. The Kihams returned to authentic Scouting, more discipline, including a ban on smoking and drinking, and to more patriotic ideals. They focused on traditional Scouting activities such as hiking and camping and they were having national summer camps and training courses for leaders. They also formed discussion and action circles which were real “think-tanks” producing new and fresh ideas for new training methods and the implementation of the international ideals and systems.

But they also considered Z.H.P. – 1956 as to be their Movement and not the communists’. They simply wanted to take repossession of what was morally theirs. Their wish was to reform their Z.H.P. – 1956, not to cede from it, not to found new, separate movements. Reformation and removal of things (persons and methods) that did not belong in a real Scout movement was their sole aim. The Kihams tried to get in touch with and to embrace all opposition in Z.H.P – 1956. Their sphere of activity became wider and wider and they influenced, in an indirect way, by their very existence and by their promotion of the traditional Scout programme, even the
areas they did not reach organisationally. By realising a rival program they even affected the Z.H.P. – 1956’s formal structures.

Again these Kihams could count on the wholehearted support of the other “illegal” groups outside Z.H.P. – 1956, Solidarnosc, the Roman Catholic and other Churches and many others, at home and abroad.

As was only to be expected the Kihams also made contact with the Z.H.P.p.g.K. in London, and strong links were forced. The Kihams asked for support, advice and above all leadership, which were gladly provided. Z.H.P.p.g.K. leaders visited Poland and Kiham leaders were invited to come to England and to participate in the excellent training courses that Z.H.P.p.g.K. provided for its own leaders from all over the world. The Kihams also restored the connections with the World Bureaux WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London. These sent several “Fact-Finding-Missions” to Poland to investigate what was exactly going on.

The early Solidarnosc period also had a purifying effect on the communist organisations in general. Early 1980 the State – that is – Party controlled ZHP – 1956 had over 3 million members. Of these about 1.1 million Cub Scouts, 1.2 million Scouts and Guides, 800,000 Senior Scouts and 150,000 Scout leaders, approximately half of the latter schoolteachers – even though Z.H.P. – 1956 had not been compulsory. When the political situation in Poland changed, and the government, under the pressure of the circumstances prevailing, had lifted several obligations, some boys and girls but also many schoolteachers – without a Scouting vocation – re-took their personal liberty and left. Those remaining, boys, girls and leaders (about 2 millions) were of good quality and really interested in Scouting, be it that they still could be divided into two separate groups:
a) those in favour of authentic Scouting as per the World organisation rules, and mainly in Kiham.

b) those loyal to the Z.H.P. bureaucrats, the Party and the Government, mainly communists or fellow-travellers, wishing to maintain things as they were.

Government and Party were surprised and disappointed by Solidarnosc’s successes, rapid growth, influence and popularity. The Z.H.P. – 1956 party appointed, bureaucratic leadership in their Warsaw NHQ were startled and shocked, by Kiham’s demands, growth and influence. Yet they were not ready to give in. They had woken up with a shock and contemplated that something had to be done to preserve their well paid, comfortable employment. Besides they were confronted once more by the indication that the communist indoctrination of the young had totally failed as it was them that revolted again.

They decided the best policy was the making of promises, postponement and delay, meanwhile hoping for a miracle which might save them.

Under mounting pressure on March 18th, 1981, Z.H.P. – 1956’s 7th National Scout Leaders Congress was called. Despite Kiham’s protests, the party appointed apparat managed to keep the statutes and the bulk of the party ideology intact. They also succeeded in maintaining the majority in the overall leadership though some Kihams were granted a few, mostly symbolic, unimportant posts in the Supreme Council, where they could do little harm. And so the communists won the day. But the conflict had not been solved and persisted after the congress. The main points of discord being over tolerance of religious practice, the Scout Promise and Law (Duty to God) and Z.H.P–1956’s continued dependence of and subservience to the Communist Party. The dispute became focused on the rival texts of the Scout Promise. Finally this led to Kiham’s National Council recommending its members to adopt a ver-
sion of the Promise differing from Z.H.P – 1956’s in that it simply pledged to “serve one’s country and other people” dropping the oath of allegiance to communism and its imperatives but also not re-introducing the “Duty to God”.

Z.H.P. – 1956’s stubbornness, inertia and unwillingness to really change anything, least of all to return to authentic, non-political Scouting, made a small number of the Kiham groups, in the big cities in particular, secede from Z.H.P. – 1956 and to found an Independent Authentic Scout Movement outside it. It gained influence and importance and, as always, could rely on Solidarnosc’s wholehearted support and the RC Church’s consent. Faced with this reality and the possible desertion of all of Kiham’s units, who were by now the driving force of Scouting activity throughout the country, the Z.H.P. – 1956 authorities – against their will, conviction and interests – were once again forced to face the unpleasant hard facts and to re-open negotiations once more.

The shrewd, politically well trained Z.H.P. – 1956 top did not panic, yet was obliged to call a new Supreme Council meeting at Bydgoszcz, a city in northern Poland, to begin on December 11th, 1981 and to end on December 13th, 1981.

At that time a WOSM delegation, composed of the International Commissioners of several West European National Movements, was to visit Poland and was supposed to arrive in Warsaw in the early morning hours of December 13th.
On the 12th the negotiations on the subject of the Scout Promise were so far advanced that a compromise solution was found, allowing the interim use of the two texts. Other important improvements and changes were also promised and the Z.H.P. – 1956 top was ever so lenient and easy going. Promises, promises . . . but

STAN WOJENNY – MARTIAL LAW

The political situation in Poland had become tenser and tenser and the conflict between the communist Government and Solidarnosc was aggravated.

In the night of December 12th – 13th, 1981, the military, under Moscow’s direction, pressure and threats, committed a coup-d’état led by General Jaruzelski. He declared Martial Law and War on the Polish people. This was the end of another period of liberalisation and the return to suppression. Solidarnosc was outlawed and banned. During the very night most of its leaders – if at home and caught – were arrested and jailed. Other free organisations, which had emerged in the Free Trade Union’s wake, were also disbanded. A firm stop was put to all hopeful experiments. The balance of power had changed overnight. Poland was back to square one.

Later it was often said that Z.H.P. – 1956’s leadership had been forewarned, that they had known what was going to happen that night and that that was the explanation of their apparent leniency on December 11th and 12th. But that was not the case. The coup d’état came as a surprise to them as well as to all other Poles, but no doubt also as a relief. They must have felt saved by the bell and again certain of their ground.

And so, in the early morning of December 13th the congress was not resumed. All Council members left for their home towns. The airports having been closed the WOSM “Fact Find-
ing Mission” of observers, mentioned above, could not fly to Warsaw. Some, like the Dutch International Commissioner got the news when they checked in at their local airport. Later the Z.H.P. – 1956’s top sent an “Appeal to Scout Leaders” saying that for the Scouts “the good of the People’s Republic is the highest Law” and declaring Z.H.P. – 1956’s full support for the brand new Military Council of National Salvation, the military dictatorship, for the sake of “protecting our children and young people, the nation’s greatest treasure.”

It is hardly surprising that after this declaration of loyalty Z.H.P. – 1956 was not suspended by the military, on the contrary, was given substantial support under one condition only: the military demanded strict respect for and the maintenance of the organisation’s original statutes and the legal resumption of the movement’s activities. Of course Z.H.P. – 1956’s top, which had been balancing on the edge, was relieved, only too willing to oblige and immediately resumed its old attitude and tactics rejecting all renewals.

“Z.H.P. – 1956 was one of the few organisations permitted to continue their operating. The prevailing conditions of work were difficult. One may note, among other grave problems, that of communications; telephones were initially blocked and then worked badly, and letters circulated with hopeless slowness. Under these conditions a large part of the Scout groups started to lead their own life and developing their own values and methods of Scout work.” (WOSM, Geneva, Situation Report, June 1989.)

The Poles were stunned, shocked and disappointed but not for long and soon the everlasting spirit of resistance, so prominent in the nation’s character, re-emerged. Also in Scouting.

“The Z.H.P. – 1956 Headquarters was certainly aware of this situation but could do little to reverse the trend. Some efforts to restore discipline – for instance the removal of Scout leaders for bringing their groups to reli-
igious services – did not improve the situation at all. Religion remained the main problem of the discord” (WOSM, Geneva, Situation Report, June 1989.)

So, to its dismay and anger Z.H.P. – 1956’s top found that there was still discontent and rebellion in the ranks, though the Kihams had decided to officially disband. But – like Solidarnosc – some of them continued illegally.

The Martial Law of December 1981 was followed by 7 years of military/communist dictatorship, repression and immobilisation. The economic situation deteriorated, the nation protested more and more openly and Solidarnosc operated as if it had never been banned and disbanded.

PERESTROIKA AND GLASNOST

On March 11th, 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev was appointed Secretary General of the USSR’s Communist Party. From that moment on he was the most powerful and influential leader, not only in the Soviet Union but in the communist ruled part of the world. He surprised the world by gradually introducing Perestroika (Renewal) and Glasnost (Openness). This would lead to the collapse of the communist system, the fall of the communist regimes, the dropping of the Iron Curtain, the tumbling down of the Berlin Wall (1989), and the end of the Cold War. Which, however, no one knew at the time.

It also meant a return to freedom for most of the Eastern and Central European countries, but also the beginning of a period of tumultuous near chaotic years of reform as most of them had never in their history ever before known democracy, did not know what the word stood for and were yet now supposed to introduce the system.

The various communist satellite regimes soon found that they could no longer rely on the USSR’s and the Red Army’s support to suppress their populations and to keep their positions.
Mikhail Gorbachev bluntly told them that from then on they would have to paddle their own canoes and to keep them floating. Most of the regimes concerned were on – or already over – the edge of a serious economic crisis, facing people that had had more than enough and was demanding changes and liberty. Mikhail Gorbachev was very popular in the East Block countries, be it not with the governments.

The Polish military government was at its wit’s end and in its despair approached the still banned and still very much illegal Solidarnosc and others representing the opposition and invited them to share the government. Which Solidarnosc refused to do, instead demanding truly free elections. The military, also facing discontent in the lower army ranks, gave in and on June 4th and 18th, 1989 the first real free elections since before 1939 were held and won by Solidarnosc, which – strangely enough – astonished government and party.

It should be noted that the transition that followed was not a violent one but a very democratic one; the result of free elections. So the communists, who had been in power for so long, were – as a party – peacefully removed from office, (what the Czechoslovaks called “A Velvet Revolution”) but as individual civil servants etc. kept their seats of which they could only be relieved and/or removed from gradually by democratic means, which is, no doubt about it, a slow process. The more so as classified, well trained successors were not always available immediately.

This also meant that the Z.H.P. – 1956 NHQ staff was also not removed by force and consequently was able to stay where it was. It was clever enough to fathom the alterations that were to come and the inevitable reality that this time they would not very likely be saved again by either the military or the party. Yet it was decided to stay on, not to give in, to struggle on and to fight a rear guard battle to maintain that position.
R.H.R. – A MOVEMENT WITHIN THE ORGANISATION

As early as almost immediately after the Martial Law of December 13th, 1981, a number of Scout and Guide leaders started what one might call a conspiracy or an opposition within Z.H.P. – 1956. Its support grew stronger and stronger and finally comprised more than 20,000 Guides and Scouts. Later they named themselves R.H. (Ruch Harcerski) or Scout Movement and later still R.H.R. or Ruch Harcerski Rzeczypospolitej (the Republic’s Scout Movement). Its Central Leadership as well as the leadership of the various regions worked in strict secrecy, but less so at the grass-root levels, and as time progressed R.H.R. activities became more and more open. Like the previous Kihams, the R.H.R.s considered Z.H.P. – 1956 as being their movement and all they wanted was to take it back from the communists and to reform it into a genuine, authentic Scout movement again. They certainly did not intend to cede from Z.H.P. – 1956.

Finally its actions became mass-manifestations such as the “White Service” during the ceremonies of the Papal visit to Tarnow in 1987 (which was officially ignored by government and party) and the order-keeping duties during the burial of Ponury, a WW II hero whose remains were brought to his native region of Kielce from the place where, during the war, he had been killed in action and had rested in foreign soil.

R.H.R. worked in complete accordance with the traditional Scout ideals and the authentic Scout methods and thus influenced positively (like the Kihams in the past) the Z.H.P. – 1956 units not (yet) belonging to the conspiracy. But R.H.R. also made contact with the Polish Government in Exile (since 1945 still residing in London!), the Vatican and Z.H.P.p.g.K in London. The latter led to a troop representing R.H.R. participating illegally in the Z.H.P.p.g.K.’s 1988 National Camp in the U.S.A., named Rising Sun.
The Z.H.P. – 1956’s top was enraged to such an extent that it went as far as to deliver photographs of Scouts participating in the above “illegal” activities to the communist secret police. The latter acted in the traditional way. Also it put its spies and “plants” into R.H.R., with instructions to disrupt, sabotage and to sow disunion and confusion in the ranks. This plan worked to the extent that the R.H.R. opposition in Z.H.P. – 1956, once so firm and united, split in various fractions. Some of these fractions, being impatient, decided, in contrast to their original plan to reform Z.H.P. – 1956 from within, to secede from the latter. Regrettably the “impatient” overlooked the fact that secession also means becoming an outsider and thus losing all influence. They forgot that, if you want to change things, it is mostly much better to stay and fight for one’s principles than to run away and “bark at the tree” without any influence at all.

And so new Scout Movements were founded such as the Z.H.R., (Zwiazek Harcerstwa Rzeczpopolitej) or Union of Scouts of the Republic on February 25th, 1989. Others, expelled by Z.H.P. – 1956 had also carried on on their own and so were founded independent organisations such as the N.R.H. (Niezalezny Ruch Harcerski or Independent Scout Movement) the P.O.H. (Polska Organizacja Harcerska or Polish Scout Organisation). The P.O.H. was mainly operating in the Konin region between Warsaw and Poznan, and was an organisation open to people of all denominations but strictly non-coeducational. Initially it had a membership of about 2000.
Still another was the Stowarzyszenie Harcerstwa Katolickiego Zwawisza. a strictly Roman Catholic organisation and of course non-coeducational. Whereas the other new movements used the Z.H.P. – 1956’s uniform, which was the original Z.H.P.’s the Zwawisza was the only one to introduce a deviant one of its own design. Apart from the new movements mentioned there were some other, smaller ones, e.g. the H.L. (Harcestwo Liturgiczne or the Liturgical Scout Movement) at Lublin.

“Why,” so might one (as an outsider) ask “so many new movements?”

Poland is a large country. At the time all this happened (before the Free Elections of June 1989 and the resulting new government led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Solidarnosc) conditions and communications were still confused. The various Scout leaders, acting in the different regions of the country, were not always aware of what was going on in the other parts of the country and felt like living on “isolated islands”. So they acted independently as they thought necessary and wise. In a later stage contacts were made and co-operation came into being and may, in times to come, lead to mergers and unity.

This was all still illegal but possible as it was the period of the Round Table negotiations between the military government and Solidarnosc which led to the free elections of June 1989. A time during which conditions changed considerably. In March 1989 the military government even passed a new Law on Associations permitting the free founding and official registering of new, independent organisations.

Whereupon the so far “illegal” movements came out in the open.
The open creation of Z.H.R., N.R.H. and P.O.H. put Z.H.P. – 1956’s bureaucrats in an awkward position. It was either to transform Z.H.P. – 1956 into a real Scout movement again or to face the hard fact that apart from the above movements even more new Scout organisations might be founded. Z.H.P. – 1956 no doubt preferred the former, but could not prevent the latter. It was too late!

“In this situation the Z.H.P. – 1956 decided to convene their highest constitutional body, namely the Congress, which was held in Warsaw from 28th to 31st of March, 1989. The Congress voted spectacular moves, such as a new Scout Law, a new Scout Promise and new Statutes. The Congress also voted a declaration that Z.H.P. – 1956 become a patriotic, non-political, educational organisation oriented towards values accepted by all sectors of Polish society, ready to co-operate with parents and all organisations whose aims were not contradictory to those of Z.H.P. – 1956. The Congress appealed to all generations of Polish Scouts to join forces, despite all the errors committed by Z.H.P. – 1956 in the past, in order to maintain the unity of the Scout Movement, and promised to make good past errors in co-operating with all concerned. Finally the Congress defined its position concerning relations between Z.H.P. – 1956 and the Catholic Church, and stated that Z.H.P. – 1956 has nothing against the Church ministration among its members.” (Note on the Current Situation in the Polish Scout Movement, WOSM/Geneva, June 1989.)

Not so surprising a reversal of attitude considering the political situation and the collapse of the communist regime. More a trimming of sails or rather a matter of “try and save your skin (job) if you can”. The Velvet Character of the changes, as has been mentioned before, resulted in the communists not being driven out by force, so that they could remain in the seats and carry on until replaced in the democratic way and Z.H.P. –
1956’s bureaucratic top had decided to cling to its jobs for as long as possible.

But by now a large number of Scout leaders were so disillusioned they had lost faith and trust in Z.H.P. – 1956’s trust-worthiness and found it difficult to believe that the top would really stick to and execute these spectacular decisions. Were these promises again of a merely tactical character or did they really represent Z.H.P. – 1956’s honest desire to change the overloaded bureaucratic structures into a true, authentic, non-political and democratic Scout movement?

These doubts were shared by many, including the parents, Z.H.P.p.g.K. (Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego poza granicami Kragu. – Z.H.P. Beyond the Borders) in London, WOSM and WAGGGS, whose observers were now flying regularly in and out of Poland without the slightest restrictions or difficulties.

Some were getting very impatient with Z.H.P. – 1956 but on the other hand it cannot be denied, however, that in their haste, they did overlook the fact that these indeed very spectacular decisions could not possibly be executed immediately and that the character and structure of the movement, as well as its mentality, methods and activities, could not be changed overnight. The whole procedure would take time, more time in fact then the impatient ones were willing to allow.

Even very neutral observers feared that the changes announced came too late to preserve Z.H.P. – 1956’s unity.

"During the two months following the Congress one could not perceive any important moves by Z.H.P. – 1956’s Headquarters aiming at the Congress’ decisions. The doubts are not attenuated by the fact that the newly elected Chief Scout, Krzysztof Grebyk and his three deputies, Jerzy Chrabaszcz, Tadeusz Perzanowski and Jerzy Szczygielski are all members of the communist party. Of the two members of Z.H.P. –
1956’s Headquarters Andrzej Cofala is a member of the communist party and Mrs Teresa Pruska, although non-party, is associated with the social and political organisation called “Pron”, sponsored by the party. Finally the Chairman of the Supreme ZHP Council, Julian Nuckowski, and the Chairman of the ZHP Control Board, Jerzy Kwiecinski, are both members of the communist party.” (Note on the current situation in the Polish Scout Movement, WOSM, Geneva, June 1989.)

And so the “too little, too late” lead to the inevitable already in progress.

O.Z.H.P. AND Z.H.P. – 1918

The Z.H.R. operated mainly in or to the north of Warsaw and it may well be that at first the Scouts in the south of Poland were unaware of its founding. Anyway, in the southern regions (Krakow as their centre), Ruch Harcerski leaders and groups also officially seceded from Z.H.P. – 1956, and, joining forces with other already “expelled and illegal” groups, founded O.Z.H.P., (Odrodzony Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego or Reborn Union of Polish Scouts). As the name indicated the movement considered itself the legitimate heir of the pre-1939 Z.H.P., founded 1918 which under the consideration that the latter had never been legally disbanded, dissolved or banned by the communists.

O.Z.H.P.’s opposition to Z.H.P. – 1956 was total, radical and uncompromising. After the 1989 Free Elections O.Z.H.P. stressed its point of view even more by changing its name into Z.H.P.1918. But when it was possible to have the movement officially registered it altered its name again and had itself officially recorded as simply: Z.H.P.. Strangely enough the Registering Court involved did not object and accepted this name. Consequently suddenly, for some time, there were two Z.H.P.s.
No wonder that the original Z.H.P.(-1956) strongly protested. a) Its name was being used, and b) after the fall of communism and its change of attitude, it now also considered itself the one and only heir to Z.H.P., founded 1918, reactivated in 1956 and in its opinion active ever since. Considering how, from 1958 onwards, the Z.H.P. – 1956’s top, time and again, had been doing everything possible to change the movement’s character and nature, this was a rather doubtful or curious claim.

So Z.H.P. – 1956 took the matter to court. There was a long running court case which was finally concluded during the last week of April 1992. The court ruled that the former O.Z.H.P., now Z.H.P. – 1918, could not be permitted to use and/or claim the name Z.H.P. there already being such an organisation. The trial caused a lot of resentment between the parties concerned, a fact Polish Scouting could well have done without.

At this point it should be stressed that in Poland, right from Scouting’s earliest beginning, the Roman Catholic Church had always been in favour of One United National “Open” movement. Whereas in the past in other countries (France, Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy etc. etc.) the various Episcopates could not accept RC Scouts to be under the leadership of non-Catholics and insisted on the founding of separate RC movements, this was never the case in Poland. In this respect it may be useful to mention that the dissidents of (West European) Scouting Europe, of very conservative RC (Italian, German and French) origin, trying to get a foothold in Poland were certainly not encouraged by the Polish Episcopate, on the contrary.

SIMILARITIES AND DISTINCTIONS

Between the new movements there were more similarities than distinctions. As a Polish Exile Scout leader, living and working in Geneva and an advisor to WOSM, so nicely put it:
“The only difference between them is: “Who dislikes communism more?” (03/02/1990).

They all adopted the international rules as laid down by WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London.

REACTIONS FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE

The fast moving, unexpected changes in East and Central Europe had surprised the Western World. This certainly applied to World Scouting and World Guiding.

The movements united in WOSM and WAGGGS had gradually lost their awareness of there ever having been Scouting and Guiding in the communist countries. Since the 11th International Conference, (Lisbon, 1961) the “National” Exile Movements, operating in the Free World had very easily and – above all – conveniently been “forgotten” and “ignored”. Apart from a few researchers and historians within the ranks of the Western Movements, hardly anybody knew they still existed. (See Chapter I) Also most of the Western Movements were very surprised to learn that, during the rapid changes in the communist countries, Scouting and Guiding re-emerged or were refounded, or that in Poland (and Yugoslavia – see Chapter VI) Scout-like movements had been operating during the greater part of the communist era.

WOSM, WAGGGS, also IFOFSAG and the Western National Movements suddenly received letters and even some visitors from the East asking for support in every respect. It was understood that something had to be done to meet this unexpected situation. “Fact Finding Missions” were sent east.

In December 1989 the European Offices of WOSM and WAGGGS invited all their European International Commissioners, and others interested, to come and attend a special meeting in Geneva on February 3rd and 4th, 1990. Attached to the
invitations – to serve as background info., but without the writer’s knowledge or permission – a copy of a study, very appropriated titled: The Forgotten Movements, dedicated to the various East European Scout and Guide Movements and their Exile Movements. The writing of this study had been completed in summer 1989, after many years of research and had been mailed to the World Bureaux for comment, criticism and correction.

This study, having come out of the clear blue sky at the right moment, pleased the World Bureaux, who had no other material at their disposal very much. They distributed it lavishly.

During the above meeting Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General WOSM, referring to The Forgotten Movements, reminded the participants of the fact that in many of the East and Central European countries before WW II there had indeed been Scout and Guide movements of high quality and with a long history. He stressed that there still might be a certain potential and knowledge and so he advised a careful approach. To not act as “the Pendants from the West who knew Best” or as “colonisers”, but on a cautious, equal footing. Each European country was assigned a re-emerging National Movement and Poland was put in the care of the West German movements, which shortly afterwards also had to deal with East Germany, the late D.D.R. or German Democratic Republic.

The western Fact Finders visiting Poland were soon confronted with:

1) Z.H.P. – 1956
   a) claiming that it was a Scouting organisation existing since 1956.
   b) pointing out that it had been treated as such throughout the years by several of the Western National Movements.
   c) demanding to be recognised by the World Bureaux as the one and only Polish Scouting organisation.
2) The fact that there were several other organisations operating, all giving their points of view with regards to Z.H.P. – 1956 and explaining why the latter should certainly not be recognised by the World Movements.

A difficult and complex situation.

ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

K.K.O. – Z.H.P.

All Polish Scouts remembered that in better times Z.H.P. had been a strong, united movement. When during the late eighties, new movements, at first illegally and later legally, began operating outside but alongside Z.H.P. – 1956 this was caused by the simple fact that the latter’s reformation process was far too slow.

There were always those who very much regretted the fact that the unity was not only no longer there but that same was also in danger. They quite well understood the attitudes and arguments of the leaders now operating the new movements but nevertheless feared that, once this process of disintegration had been set in motion, it might not be so easy to check and reverse it. Longing for and striving after the unity of Polish Scouting in one, united National Movement, as in better times, they still considered it their duty to reform, to cleanse and to reconstruct Z.H.P. – 1956 from within. On December 16th, 1989, 56 persons met and constituted the K.K.O. – Z.H.P. (Krajowy Komitet Odrodzenia-Z.H.P or National Committee for the Revival of Z.H.P. Amongst them were leaders, at the time, still active in
Z.H.P. – 1956. But also those expelled in 1948, (e.g. former Chief Scout Stanislaw Broniewski), and in 1958, plus former Scouts and Guides, some of them members of the newly elected free parliament and quite a few now working in Z.H.R., Z.H.P. – 1918, P.O.H., H.L. and S.H.K. – Z., All had in common the good and unity of Polish Scouting. The new Polish Government and the Roman Catholic church gave the Committee their blessing and support.

Some sources say that the Z.H.P.p.g.K. (Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego poza granicami Kraju. or Z.H.P. Beyond the Borders.) residing in London – and still in charge of the Z.H.P. in Exile – was also involved as observers and advisers but other sources deny this. Of course WOSM and WAGGGS, also striving for unity, supported this Committee and watched carefully.

The K.K.O. – Z.H.P.’s aim: Reforming Z.H.P. – 1956 into a truly authentic, national, non-political movement, in full accordance to the international rules so that the ceded movements like Z.H.R., Z.H.P. – 1918, P.O.H., H.L. and S.H.K.Z. etc. could return without having to deny, bend or give up their principles.

K.K.O. – Z.H.P. desired to enter Z.H.P. – 1956 and made it known that it desired to convene immediately an Extraordinary Z.H.P. – 1956 Assembly to elect new officials and leaders that were acceptable to all.

But what about the bureaucrats, still in charge of Z.H.P. – 1956? Was co-operation to be expected?

"The communist weekly Polityka (no 49, dated 09/12/1989) published a letter addressed to Z.H.P. – 1956’s Chief Scout Kazysztow Crzebyk and written by leaders of the Warsaw Scout Groups, requesting:

1) resignation of all members of Z.H.P. Headquarters, including the Chief Scout.
2) convocation of the Extraordinary Scout Assembly on the 22nd of February, 1990 to elect new Z.H.P. authorities and to decide on aims and purpose of Z.H.P.

3) convocation of a round table discussion of all concerned to prepare such an Assembly.” (WOSM Situation Report no 2, January, 1990.)

Now the convening of such an extraordinary Z.H.P. – 1956 Assembly required that one fourth of the Z.H.P. – 1956’s Regions requested such a meeting. But the disadvantage was that meanwhile so large a number of Scout leaders, who would have been in favour, had by now left Z.H.P. – 1956, that the remaining true Scout leaders, who had stayed, but also very much wished the Assembly, were now a minority in the ranks and of course the majority did not at all desire changes and consequently wished not to promote such an extra congress. So the bureaucrats decided against, stating to be following the majority’s wishes. This was made quite clear in the above weekly’s very same edition in which, for convenience sake, Chief Scout Grzebyk’s answer to the letter was also published. In brief he was against the Extra Assembly, fervently denied the necessity of the election of new top-leaders, whereas he thought it also unnecessary to modify and/or change the policies and organisation. Apparently he and his fellow-workers did not yet fully realise that the communist era was really over and that the time had come for Z.H.P. – 1956 to be purified and to return to authentic, politically untainted Scouting.

And so a damper was put on the general optimism and nothing happened, which made many leaders in Z.H.P. – 1956 and the other movements very sad or very angry. The younger ones had a high degree of maturity, sense of reality and an astute awareness of the political situation, and the possibilities. They totally adhered to K.K.O. – Z.H.P.’s strategy and in this respect displayed an impressive commitment. But they were very impatient too.
And so it happened that on March 3rd and 4th, 1990 about 250 male and female leaders of all movements occupied Z.H.P. – 1956’s National Headquarters in order to support the request for negotiations to be at last initiated between Z.H.P. – 1956’s top and the K.K.O. – Z.H.P. This dramatic event ended when at 2 o’clock in the morning of March 5th the mediating Deputy Minister of Education signed an agreement to that effect with the Z.H.P. – 1956 leaders.

Yet even this agreement did not expedite matters either. As before, the process and progress of the negotiations between K.K.O. – Z.H.P. and Z.H.P. – 1956 remained very slow, difficult and conflictual. Apparently, so was the opinion, as usual Z.H.P. – 1956 continued playing tricks and slowing things down.

To top it all on March 27th, 1990 Z.H.P. – 1956 sent a letter to WOSM, Geneva, and WAGGGS, London, in which the Chairman asked for the immediate recognition by both of Z.H.P. – 1956 as the one and only official Polish Scout Organisation.

This unilateral action was, of course, in total contrast with the agreement signed on March 5th and, since this move did not remain a secret, caused resentment and anger.

On April 5th, a joint WOSM/WAGGGS mission arrived in Poland in order to evaluate Scouting’s revival process. The mission’s program was entrusted to K.K.O. – Z.H.P. and during the visit there were no communications with Z.H.P. – 1956. The leaders, united in K.K.O. – Z.H.P., showed that they anxiously awaited the re-admission of Polish Scouting to the World Movements. But they explicitly requested WOSM and WAGGGS to make it crystal clear to Z.H.P. – 1956 that she could not expect to be accorded regional or world recognition in her present state of organisation and of mind.
WOSM desired a Polish delegation to attend the historic 32nd World Conference in Paris (23rd-27th of July, 1990). Only representatives of the new movements were invited. Eight of their leaders came to Paris. When the West German movements, who, for a long time, even before the turn over in Poland, were in close communication with Z.H.P. – 1956 learned of this, they requested the French movements, who were the hosts to this Conference, to invite Z.H.P. – 1956 as well and so a small delegation of it arrived with the West Germans.

The World Movements decided that the solutions to the problematic conflict in Poland should be found by the Poles themselves.

A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

From December 6th till 9th, 1990, Z.H.P. – 1956’s 28th National Congress was held at Bydgoszcz. About 400 mainly young delegates, representing and chosen by 49 regions, attended. Kazysztow Grzebyk was in the chair. (The communist party, of which he had been a member, had recently disbanded and its former members had founded a “socialist” one, which was not acceptable to real social-democrats, but of which the chairman was now an elected member.)

Surprisingly the congress’ general atmosphere was one of freedom and open discussion and very animated indeed.

Even more surprising was the fact that the leadership publicly regretted the errors made by Z.H.P. – 1956 in the past, its obvious links with the communist party and regime etc. Kazysztow Grzebyk very wisely did not stand for re-election as Z.H.P. – 1956’s leader and Stefan Mirowsky was elected Chairman of the Association.
The latter had belonged to Z.H.P.’s leadership before 1939, had been a leader of the Szare Szeregi during WW II, and had again been involved in Z.H.P. from 1945 until 1947 when, during the communist take-over, he had been expelled and had gone underground. He could not possibly be suspected of fostering any sympathies for the disposed communist regime and Z.H.P. – 1956’s previous attitude. Four vice- chairmen – 2 women and 2 men, all true Scout leaders – were elected. All they desired was to take back from the communists the old Z.H.P. by reforming Z.H.P. – 1956 of that day into an authentic, real Scout movement and to restore its good name and dignity and to reconstruct the national unity of Scouting. They were faced with the very difficult and enormous tasks of repairing the great damage done to Z.H.P. – 1956 by the communists, so that, after purification the movement would again be acceptable to the Poles in general, to the other Polish Scouts and to the World Movements.

“The Z.H.P. – 1956 has considerable influence in the spectrum of Polish Scout Organisations. They retain a social role of prime importance. Of course the criticisms made against them by the ‘Alternative Associations’ must be taken into account, but it is not possible to ‘write off’ the hundreds of thousands of young Z.H.P. – 1956 members (1 million) who consider themselves to be Scouts. It would be paradoxical if the Z.H.P. – 1956 were to be left to its own devices now that the fall of totalitarianism renders all hopes possible. It is therefore important to do everything to encourage the internal changes currently taking place within Z.H.P. – 1956 and to support the new leaders in their difficult tasks.” (WOSM report 21/12/1990.)
The other movements watched impatiently and with distrust. In the opinions of most of them the reformation of Z.H.P – 1956 was still too slow and not radical enough. But again they tended to forget that such a process had to be gradual, would take time and that impatience, however understandable, did not really help very much.

POLISH SCOUTS ON FOREIGN SOIL 4

In 1990, Z.H.K. In Exile, led by the Z.H.P.p.g.K. in London, was still very much alive and operating in Great Britain, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, the U.S.A. and Switzerland. High moral and high technical quality Scouting was maintained. One of the additional requirements being that a group could be recognised and registered as belonging to Z.H.P. In Exile only if the Polish language was used exclusively during all the activities. Considering that the bulk of the young members had been born in Exile and had never ever seen the homeland, this was an achievement many of the other Exile movements could not and did not uphold after so many years.

As has been related Z.H.P. In Exile, by means of the Z.H.P.p.g.K. kept a very sharp eye on the developments in Polish Scouting. The new movements such as Z.H.R., Z.H.P. – 1918 etc. sought its support and leadership and got its undivided attention and assistance.

In 1985 Polish Exile Scouting celebrated the 75th anniversary of Polish Scouting and a National Camp (Zlot) was (again) held near Monte Cassino, that historic place in Italy. Poles from all
over the world attended and so did a small, unofficial delegation of R.H.R. in the homeland. The connections thus created were very cordial. Thereafter some R.H.R. leaders participated in Z.H.P.p.g.K. training courses in Great Britain and Austria.

In Maryland, USA, in August, 1988, a Polish World Jamboree was held and again a R.H.R. delegation of 30 male/female leaders from Poland attended. The Z.H.P. in Exile’s Supreme Council, meeting on this occasion, was historic in that by electing Stanislaw Berkieta as its new President, the leadership went to a generation which had not been born in Poland but in Exile.

There is no doubt about it that all Polish Scouts, including the Exiles, very much regretted the division in Polish Scouting and longed for the old unity of a one and undivided National Movement. No doubt the reason why Z.H.P.p.g.K. welcomed the creation of and gave full support to the K.K.O. – Z.H.P. Some of its top-leaders visited Poland and attended this committee’s various meetings as well the congresses of Z.H.R. and Z.H.P. – 1918.

From London Z.H.P. – 1956’s attempts to cut all the ties with the communist past, to purify and reform itself in an authentic Scout movement, were also closely watched.

The Z.H.P.p.g.K. and its Exile Movement, with an eye on the future, were also reviewing their roles in order to be ready when that great moment of Polish Scouting’s re-admission to the World Movements would come.

INvolvement

WOSM’s and WAGGGS’ “Fact Finding Missions” and also various western training teams were flying in and out of Poland all the time. But leaders of all Polish movements also attended training courses and other events in the West. In its World Bureau, Olave Centre, London, May 1990, WAGGGS hosted

In 1990 a small contingent of Polish Scouts, belonging to all movements, was able to participate as guests in the 17th World Jamboree in Korea. Exchange visits were organised with several National Movements in other countries and all Polish Movements were involved.

STEPS INTO THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Z.H.P. – 1956 remained the stumbling block and the stumbling stone on the road to unity.

However much its renewed, purified leadership made the – no doubt very honest – effort to break away from its tainted past image as an official organisation of the late communist regime, it still had very great difficulty in being accepted by the other movements, the Churches and the democratic government.

Z.H.P. – 1956’s every step and move were watched with Argus eyes and mistrust. Whatever it did it could do no good in the eyes of other movements and it experienced that it was ever so difficult to please everybody. This very negative attitude towards their movement, doing its
best, was thought very unjust – and rightly so – by the many real and good Scouts and young Scout leaders (male and female) who had stayed loyal to Z.H.P. – 1956 with the firm intention to reform her from within. But Z.H.P. – 1956 was struggling with internal and external problems. This slowed down the process of renewal and only made the decisive action in respect to Polish Scouting’s re-entry into and recognition by the World Movements more difficult.

Early 1992 Z.H.P. – 1956 had to admit that the membership had dropped to 600,000, which was a far cry from the 3.5 millions during her hey-days in the communist era. Thousands had joined the new movements, others had simply left. In fact, this pleased Z.H.P. – 1956 new top as what had remained were real Scouts and furthermore the organisation’s manageability had been greatly improved and simplified.

WOSM made it clear to all parties concerned that before decisive action in respect to Polish Scouting’s re-entry into and recognition by the World Movement could be considered, the relationship between the five movements had to be improved and to be developed. It was left entirely to them to reach an agreement as to how they would improve and develop their relationship and integrate and how, when the time was ripe, they would enter the World Movements – as a Federation of Movements or, after merging, as One National Movement. The latter was WOSM’s preference and, deep in their hearts, all Polish Scouts, wheresoever they were, desired this too.

In order to promote the unification, a combined mission WAGGGS/WOSM visited Poland again in January 1992 to work out a practical plan to provide assistance in the matter. A series of meetings were held with the leaders of the Five, during which they were informed of the World Movements’ points of view. A review and an update of the various programs and training systems were deemed to be necessary. The task was
to be carried out by a Standing Committee composed by the 5 movements.

During another combined WOSM/WAGGGS mission (0107/03/1992) it was suggested to expedite matters by means of a survey/evaluation to be carried out by a body of strictly neutral observers/experts to be appointed by the other European movements. Its aim was to provide WOSM, WAGGGS and the other Polish Movements with an accurate and clear picture of the real situation within Z.H.P.–1956 in particular and Z.H.R.

And so it happened. From December 3rd until 7th, 1992 10 different teams, augmented and guided by Polish experts, toured 10 of the Z.H.P.–1956 and Z.H.R. regions and thoroughly assessed the situation.

The conclusions reached by the teams were such that it was decided to encourage and stimulate Z.H.P.–1956, Z.H.R. and the others to establish a Polish Scout Federation for at least a limited period of no more than 5 years. Such a structure was considered to be successful and to contain all the ingredients and possibilities to enable the unification of the Polish Movements during or after those 5 years.

It was stressed by WOSM and WAGGGS that the eventual recognition of the Federation was to be conditional upon the temporary Federation becoming a United National movement.

Z.H.R. AND Z.H.P.–1918

Z.H.R. proved to be a dynamic association with enthusiastic leaders. Very active in the larger villages and cities – in particular – in the northern part of the country. The Scouting standards were very high as was the self-discipline (no smoking – no drinking). The movement was favourably viewed by the Polish authorities, the Churches, Z.H.P.p.g.K., WOSM and WAGGGS. Originally it was a single association, implying that boys and girls were mixed in the various units. Z.H.R. at-
tracted individual Z.H.P. – 1956 members as well as groups who gladly joined her. Early 1992 the total membership was 20,000.

O.Z.H.P. or Z.H.P. – 1918 was operating in the Warsaw and the southern regions. From the beginning, the movement had separate units for boys and girls. As a whole the technical Scouting standards were excellent and – as Z.H.R.’s – in accordance with the WOSM and WAGGGS requirements. In early 1992 10,000 members had been registered.

There was hardly any difference between Z.H.R. and Z.H.P. – 1918 and those that were, were small and insignificant. A hopeful element was the ever growing co-operation between the two. Their National Councils met regularly and frequently and soon this led to the publishing of a joint magazine Bratnie Slowo (Brotherly Word) and to joint training courses. As mentioned earlier the uniforms and the badges were identical, be it that both wore an association strip being a white/red ribbon with – in black capitals the abbreviations Z.H.R. or Z.H.P. – 1918. A slow and careful process of negotiations in order to constitute a stronger alternative with regard to Z.H.P. – 1956 was set in motion and soon it became evident that Z.H.P. – 1918 and Z.H.R. were considering the possibilities of a merger and the creation of a stronger, united opposition to Z.H.P. – 1956.

MERGER Z.H.R. – Z.H.P. – 1918

On November 27th and 28th, 1992, Z.H.P. – 1918 and Z.H.R., after the careful preliminary negotiations, held another Joint
National Congress. It was decided to merge the two movements. The united movement chose the name Z.H.R. (Związek Harcerstwa Rzeczypospolitej or Union of Scouts of the Republic.) The Z.H.P. – 1918’s name could not be used as the latter had just lost the court case mentioned earlier.

This merger was a very important and historic step towards the unity of Polish Scouting. Regretfully the three smaller movements, P.O.H., S.H.K. – Z. and H.L. were not involved.

Regretfully too, it so seems that since (until the end of 1995) little or no progress has been made, at least as far as the observers outside Poland, lacking information, can judge. Matters appear to be stagnant and if steps forward had been taken at all, news of it had not reached the outside but interested world, where so many of Polish Scouting’s friends were impatiently waiting to welcome her back to the World Movements.

The much respected Stanislaw Broniewski of Szare Szeregi fame and a number of his friends, members of the S.S.S. (Stowarzyszenie Szarych Szeregów – Union of Members of Wartime Underground Szare Szeregi (Grey Ranks) a War/Scout Veterans’ organisation) was very concerned.

In Spring 1995 he wrote to the author and mentioned the following:

“In 1993 the SSS became concerned about the situation in Polish Scouting. The conclusion was reached that the crux of the matter is not so much the fact that Pol-
ish Scouting is divided organisationally but rather the overall conviction that the formal and the ideological continuity of the former – pre-war and wartime – Z.H.P. has not been handed down; nobody can ascertain that what exists is the same organisation. If the act of such “handing down” took place, unity would come as a natural result.”

Another conclusion the SSS reached was that as time passes the situation becomes worse and worse:

1) Every year new boys and girls in the different organisations become more and more estranged.

2) State authorities do not know how to treat the different organisations and often make mistakes. (including president Lech Walesa.) The problem, is important for them as it concerns young people – the future of the nation.

3) The Churches are struggling with the same problem as the authorities.

4) Former, older Z.H.P. members, such as in K.K.O. – Z.H.P., in S.S.S. and many from Z.H.P.p.g.K. in London are more and more concerned and worried regarding the future of Polish Scouting.

5) There is no proper contact between Polish Scouting and the World Movements which makes Polish Scouting “provincial” and isolated.

6) The boys and girls themselves feel that something is wrong with the atmosphere, that brotherhood is being destroyed and that they are treated in an unjust way, that some kind of harm is done to them, all this diminishes their joy in being Scouts.”

Representatives of the S.S.S. were present at the Z.H.P. – 1956 Congress in December 1993 and after that talks began between the S.S.S. and the Z.H.P. – 1956 top. The aim being to produce together a document stating the existence of
enough elements in Z.H.P. – 1956 showing its identity with pre-war and wartime Scouting. Agreement concerning an estimation of the period 1945-1995 had already been reached. Quite a lot of work had been done on the parts of the document dealing with the problem of the alternatives of the Promise and the problem of coeducation. Work on the techniques of unifying the organisations had been started. It was decided that the best opportunity for a decisive turning-point in the whole process should be the Jamboree of Polish Scouting in summer 1995 to be held on the 85th anniversary of Polish Scouting and the 60th anniversary of the Jamboree of Polish Scouting at Spala. Some mistakes were made by Z.H.P. – 1956 as far as invitations to the Jamboree were concerned and there was still opposition on the part of Z.H.R., as far as accepting the invitation to the Jamboree was concerned.

Regretfully no agreement between Z.H.R. and Z.H.P. was reached. Whereupon WOSM decided to cut the knot. With its Circular no 22/95, dated October 16th, 1995, the World Bureau announced that the World Scout Committee, during its meeting of 23-24th of September, 1995, having considered Z.H.P.’s application for membership, recommended same to be accepted and Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego, to be admitted to and registered by the World Organization of the Scout Movement as the National Scout Organisation of Poland as of January 17th, 1996. Poland is “back home” at last.

Since 1910 Polish Scouting has covered a long road of hardships and set backs. Admiration is due, as during the black decades that began in 1939, thousands of Polish Scouts, male and female, made sacrifices in their tenacity and loyalty to authentic Scouting and Guiding.

Despite all the ups and downs, Polish Scouting not only carried on in Exile but also during an Underground Existence and preserved the right spirit, enabling it to not only survive but to also immediately resurface whenever possible.
Generations of Scouts, however, have not been able to enjoy Scouting to the full as it should have been enjoyed as members of the World Movements and it was/is enjoyed in the Free Nations.

In the end, may goodwill, common sense, tolerance and brotherhood win – also in Z.H.R. – so that Polish Scouting will once again flourish. May a unity be forced within a short while, so that Polish Scouting – as One United National Movement can retain its rightful place within the structures of the World Movements, a place which has been vacant far too long.

All Polish Scouts and Guides deserve it.

All Polish Scout Movements owe it to the thousands of Polish Scout and Guides who died during the long struggle for Freedom.

(With grateful thanks to Ms Anna Zawadzka and Mr. Stanislaw Broniewski of Warsaw.)
CHAPTER 6. Hungary – Magyarorszag

THE BOY SCOUTS

When Scouting began in 1907, Magyarorszag or Hungary, as it is known in the English speaking world, was a Kingdom. But its King was also the Emperor of Austria, who belonged to the House of Hapsburg which – for ages – controlled, dominated and ruled large parts of central Europe and its multi-national and multi-lingual population. The combination of The Austrian Empire and The Kingdom of Hungary was known as the K&K standing for Kaiserreich und Königreich (Empire and Kingdom).

In Hungary Scouting was first mentioned in the 1909 yearbook of the University of Nagybecskerek. One of the lecturers – Laszlo Kralik – published a review of Baden-Powell’s Scouting for Boys, and explained the ideals upon which Scouting was based. Scouting was a novelty. It raised a great interest and curiosity all over the country and Protestant and Catholic educators came to consider Scouting as an effective means for the training of teenage boys. In particular the Hungarian Branch of the Young Men’s Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) took a great interest.

The Y.M.C.A. was founded in London in 1844 and its aim was to spread Protestantism by means of club work for the young. The organisation did not restrict itself to Great Britain and soon there were branches in all countries where Protestants were living. The same applied to the Y.W.C.A for women, founded not much later. Both organisations were constantly looking for new means to reach out to the young and when Scouting began, its program was considered fitting. Many troops were founded within the framework of the Y.M.C.A. (and later the Y.W.C.A.), in some countries as units of the national Scout movements, in others as separate Y.M.C.A.
movements but always closely related to the National Movements.

In those days Austria and Hungary were sea-going nations with not only a Navy but also a merchant navy, mainly operating from the – now Italian – port of Trieste or the – now Croatian – port of Rijeka. Dr Aladar Szilassy, a ship’s surgeon serving on board of a merchant vessel plying between Trieste and London was involved in the Y.M.C.A. During his calls at the port of London he got acquainted with Scouting, no doubt, via the Y.M.C.A. He studied the new British Movement and also brought home a copy of Scouting for Boys. In 1910 he founded the first Hungarian Scout Troop in Budapest under the auspices of the Budapest Y.M.C.A. and a little later the first rural troop in the area of Janoshalma. Whereupon Scouting spread quickly all over Hungary and not only within the Y.M.C.A. Schools, universities and factories followed the example and some of these troops (later groups) were active until the disbandment of Scouting in 1948. Scouting was greatly sponsored and promoted by the Hungarian Reformed Church (Protestant) and in particular by its school organisation. But the Roman Catholic Church was also very much interested in the brand new youth movement and soon introduced Scout troops in its schools as well. Surprisingly, large industries also considered Scouting as a means to promote the education and the team spirit of its young employees and so factory troops were founded.
This variety of spiritual backgrounds did not, as in other countries, lead to a number of National Movements. On the contrary, the Hungarians, in B.P.'s footsteps, strove for national unity, one movement, open to all races and religions and they were very successful indeed. Gyula Papp, one of the leaders, took the initiative and called a national meeting of all Scout leaders. On December 28th, 1912 they met and founded the Magyar Cserkészsövetség, M.Cs.Sz. (the Hungarian Scouts Association). A National Leadership was chosen consisting of Gyula Papp, Sandor Sik and others.

Yet this was not yet a real national movement. In Western Hungary the Scouts Association of Western Hungary had come into being. It was not until 1922 that this organisation, lead by Ferenc Farkas, joined M.Cs.Sz. The thus united, national movement was able to send three delegates to the 2nd International Conference in Paris. (1922)

But as in many other countries, e.g. Russia, Germany etc., Scouting had its opponents, mainly in conservative, nationalist circles and the military. They considered Scouting, with its international tendencies, a real danger to the conservative, nationalist youth organisation Magyar Örszem Szövetség (Hungarian Sentinel Association), based upon the German military youth organisations. M. Ö.Sz. founders thought their system to be superior to Scouting. The more so as their boys were given primary training of a military nature and were subjected to harsh discipline.

Scouting's success and rapid growth was such that the M. Ö.Sz lost a considerable number of members and true to the motto "If you can't beat them, join them" the M. Ö.Sz. opened negotiations with the Magyar

This Badge was also used by Hungarian Scouts from 1910-1913
Cserkészszövetség, resulting (June 1913) in a merger of the two organisations and a new movement now named Országos Cserkész Örszem Szövetség or the Country’s Scout-Guards Association. The O.Cs. Ö.Sz’s emblem and promise membership badge was the fleur-de-lis with the two stars representing the 10 articles of the International Scout Law whereas St Stephen’s Crown with the Crooked Cross (Hungary’s Royal Crown) was projected on the central leaf. An other design, including the National Coat of Arms, had also been proposed but not been accepted.

Amongst the RC Scout leaders a young priest and school teacher, Father Sandor Sik, soon emerged as an outstanding person. He developed into the main ideologist and inspirer of Hungarian Scouting. He became the author of the Hungarian Scout handbooks for Scouts and Scout Leaders, apart from also producing specific Roman Catholic literature and poetry.

When in August 1914 the First World War began, Hungary – as part of the K&K – sided with Germany and became one of the Central Powers, opposing the Allies. Large numbers of Scout leaders were called up for military service in the front lines but the patrol leaders stepped in and managed to keep things going. The Scouts performed National Service for the Red Cross, worked in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, refugee reception centres and camps as was also usual in other countries.

The Central Powers lost WW I and as in Germany and Austria, in Hungary WW I also ended with a revolution. The Hapsburg Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary had to abdicate and vacate the thrones his ancestors had occupied for hundreds of years. Germany, Austria and Hungary continued as Republics. The Peace Treaty of Trianon (1920) which the victorious Allies made Hungary sign, meant that large regions, for ages part of Hungary, were cut off from the original homeland and were allotted to the newly created Republic of Czechoslova-
via,(Slovakia and Ruthenia) the newly created Kingdom of Yugoslavia (Croatia and Vojvodina), and to the new Republic of Austria (Burgenland), whereas Erdely, also known as Transylvania, was given to Romania. In fact Hungary was reduced from 282,870 to 92,830 square kilometres and its population from 18,3 million to 8 million and about 3,5 million Hungarian speakers suddenly found themselves to be citizens of the above mentioned new countries, cut off from their people, traditions, culture and above all their homeland.

The Hungarian Scout Troops, operating in these areas had to join the national movements of their new homelands. Those in Slovakia were able to form a movement of their own which was accepted as a partner in the Czechoslovakian Scouting Federation, which the Czech and the Slovak Scout movements had formed. They were permitted to use badges of their own design, to keep their own identity and to maintain a close link with the Hungarian Movement.

World War I over and done with, Hungary was in chaos. In October 1918 (the war ended November 11th, 1918) the Hungarian Republic was proclaimed and the last Hapsburg King of Hungary was made to abdicate.

Scouting reorganised and on December 1st, 1918, a new association, now named the Magyar Cserkészszövetség, M.Cs.Sz.(The Hungarian Scouts Association) was founded.
But to Hungary's sufferings were added a few more. When in spring 1919 the communists committed a coup d'état and founded a communist Soviet Republic led by Béla Kun. A period of terror began. An anti-communist force gathered around Admiral Miklos Knight Horthy, a former Admiral of the K&K Navy. His forces, augmented by Romanian troops, were successful in beating the Hungarian Red Army and the Communist Government had to flee. Whereupon the “Kingdom” was restored be it that neither Horthy nor the Allies desired or permitted a restoration of the abdicated Hapsburgs. So, until 1944, Hungary was a Kingdom, but without Royalty and lead, instead, by Horthy as the Regent. In 1937 he had himself elected “Regent for Life” and his son Stephen (who was killed in action in 1942) appointed his successor, so that it very much appeared as if Horthy planned to create a dynasty of his own.

The Communist Government, amongst other things, immediately banned Scouting and made the communist youth organisation obligatory. Scouting went “underground” and continued its activities “illegally” and wherever Horthy’s forces took over Scouting immediately reappeared and resumed its normal activities. And so, on September 12th, 1919, the Magyar Cserkészszövetség, M.Cs.Sz. (Hungarian Scout Association), retaking is pre-1913 name, was re-established.

The general situation in Hungary was in all respects very bad indeed. There was poverty, lack of food, uncertainty, unrest and anxiety. For this reason the M.Cs.Sz., though invited, was not able to send a contingent to the 1st World Jamboree
(1920) in Richmond Park, Olympia in London. Just a few representatives were able to attend. It was during a meeting of all contingent leaders that Baden-Powell proposed the creation of the International Conference as the world movement’s leadership and the International Bureau as its executive. Suggestions which were thereafter to be discussed by the various national movements whereupon final decisions were taken during the 2nd International Conference in Paris in 1922. (See Chapter I). The now truly united, national M.Cs.Sz. (see above) was able to send three delegates to the Paris conference and that very year the M.Cs.Sz. was recognised and registered as a member of the WAISM (World Association of the International Scout Movement), being one of its founder members.

Other movements financially and materially supported the M.Cs.Sz. in its really difficult hours. The N.P.V. (Netherlands Scouts Association) created a special Fund which began its activities on its founding date, April 23rd, 1922 (St George’s Day). It collected vast sums of money and was able to assist the M.Cs.Sz. The Kingdom of the Netherlands had been able maintain its neutrality during WW I and when starvation in Hungary was at its worst, Hungarian (Austrian and German for that matter) children were offered the opportunity to come and stay with Dutch foster parents. (Some of the members of the Dutch organising Committee were Scout leaders.) Thousands came and some stayed for years, a small number forever. They were given hospitality in the homes of Dutch families. The Hungarians always appreciated this and special links of friendship were formed. This was manifested very clearly when the Hungarian contingent to the 5th World Jamboree, 1937, in Vogelenzang, The Netherlands arrived. They were greeted warmly not only by the Dutch Scouts. There was an emotional, warm reunion for some of the Hungarians with their foster parents. Some of the Hungarian foster sons were still able to speak Dutch. The Contingent expressed special thanks to Queen Wilhelmina.
THE GIRL SCOUTS

Scouting for Girls had a rather late start in Hungary. This was not due to the girls who were eagerly watching what their brothers were doing, envied them and felt the urge to join in the Game. But, as in most all the other countries, this was not easy in the early decades of the 20th century.

"The development was made difficult by prejudice on the part of the parents and of society at large, as a result of prevailing views about the educational needs of girls. Many of the successful principles and practices of Scouting were considered "un-ladylike". Outdoor life, camping, the wearing of a uniform, and Scoutcraft were thought improper for girls." so wrote Gábor Bodnar in his book Scouting in Hungary.

It was seriously thought that such "male activities" would promote the vulgarisation of the vulnerable and tender female character. Besides, many a worried mother and father feared that her/his daughter might be turned into a "tom-boy" so that her value on the "marriage market" might decrease and it would not be easy to find a suitable husband. Who would marry a Girl Scout, used to primitive living in tents and to activities in the open air? (Scouts might, but that was overlooked.)

But more important still, the Roman Catholic Church was initially not all that much in favour of Scouting for Boys which it only reluctantly accepted and tolerated almost everywhere. But in many countries the Church stood its ground as far as Scouting for Girls was concerned. This was also true in Hun-
gary where the Episcopate strongly opposed Scouting for Girls and forbade females to develop any activities in this field. Of course, as might be expected, when the first Girl Scout troops were founded, the clergy did not succeed in keeping all its girls at bay but at least succeeded in preventing the founding of Roman Catholic Girl Scout troops in the Roman Catholic schools. It was not until Baden-Powell’s visit (March 1933) to Pope Pius XI that, after the latter’s benevolent declaration, the very rigid Roman Catholic attitude changed and the Hungarian Roman Catholic girls were permitted to join the Girls Scouts.

But there were more difficulties and barriers to be overcome before Scouting for Girls could actually begin.

In January 1921 Mrs Byng of the London based Girl Guides International Bureau paid a visit to Hungary where she was given the following, written report, dated January 7th, 1921.

“Six years ago Miss Jolan Gergely wished to start the Girl Guide Movement in Hungary but it was only in September 1919 that she was able to make a beginning. The idea was very favourably received by Miss Jolan Gergely’s fellow schoolmistresses with the result that there now exist five companies in Budapest with 100 girls. Nearly 40 of the girls have already passed their Tender-foot and are now trying for their Second Class. Miss Jolan Gergely is now in Sweden studying the Girl Guide Movement in other countries and she has just finished the first Guide book for Hungarian Girl Guides.”

It was in fact in September 1919 that Miss Jolan Gergely founded the first Girl Scout troop with the full support of the M.Cs.Sz. and within its organisation. M.S.C.’s President Dr Sandor Sik in particular was much in favour and in 1920 set up a Girl Scout Executive Committee under the protection and within the frame-work of the M.Cs.Sz.. The Boy Scouts also provided the funds for the writing, printing and publishing of propaganda material and Jolan Gergely’s first Girl Scouts
Handbook in 1921. Further Jolan Gergely edited the special Girl Scouts’ pages in the M.Cs.Sz.’s magazines.

The new Girl Scouts were very dependent on the Boy Scouts. As mentioned their groups were units of the M.Cs.Sz. That is how it was and it could not be otherwise, it was the Law!

Once more a quote from the above report handed to Mrs Byng:

“The Hungarian Girl Guides are affiliated to the Hungarian Scout League. The President of the latter is also the President of the Girl Guides. When the Scout League reorganized in autumn 1919 the governement degreed that no Scout organization, for either boys or girls, was to exist apart from the Magyar Cserkészsövetség and the Girl Guides were therefore obliged to affiliate. There are representatives of the Hungarian Girl Guides on the Committee of the M.Cs.Sz.. Miss Jolan Gergely is Chief Leader of the Hungarian Girl Guides and she greatly hopes that before long they will be a separate organization.”

In 1922 the Tündérke (Brownies) were founded.

Also in 1922 Miss Jolan Gergely, as President of the Girl Scouts, attended the 2nd Girl Guides International Conference at Cambridge, England. During the meeting the Hungarian Girl Scouts were recognized and registered with the G.G. International Bureau in London. But shortly after having returned home Jolan lost her Presidency and was replaced by Miss Antonia Lindenmeyer, who was to be in office until 1944. She played an important and prominent part not only in Hungarian Girl Scouting but also internationally.
Meanwhile the Girl Scouts – however good the co-operation with the Boy Scouts – wished to be a separate and independent movement and within the M.Cs.Sz. was created a Provisional Girl Scouts Committee (June 9th, 1922), charged with the preparations of the founding of a Girl Scouts Movement. The M.Cs.Sz. helped to pull some political strings but the government’s machinery, as usual, was moving slowly. Government permission was granted in December 1923, but it was not until 1926 that the Minister of Inland or Home Affairs granted a “Royal Charter” permitting the Girl Scouts to use the name Magyar Cserkészlany Szövetseg (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association. The Archduchess Anna of Hapsburg, a member of the deposed Royal Family living in Budapest, had much influence in the matter. She had a great interest in Scouting and accepted the Girl Scouts’ patronage which lasted until 1944.

Until then the Girl Scouts had been wearing the Boy Scouts’ shirts and badges. But in 1924 they introduced an Emblem and Membership badge. A Flower on top of the Hungarian Coat of Arms and a ribbon with the words Legy Resen (Be Prepared), a motto they shared with the Boys. More uniforms were designed for the Tündérke (Brownies) the Cserkészlány (Girl Scouts) the Nagycserkészlány (Rangers) the Vizicserkésztlany (Sea Rangers), the Vezető (Leaders) and the Ellenör (Commissioners). Sandor Sik, in his handbook for Scoutmasters, (published 1925) on page 306 explained the separation, writing:
“The Girl Scouts have changed their looks too, they have uniforms and badges differing from those used by the Boys. The troops are working under the leadership of women and are totally separated from the Boys.”

THE BOY SCOUTS

In Great Britain the Scout Association had been experimenting with Scouting for the younger boys, who could not wait to become scouts and so Cub Scouting – based upon Rudyard Kipling’s Jungle Books – came to being and was officially demonstrated during the 1st World Jamboree of Richmond Park, Olympia, London in 1920, when hundreds of green clad boys suddenly were let loose in the Olympia arena. The new system was accepted by all the other national movements but Hungary. The M.Cs.Sz. had earlier developed a system of its own, the Aprodok or Pages, which was already operational well before the 1920 Jamboree.

THE TELEKI ERA

In 1922 Pál Count Teleki von Szék was elected M.Cs.Sz.’s Föcserkész (Chief Scout). He was a distinguished scholar, (a professor of geography and geopolitics) and also a prominent and influential politician. Though he acted as Chief Scout for only just one year, as a Honary Chief Scout Teleki remained one of the driving-powers of Hungarian Scouting until his mysterious death on April 3rd, 1941. He also played an important part in the International Movement as well. He served on the International Committee from 1929-1939. But above all he
was the promotor of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség. (Hungarian Scout Association) and the Magyar Cserkésztlány Szovetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) and, whilst serving his country as a Prime Minister, also the protector of the two during the difficult times that lay ahead. He was a man whose importance and popularity is not to be underestimated and who is still held in great esteem by all Hungarian and many foreign scouts.

The M.Cs.Sz. developed. Cub Scouts and Rover Scouts were added to the scout troops and groups came into being. Some Hungarian leaders were sent to Gilwell Park near London and returned as Deputy Camp Chiefs (4 woodbadges) thus entitled to run the Hungarian Gilwell Course, which began in 1924.

The year 1926 was an outstanding and very successful one. The Hárshegy (Linden Tree Hill) Gilwell Training Centre was opened. The Sea Scouts obtained a training centre on the river Danube with indoor winter accommodation for the boats. In Budapest the "Scout House" was officially opened as the NHQ also housing the Scout Shop. The M.Cs.Sz. was one of the early pioneers as far as Air Scouts were concerned. For their gliders and motor planes they had an air-base of their own in the hills to the north-west of Budapest. The Hungarians, a music loving nation, were very proud of their National Scout Brass Band, which in 1922 visited England and performed in many places. In August, 1924, Hungary was able to send a fair contingent to the 2nd World Jamboree at Ermelunden, Copenha-
gen in Denmark, which was patterned after the Olympic Games (a system later abandoned). The Hungarians made a good impression and won many prizes.

On the 15th of July, 1926, a National Jamboree began at Megyer. Over 8,000 scouts participated, including a large number of foreign guests. Baden-Powell had been invited to attend, but, because of ill health, he was unable to come and was represented by Lord Hampton, Chief Scout of England.

In 1928 the Sea Scouts organized an international rally on Lake Balaton but the Girl Scouts accounted for the year’s most important event.

THE GIRL SCOUTS

The Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetseg (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) was in the capable hands of Antonia Lindenmeyer under whose leadership the movement developed well. In 1927 there were 5,000 registered members. (in 1945, 12,700).

In 1924 Antonia Lindenmeyer led the Hungarian delegation to the 3rd Girl Guides International Conference at Foxlease, England and in May 1926 she attended the 4th Conference in the U.S.A. where, as a guest, she introduced the German Frau Katharina Hertwig (Guide name: Erda – Earth Mother see Ch. I), leader of the German Girl Guides. German Scouting and Guiding had never joined the World Movements based upon the Naumberger Entschluss (Decision) of 1920, saying that A, for as long as foreign (British, French, Belgium) military forces were in occupation of German territory and B, for as long as Germany was blamed for the outbreak of WW I, German Scouts and Guides would refuse to get involved in international scouting and guiding. Like most of the many German Boy Scouts Associations, the German Girl Guides were floating on their own, drifting farther and farther away from the World
Movements. “Erda” based the movement on the old Teutons and nationalism and was not too far away from Hitler’s Nazi ideology. Antonia Lindenmeyer tried to convince “Erda” and the German Guide movement that it would be much better to join the World Movement but even during the trip to the U.S.A. she was not able to change Erda’s ideas. This was one of the few things that Lindenmeyer pursued but never achieved.

Though in percentage the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetseg. (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) was by no means the largest, its quality and style impressed and no doubt Antonia Lindenmeyer was very flattered and proud when she was requested to organize and host the 5th International Conference. The meeting was held at Parad and began on May 2nd, 1928. There were delegations representing 33 organizations, originating from 26 countries. Lord and Lady Baden-Powell attended. It was a very important conference as it was decided to found the WAGGGS, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and to accept and introduce the Trefoil (B.P.’s design) as the World Emblem and Badge upon which all national badges were to be based. The World Committee was also created (at the time 9 members) and Antonia Lindenmeyer was chosen to be one of the members. She so impressed the delegation of the Vereniging Het Nederlandsche Meisjesgilde (Association Netherlands Girls Guild) that it requested Lady B.P. in its letter dated May 18th to award Antonia the “Silver Fish”, WAGGGS’ highest award.
During the WAGGGS conference the B.P.s could not possibly neglect the Boy Scouts and about 8,000 of them gave them a rousing welcome during a rally in Budapest. (and stopped all traffic.)

The Conference attracted Hungarian public attention and in its 1st Biennial Report (covering 01/07/1928 – 30/06/1930) to the new World Bureau the Girl Scouts stated:

“After the World Conference in 1928 in Budapest and Parad the Movement became very popular and the public has shown interest in our work.”

Attention was also paid to the quickly increasing membership after the conference and:

“There is great co-operation with the Y.W.C.A. which has started many groups of Girl Scouts among its members.”

The second Biennial Report (covering 01/07/1930 – 30/06/1932) stated:

“In December 1930 we started our paper Cserkészlányok Lapja. This is issued monthly. It has no subsidy. Everybody writes or works for it without salary.”

And further it is proudly announced:

“We have been asked by the Boy Scouts to help them in preparing the 4th World Jamboree to be held in Hungary in 1933. We are to be hostesses of the foreign Girl Scouts and it will give us great pleasure.”

THE BOY SCOUTS

In 1929 the M.C.S. sent a 852 strong contingent to the 3rd World Jamboree at Arrow Park, Birkenhead near Liverpool. It was during this Jamboree that the Hungarians became famous for their hats with the Árvalányhaj, a white grass. Non-
Hungarians could hardly believe it to be a natural grass and called it “a feather”.

During the 6th International Conference of Baden (near Vienna, Austria, in 1931) the M.Cs.Sz. was asked to organize the 4th World Jamboree in 1933. The Hungarians were very proud to have been chosen and they went to work under the leadership of Antal Papp, the recently elected new M.Cs.Sz. president. Honorary Chief Scout Pál Teleki agreed to act as the Camp Chief and Ferenc Farkas – the M.Cs.Sz. vice-chairman was appointed to be Teleki’s deputy. The preparatory work took two years and many difficulties, particularly economic ones (there was a world crisis and depression) had to be overcome.

An estate near Gödöllö, about 25 kilometres from Budapest, was chosen as a good campsite able to accommodate about 30,000 campers. Excellent public relations supplied the people with good information and the nation’s interest grew as did Scouting’s popularity. This resulted in a flow of new member. Every boy wanted to be part of it.

Gödöllö was to become the Magyar Cserkészszövetség’s finest hour. It was an event to be remembered, a momento which, during the communist years 1948-1988, lived on in the memories and minds of many and helped to keep the Scouting Spirit alive.

On August 3rd, 1933 more than 26,000 scouts of 54 nations had assembled for the opening which was performed by B.P. (in his 76th year) and the Hungarian
Regent Admiral Horthy.

One of the highlights was the performance of the Hungarian Air Scouts. In this field Hungary was one of the pioneers. Their gliders and motor planes attracted a lot of attention.

But the Girl Scouts also benefitted. Their 3rd Biennial Report (covering 01/07/1932-30/06/1934) stated:

“in 1933 we were the hostesses of 350 Guiders, Girl Scouts, Leaders and Lady Cubmasters from 15 countries, coming to the 4th World Jamboree at Gödöllö. The work of preparation took all our time (courses for foreign languages, interpreters, world knowledge). But it was worth it as it raised the standard of the Movement in the eyes of the public.”

“At the Jamboree the Girl Scouts often gave performances of Hungarian National Dances on the Boy Scouts’ stage in Gödöllö.”

The quality of Hungarian Scouting and Guiding was, internationally, rated as being very high and they had conquered a good name.

The 5th World Jamboree, the last one pre-WW II, was held in 1937 at Vogelenzang, The Netherlands. About 500 Hungarian Scouts led by Béla Kolozsváry travelled to the North Sea coast. As already mentioned, to some of them it was a return visit to the country of their former foster parents.

THE GIRL SCOUTS

The 3rd Biennial Report (dates above) to the World Committee stated:

“The year 1932 was especially joyful for the Hungarian Girl Scouts. The City of Budapest gave a fine Camp House in the neighbourhood of the town furnished for 44 persons as a reward for the successful training of the
girls. There we have had different kinds of training camps for Group Leaders, Patrol Leaders, also the first Brownie camp and week-end camps.

In July of 1932 we had our first National Camp (Tahi) with 500 Girl Scouts. This was a great event, not only for the young people, but was impressive to the public. An Association made us a donation of an estate of 8 acres in the mountainous part of Hungary near Mezokovesd. There we are building a big camp-house for 300 girls."

Whereupon the report regarding the Jamboree of 1933 followed as quoted above.

There was growth everywhere. As mentioned before, in 1934 the Roman Catholic Church changed its attitude towards Scouting for Girls and Roman Catholic girls hastened to join and participate in the fun.

The Budapest Mayor – Károly Szendy – was much in favour of the Girl Scouts, assisting them in every possible way. As stated in the above report, the city provided the nice camp-house at Szépvölgy in 1932. The year 1933 also saw the acquisition through gifts of a new NHQ, as well as a 5 acre campsite in Káctapolca, later to be followed by an even larger property in Balatonszárszó on Lake Balaton. But in 1935 the above Mayor of Budapest lead an action promoting the founding of Girl Scout Groups in the Municipal Schools. In June, as part of this action a performance was given in one of the leading theatres and afterwards the city’s Girl Guides held a big Parade in the town centre. The re-
cruiement campaign resulted in the establishment of 28 new
groups and more than 1,000 Budapest girls enrolled.

In 1935 the Patroness, H.R.H. the Archduchess Anna made a
national tour of inspection, visiting the majority of the groups
and afterwards declaring that she was very satisfied with all
the activities she had seen and the girls and leaders she had
met. The Girl Scouts were also very pleased and indeed, in a
Kingdom lacking Royalty, such a visit must have been put on
par with a “Royal Visit”.

But in the 5th Biennial Report (covering 1/07/1936-30/06/1938) there is an undertone of changing
times:

“In the Spring of 1937, all Scout Leaders passed the
course in Air Raid Protection, and afterwards prepared
their companies – the girls over 14 years old – for this
emergency with great success.”

The Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association)
and the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl
Scouts Association) were the largest Hungarian Youth Move-
ments but not the only ones. There was the Levente, (Able
Bodied Young Man) a government supported uniformed
movement more or less a revival of the pre-1914 Magyar Ör-
szem Szövetség (Hungarian Guards Association). Further the
Arrow Crossers, the Hungarian National Socialists, had their
uniformed Youth Movement based upon the Hitler Youth.

DIFFICULT TIMES

In January 1933 Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist Party
took over in Germany and soon the country became a one-
party- totalitarian-police state. The National Socialists or Nazis
fulminated against the imposed and not negotiated Peace
Treaty of Versailles which, as the other Peace Treaties that
ended WW I, were not examples of political wisdom. Large
tracts of land inhabited by Germans or a mixed population were cut off from the homeland. Hitler said he was going to change all that and indeed so he did and no one stopped him. It so seemed as if the western democracies were paralysed or hypnotised, afraid of war. Hitler first annexed Austria, which had not been part of the German Empire that lost the 14-18 war, but that did not bother him. Austria had the debatable honour of having been Hitler’s country of birth. But next the Führer demanded the Sudetenland, a border area of Czechoslovakia partly inhabited by German speaking people, that, until 1918, had belonged to the Austrian and not to the German Empire. Again the democracies did not stop him, on the contrary they compelled Czechoslovakia to give in and so the Führer had his way once more. This made him rather reckless and more greedy. So in 1939 he took the rest of Bohemia, made it a German protectorate with an SS administration and he granted Slovakia “independence” under a Nazi influenced puppet regime.

While the world held its breath, Hungary was put in a strange and awkward position. On the one hand it benefited. The part of Czechoslovakia inhabited by 99% Hungarian speakers, in fact the Danube’s northern bank ceded after the Peace Treaty of Trianon of 1920, was returned to Hungary. One cannot blame the population for being pleased to be real Hungarians belonging to Hungary again. On the other hand the disadvantage was that Hungary was now bordering on Nazi Germany and its satellite state over a very long distance. The country was wedged in between Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, who were trying to increase their influence and also encouraged and supported the Hungarian Nazis. An unpleasant position with little possibilities for political manoeuvring.

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini (Il Duce) the leader of the Italian Fascists, had followers and admirers in many countries, also in Hungary. The Hungarian Nazis were called Arrow Crossers. Initially they took Hitler’s Swastika as their party
symbol but this was forbidden by the Hungarian government in 1934. So they designed and introduced Four Crossed Arrows, hence their name.

Like all Nazis and Fascists the Arrow Crossers opposed Scouting and Guiding. Magyar Cserkészszövetség and Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség were accused of being not "national" but too international Agents of British Imperialism and – worse still – part of the International Order of Freemasons.

It is true that Hungarian Scouting excelled in tolerance. Boys and girls belonging to the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches as well as to other religious convictions were all united with the open non-confessional groups in one national movement. In various other European countries religious leaders thought it necessary to have separate national movements according to their special religions. These formed a Federation which was registered and recognised by the Boy Scouts International Bureau. This was not deemed necessary by the Hungarian religious leaders who advocated and promoted the two movements as they were. But, on top of that, Hungarians of Jewish or Gypsy descent were also welcome in the movements and that was something the Nazis, increasingly prone to racism, could not accept. (Regent Horthy’s Protestant sons were members of a Roman Catholic Scout group.)

Pál Teleki, the Honorary Chief Scout, in his capacity as a politician and a member of parliament, succeeded in repeatedly
beating off the Arrow Crossers’ attacks on Scouting and in this he had the full support of the Regent who had no time for such nonsense. And so Scouting continued and enjoyed its finest hours.

PAX TING

In the 5th Biennial Report the: Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség proudly stated:

“The program for the second half of 1937 dealt with the preparations for the forthcoming great event; the World Camp for Girl Guides and Girls Scouts to be held in Hungary in 1939.”

Such a camp was a novelty. Whereas the Boy Scouts had had their 5th World Jambo-reee in 1937 and were preparing the 1941 one in Finland, the WAGGGS had never had such a World Camp. (Until to day (1996) there had been only two. The second and last one was in Windsor Great Park, England in 1957.) It was Hungary’s Antonia Lindenmeyer who conceived the idea and made the proposals to WAGGGS. In spite of objections, the doubts and the discouragement, – the political situation in Europe was deteriorating as a result of Adolf Hitler’s policies and actions – Antonia defended her ideas and her plan was accepted for 1938. That, however, was too short a time and the camp had to be postponed until August 1939. According to Lindenmeyer’s assistant, Roszi Zimmermann, who was in charge of feeding the hungry girls, there were about 3.800 participants in camp including 2.200 Hungarians. The largest foreign contingent came from Sweden.
(244 girls, including the Princess Sibylla). The British girls numbered 206 plus individual Guiders, Guides and Rangers from the (in those days) British territories like Australia, New Zealand, India, Bermuda, Hong-Kong, Kenya, Malta etc. Denmark, Finland, Norway and the Netherlands had contingents of well over one hundred and only slightly less numerous were the Swiss, French, Poles, Irish, Estonians and Lithuanians.

Pax Ting was the name chosen. Pax standing for Peace and Ting being the old Teutonic and Scandinavian word for Council. The camp was a great success. A great achievement and a real asset to the Hungarian Girl Scouts Movement. The Archduchess Anna, living in her home high upon the hills overlooking the city of Budapest, threw a party for the Guiders who ate their suppers sitting on the steps of her terrace, watching the city lights of Budapest when darkness fell.

And darkness did fall over Europe. By the time Pax Ting was over the general political situation had deteriorated in such a way that the participants had to hurry home and could not enjoy the Hungarian home hospitality that was on the program. War was imminent. Some had only just arrived home and unpacked when the lights went out and World War II began. Others may not have been so fortunate and many a Guider or ranger from the far away British dependencies were stranded in Britain when on September 3rd, 1939 the Second World War began.
IN TIMES OF WAR

Adolf Hitler, victorious and unopposed expected the Poles and the democracies to yield again. But this time he made a mistake. The Poles refused to give in and when he attacked Poland, – to his utter surprise, disappointment and anger – France and Great Britain declared war. World War II had begun. Hungary stayed out of the conflict, at least for the time being.

There had been close connections between Polish and Hungarian Scouting since the 2nd World Jamboree (1924) in Denmark. During the 1933 Gödöllő (4th) Jamboree the Polish contingent had been second in size only to the large British one. In 1935 the Poles organised a National Camp at Spala and invited the Hungarians who sent a large contingent led by Pál Teleki and Antal Papp. It so happened that near the National camp the construction of a monument in remembrance of Pilsudski, a Polish Freedom fighter, had begun. An artificial hill was created to be the foundation and every Pole travelling in the area used to fill a wheelbarrow and add his earth to that hill to be. The 100 Hungarian Scouts led by Pál Teleki also filled a wheelbarrow each and thus paid their tribute. This was much appreciated by the Poles in general and the Polish Scouts in particular and it made the Hungarians very popular The already close friendship between the Polish Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego and the Magyar Cserkészszövetség was augmented.

When in September Nazi Germany attacked Poland and a few days later the Soviet Union attacked the Poles in the back,
Poland’s plight, despite heroic resistance, was soon sealed. Polish army units, going south retreating to the Polish-Romanian and Polish-Hungarian borders fought rear guard actions protecting civilian refugees. The Hungarians opened their borders and let them in, despite Nazi-German pressure and protests. They accommodated the Poles and even permitted them to continue their journey to the Middle East, France or Britain, so that they could join the Free Polish Forces.

The Polish Chief Scout Zbigniew Trylski was one of the many Polish soldiers that were interned in Hungary. Thanks to the special friendship between Z.H.P. and M.Cs.Sz. and the personal friendship between Trylski and Teleki, the latter, Prime Minister, was able to release Trylski from internment. Teleki enabled Trylski to found Scout schools and education centres for Polish youngsters and M.Cs.Sz. supported him when Polish Scout groups were founded in the refugee camps. Trylski’s job was of such importance that the Free Poles decided that he would have to remain in Hungary and so he did for the duration of the war, caring for and serving those Poles, the old and the wounded, who were obliged to stay in Hungary and could not join the Free Polish Forces elsewhere. It was not until 1946 that Trylski left Hungary for London where he served in the Z.H.P.p.g. until 1972. It was a fine example of brotherhood and co-operation between two movements in times of war. (See Chapter IV.)

Hungarian Scouting was under constant attack of the Hungarian Nazis. But there was also another competitor of increasing importance and power, the – already mentioned – govern-
ment-sponsored official youth movement Levente, which gradually had copied and introduced most of Scouting’s methods, including the leadership training. The M.Cs.Sz. thereupon reorganised its training system after a special meeting (September 1940) of the top, chaired by Pál Teleki. One of the new initiatives resulted in the creating of the Regös (Minstrel) activities mainly embraced by the Rover Scouts. They organised camps in the rural areas, made friends with the population, gathering and recording local history, national costumes, customs, traditions, folk songs and dances, thus seeking to preserve Hungarian culture.

Meanwhile Hungary got involved in WW II. Benito Mussolini, the Fascist Dictator of Italy, who had declared war on France when (in June 1940) the latter was already defeated by Nazi-Germany, also longed for an Italian victory and decided to conquer Greece, using Albania, which he had occupied and annexed in 1939, as a spring board. But instead of beating the Greeks, the Italians were driven back and the Greeks penetrated deep into Albania. Il Duce had to request the Fürher to come to his rescue, which annoyed Hitler very much. He was busily preparing his attack on the Soviet Union and was not at all pleased to have to postpone it and deal with Greece first. From Hungary and Yugoslavia he demanded free passage for his military forces. The former gave its consent the latter did not and so on 27/03/1941 Hitler ordered his forces to attack Yugoslavia. Hungary got involved and was now in the war too. Its forces also invaded Yugoslavia but more or less restricted themselves to the occupation of the Vojvodina, with its large Hungarian speaking population. After WW I, Hungary had been obliged to hand it over to Yugoslavia and now returned it to the homeland. But the price Hungary paid was terrible. When Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, Hungarian forces marched with the Germans and Hungary was at war with the Soviet Union.
Pál Teleki, Prime Minister, was one of the many Hungarians not agreeing with the German free-passage through his country to Yugoslavia. He did not want to be involved in the war. He also considered it as a breach of promises made to Yugoslavia. So he resisted and worked hard to deny the Nazi Germans the free passage. But he was overruled and lost the battle and could not stop Hungary getting involved in a war the country had nothing to gain by.

On April 3rd, 1941 the world was told that Pál Teleki had died suddenly and unexpectedly. Some say it was a suicide out of protest, others say that he was murdered by the Nazis. So far the truth has never been revealed.

Pál Teleki’s unexpected passing badly hit Magyar Cserkész- Szövetség and Magyar Cserkész Lány Szövetség. Not only did the former lose its ever active Honorary Chief Scout, both movements lost an important, influential and powerful protector. World Scouting too suffered the loss of a great Scout who had served international Scouting well and was held in great esteem.

The movements led by Ferenc Farkas and Antonia Lindenmeyer were soon to detect
that hard times had now really come and had to be faced.

During the war the government-sponsored Levente youth movement was placed under military command and thereupon the military decreed that the M.Cs.Sz. should be incorporated in Levente. A government decision disbanding M.Cs.Sz. and merging the groups with Levente had already been prepared but, in the last minute, Regent Horthy’s personal intervention prevented its execution. As per a Prime Minister’s degree, dated March 12th, 1942 Scouting was permitted to carry on, be it that the organisation’s name had to be changed from Magyar Cserkészszövetség to just “Scouting Movement”. Its very democratic General Assembly and its also democratic Executive Committee were disbanded and the national leadership, so far elected by the members, was from now on to be appointed by the government. Ferenc Farkas, a good, loyal Scout of long standing and great repute, who was the last chosen Chief Scout, was not replaced but to be the first “government appointed” Chief Scout. Loyal to real Scouting as he was, his task was not an easy one. He tried to protect and continue real Scouting as much as possible, but in these times of war, this meant compromising. At the time the Boy Scouts numbered 60,000, the Girl Scouts 45,000.

Until the end of 1943 the Hungarian Leadership had been able to keep in touch with the Boy Scouts International Bureau and the Polish Z.H.P. in Exile, both in London, as well as with the Swedish Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, Chief Scout of Sweden and member of the International Committee. The fact that Sweden was not involved in the world conflict, and had its embassies in almost all of the belligerent countries made her an important neutral power and it may well be that Hungarian Scouting used this channel to inform the International Movement. But more difficulties were just over the horizon. Since Hungary was in the war, the Hungarian Nazis had the full support of the German Nazis and were very influential and powerful. They increased their attacks on Scouting and demanded
the two movements to be banned and disbanded for ever, especially “as the boys and girls are wearing the uniform of an enemy state”. (Hungary was also at war with Great Britain, Scouting’s place of birth.) But the churches, Protestant and Roman Catholic, protested and firmly supported Scouting and Regent Horthy also remained a firm and important as well as powerful defender. So Scouting was saved once again. But at a price. Concessions had to be made time and again and the movement changed more and more its original policy of tolerance and openness. Under Nazi pressure membership was restricted to Christians only. All Jewish or Gypsy Hungarians had to be removed from the ranks. This was certainly not to the liking of a large number of the grass root level Scout leaders who considered this a departure from the Real Scouting Spirit and B.P.’s original ideas. Most of them protected their Jewish or Gypsy boys and girls. But more important and of consequence for the future, in the opinion of most of the leaders, Rover Scouts and older Scouts this marked the end of the legitimacy of Hungarian Scouting. Their theory was that the movement gradually changed into a nationalist and regime linked organisation. Forty Five years later this had its repercussions.

The war dragged on and was never very popular with the population. Thousands of young Hungarians were killed in action or simply died in the front lines of starvation or frost. Horthy’s son Stephen was one of them. Thousands were taken P.O.W. and suffered in Soviet camps, where some were brainwashed, educated to be good communist and trained to be the future leaders of their country. It soon became evident that Nazi-Germany was not going to win this war and later still the Hungarians too were able to watch the might of the United States when its bombers roared over high in the skies. Even the government had to admit this and so by various, secret and diplomatic means contact was sought with the Allied Powers hoping to thus create a situation enabling Hungary to either step out of the war or to change sides, as later Romania
did. Adolf Hitler, sensing the danger involved, ordered the German SS and the Hungarian Nazis to step right in. On March 19th, 1944, Regent Horthy and his family, as well as a large number of leading Hungarians, were arrested and deported to Germany, either to tolerant detention or to concentration camps. The Arrowcrossers, under their leader Ferenc Szálasi, now took over and a complete Nazi-SS regime was introduced, including the deportation of Hungarian Jews and Gypsies to the extermination camps.

But the Nazi government had one more card up her sleeve. The Ministry of Education ordered the merging of the Scout Movement with the right-extremist Hungarista Örszem, the Nazi Youth Movement. The order was never really executed. There was no time. The Soviet Red Army was on Hungarian territory, rapidly approaching the outskirts of Budapest and the siege and battle of that city was about to begin. On January 15th, 1945 the Pest part of Budapest was taken by the Red Army, which was now in full control of the Danube’s east bank, whereas the Buda part, on the west bank, defended by German SS and Arrowcrosser, held out until well into February 1945. Shortly thereafter the German and Hungarian Nazis were driven out of Hungary, leaving behind a destroyed, devastated country occupied by the Soviet Red Army, or, as the communists put it “liberated by it”.

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Once again Hungary belonged to the losers and once again the bill, worse than the 1918 one, was about to be presented and would have to be paid in full.

THE TRANSITION PERIOD 1944 - 1948

Yet once again the movements proved their indestructibility.

Almost immediately after the Soviet Red Army’s occupation of Pest the first post war national Scout leaders conference was called. On January 21st, 1945, it was decided to create a Temporary National Executive Committee. It reorganised the NHQ staff and – in order not to antagonise the new rulers to be – the well known, high ranking, prominent leaders of national and international repute – if still in the country – were requested to keep a very low profile and to keep their distance.

In Hungary important changes were imminent, as was only to be expected. In the early days the pretence of “democracy” was upheld and near the end of 1945 parliamentary elections were held. A new government was installed but it was not immediately an “all- communist” government but a coalition
government, in which Soviet backed communists took the prominent positions. The “Kingdom Without a King” belonged to the past. A republic took its place. This government began reorganising and reconstructing the country in every respect. But there were still several political parties and so the parliament was still functioning and some opposition was still possible.

The new regime stipulated that all adults, involved in education and/or youth work had to be “politically purged”. This included all Scout leaders, who had to be re-certified. Had this been left to the movements there would have been no problems. However, the government appointed a committee of outsiders and it was not difficult to guess on whose side these outsiders were on. It was quite clear too that the committee had no difficulty in finding fault with many leaders who were thereupon banned from any further involvement with “youth education and/or work”. But like so many other Hungarians many Scout leaders were also arrested and deported even to far away places in Siberia.

The communists’ final aim was the total liquidation of all youth organisations and clubs, including Scouting, and the transfer of all members and properties to the Uttörö, the communist Pioneers, and the introduction of a compulsory membership of same.

Wherever possible the government started actions directed against
Scouting and there was a constant meddling in and interfering with Scouting’s internal affairs. This lead to uncertainty – was or was not Scouting going to be permitted to carry on? – and division – what type of Scouting would be acceptable to the new authorities if any?

There were those who wished to continue original and traditional Scouting as it had been before WW II, without any politics or any political influences. They reintroduced the old names Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) and Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) and just changed the emblem and badges by removing the St Stephen’s Crown and replacing it by the Hungarian Coat of Arms, but that was about as far as they were willing to go. Reconstruction began.

There were others who said that the Magyar Cserkészszövetség and the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség had ceased to exist when – by government degree of 12/03/1942 – the movements had been put under political control and had been forced to change their names and statutes. At the time, so they declared, too many concessions had been made and the original movements had been tainted in such a manner that the new authorities would certainly never accept them again. They sought other ways and many a new Scout inspired movement, large and small, sprung up, such as The Nepi Cserkészek Nunkaközössége (Working Community of Popular Scouts), the Halado Cserkészsapatok Munkaközössége (Working Community of the Progressive Scout Groups), the Magyar Demokratikus Csérkeszszövetség (Hungarian Democratic Scout Association) etc. etc.

There can be no doubt that all were good Scouts, loyal to the World Brotherhood of Scouting and the Scouting ideals. They all feared, and deep in their hearts knew, that the possibility that Scouting might survive under a communist regime was limited if at all existant. In their different ways they sought to
save Scouting, but their approaches and their evaluation of the new situation were slightly different.

After the 1945 parliamentary elections the Scout movement also chose new leaders and the Temporary National Executive Committee was replaced with thanks. But Scouting was on its own and had no one to turn to for assistance. The long-time supporters and benefactors of the past had been swept away by the waves of war. It was, however, possible to re-establish contact with the International Bureaux WAGGGS and WAISM in London.

All youth organisations – including the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts movements – were ordered to join the Magyar Demokraticus Ifjúsági Szövetség MADISZ (Hungarian Democratic Youth Association) which in turn was a member of the CIMEA (The Communist Children’s and Adolescents’ Movements of the Democratic People’s Republics) based in Moscow. The MADISZ was to be an overall body in which all youth work was to be concentrated so that government and later party control would be easier, less complicated and more efficient.

Though Scouting had official permission to operate, it met with increasing difficulties. Scouting property was vandalised. There were actions against the central leadership and against individual groups. Everything was done, particularly by local authorities, to obstruct Scouting activities and very often individual Scouts (boys and girls) and/or leaders (male and female) were attacked, beaten up and wounded. Worst hit were the “Industrial Groups” in which employees used to be members. These industries were taken over by Soviet Workers Committees who immediately withdrew the support and facilities. Also within the MADISZ framework Scout leaders were forced to join committees that adopted resolutions that clashed with the ideals of Scouting. But worst of all were the arrests that hit many Hungarians rated as “undesirables”.

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They disappeared from the face of the earth and could not be traced. Among them many leaders and older boys and girls.

In 1946 the government controlled press printed reports concerning sabotage and other activities directed against the state and carried out by Scouts. It was said that a Scout plot to overthrow the government had been detected and Soviet soldiers had been attacked, robbed, mugged, wounded and even killed in the streets of Budapest by Scouts in uniform. No real evidence, however, was ever given.

In July 1946 the Ministry of the Interior had ready an order to disband and ban the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts associations. The civil servants had not yet all been replaced by communists or fellow travellers and so the order was leaked to reliable members of parliament. Questions were asked in parliament, the answers were vague. Thereupon the Ministry changed its tactics. A meeting of Youth Leaders was called on July 22nd, 1946. Scout leaders were not admitted! Nevertheless, in their absence, the congress saw fit to change the movement’s name from Magyar Cserkészsövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) into Magyar Cserkészfiuk Szövetsége (Hungarian Boy Scouts Association). The addition of Fiuk (Boy) expressing that the movement was a Boys’ organisation only and that no girls were involved. (A correction that might have been made in 1926 when the Girl Scouts went independent.) Now of course it was from an unpleasant source and suffered as such. But apart from that the statutes were changed and so were the Scout Law and the Scout Promise. All references to God and country were simply deleted. And, it must be repeated, Scout leaders were not involved, not even present! The mutilated results were presented to the Scouts and they were told to accept it. There was great consternation in the movements, as well as in parliament where protests were lodged and questions were asked. As one of the MPs said:
“Scouting has its international rules, but it is also characterised by profound spiritual and intellectual foundations. These cannot be altered by anybody. I call your attention to the fact that there has been only one attempt, so far, to change these ground rules of Scouting, in the period of fascism.”

But the government did not give in. A new order was issued that another “purge” and re-certification of the Scout leaders was necessary and again many were expelled from all youth work. The number of Boy and Girl Scouts dwindled and the number of groups too. By early 1947 only 160 groups were still more or less operational. By now it was quite clear what the rulers intended but, against better judgement, some still cherished the hope that Scouting could be saved, be it in a strongly diluted form.

And indeed, it suddenly looked as if salvation was at hand.

World Scouting proudly announced the Jamboree Of Peace, the 6th World Jamboree to be held at Moisson, France in the summer of 1947. Invitations to participate were sent to all registered and recognised movements and the Magyar Cserkészfiuk Szövetsége (Hungarian Boy Scouts Association.) was still one of them.

The Hungarian government realised the importance of that Jamboree. Participation of a Hungarian contingent might show the world how democratic and free Hungary still was and so it would be nice propaganda to permit Hungarian Scouts to attend. Yet the government play acted a certain reluctance and permission to go was granted at the last minute only. And so 200 selected Hungarian Scouts were permitted to travel to France on August 6th, 1947. They were under the supervision of a political observer and spies, planted in the contingent had to report to him daily. The Magyar Cserkészfiuk Szövetsége (Hungarian Boy Scouts Association.) was forced to publicly, humbly and kindly thank the most hated man in Hungary –
Matyas Rakoski – leader of the communist party, for his kindness and leniency. On the front page of the Magyar Cserkész magazine the movement had to print: We are going after all . . . our thanks for the help of Matyas Rakoski.”

Immediately after the contingent’s return from the Jamboree many still operational groups were forced to disband.

THE GIRL SCOUTS IV

In her 9th Biennial Report to WAGGS (covering 01/07/1944-30/ 06/1946) the Magyar Cserkész lány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association.) later reported that during the war activities had been restricted to mostly social work, camping and travelling having been impossible. Girl Scouts worked in hospitals, refugee camps, central kitchens and assisted during the harvests. There were no complaints, no hints attracting attention to the many difficulties the movement was in. But at the end a special remark:

“Although we have lost many Girl Scouts in the North and the East, the numbers and groups have increased enormously.”

This was despite the communists actions!

In the 10th Biennial Report (01/07/1946 – 31/12/1948). again no complaints and no hints at the situation the movement was in under the new regime. Thanks is given to the American Girl Scouts and the World Bureau for the financial support received after 1945. Neither did the reports mention the fact that Antonia Lindenmeyer was no longer in charge. It was simply stated that Rose Zimmermann was the President and the acting International Secretary. Further, the total membership was given as 12.900.
THE VERY END

In March, 1948 the Boy Scouts International Bureau in London received a last letter from the Budapest NHQ informing the World of Scouting that Magyar Cserkészfuk Szövetsége had decided to give up its membership of the World Movement as it no longer wanted to belong to the international movement “which was mostly serving imperialistic aims with the support of capitalism” (original text from the original letter of resignation.)

In May, 1948 it was publicly announced at – of all places – the Hárshegy Gilwell Training Park that the Magyar Cserkészfiuk Szövetsége had officially ceased to be and that its members would be incorporated in the Uttörö, the Soviet styled Pioneers.

BUDAPEST, AUGUST 1948

The CIMEA (Communist Children’s and Adolescents’ Movements of the Democratic People’s Republics), based in Moscow, the overall body of the various national movements let the Magyar Demokratikus Ifjúsági Szövetség (MADISZ) organise its well staged, well directed and much heralded international meeting of all member movements.

On the agenda were World Scouting and World Guiding. The participants concluded that the capitalist world used Scouting and Guiding as a means to mislead, to oppress and to exploit youth. Consequently both movements were condemned as enemies of the working class. An open official fight was launched against them and their destruction was heralded. No doubt the Hungarian communists were very pleased to be able to report that they had already eliminated Hungarian Scouting.
In Jamboree, the Boy Scouts International Bureau’s magazine of December, 1948 (page 229) J.S. Wilson, the Director of said Bureau, wrote the following:

“It is with great regret that we announce that the National Presidential staff of Magyar Cserkészfiuk Szövetsége have cancelled their membership with the International Conference of the Boy Scout Movement and their registration with the International Bureau.

While accepting this resignation without comment, it is impossible to refrain from expressing our sympathy with our Scout friends in Hungary. We wish them happiness, and trust that some time in the future our friendly association of so many years will be renewed.”

In the spring of 1949 Mrs Newton of the American Girl Scouts received the following letter:


Dear Mrs Newton,

As the Chairman of the World Committee I let you know that the League of Hungarian Girl Scouts ceased to be.

May we express at the same time our thanks for all the help and assistance that members of the American Girl Scouts and the Headquarters rendered to us in the last years – in the name of the Hungarian Girl Scouts as well as on my behalf.

Please let them know the repeated thanks of us all, we shall always gratefully think of them and personally of you dear Mrs Newton.

May God bless your future work too.

With many kind regards,

Rose Zimmermann.”

This was Hungarian Scouting. Over and out!
The Magyar Nepköztärsaság (Hungarian People’s Republic.) was proclaimed in 1949. The Iron Curtain had descended.

Hungarian Scouting was finished. Or was it not?

IN EXILE

During the winter of 1944-1945 thousands of Hungarians fled in a western direction, keeping ahead of the advancing Soviet Red Army that was occupying their homeland. Some who had been active Nazis had every reason to go but apart from them there were others who simply did not desire to live in a communist dominated country and rather chose to face the uncertainties of living in foreign countries.

Others who initially stayed to see how things would develop soon found their experiences such that they also decided to escape whilst it was still possible. And so in later years thousands more followed until the Iron Curtain of barbed wire, land mines, watchtowers, watchdogs and armed guards was erected along the borders between Hungary and Austria and Hungary was sealed off from the outside world.

These refugees landed in Displaced Persons Camps in the American, British or French zones of occupied Austria and Germany. They were registered and above all screened, a process which separated the Nazis from the others and anyone suspected of war crimes was sent back to the country of origin for trial.

Life in the camps was not pleasant. Much to worry about and little to do. But there were also Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and leaders amongst them and soon Scout Groups were founded. This was much promoted by the authorities in charge as it was a means of keeping the children occupied and out of mischief. Also it provided them with a diversion in their sad, dark, daily existence.
The groups united and with the blessing of Chief Scout Ferenc Farkas, who had also fled to the west, and created the Paul Teleki Scout Community later renamed Magyar Cserkészszövetség In Exile (Hungarian Scout Association in Exile).

The situation of before 1926, more or less, was restored when it was decided that the Girl Scout Groups would operate within the M.Cs.Sz. in Exile rather than in a separate organisation. The Boy Scouts International Bureau in London had opened the Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, based in Frankfurt am Main, which not only assisted all D.P. Groups and their National Leadership but also registered them as members of the D.P. Division. The D.P. Movements were, however, informed that the recognition would be valid only until the D.P. Scouts were moved to countries where recognised and registered National Movements were operating. They would then have to join these. (See Chapter I)

Most of the Displaced Persons did not stay in the D.P. Camps long and soon they spread all over the world. Wherever they settled in sufficient numbers, Scout groups were founded. In 1950 there were 8 Hungarian groups in European countries, 20 in Canada and the U.S.A., four in Australia and nine in various South American countries. They remained loyal to the homeland, flew the national flag, wore the traditional Hungarian uniforms and badges and worked in accordance with the original rules. They promoted the language and the culture and . . . longed for their homeland all the time. They were true and respected representatives of Hungarian Scouting. But they did not disband their “National” Movement as the WAISM (World Association of the International Scout Movement) had stipulated.
THE INSURRECTION OF 1956

Freedom is appreciated most when freedom is lacking!

The Leader and Dictator of the Soviet Union – Joseph Stalin – ruled the communist world with an iron fist. This fist also rested heavily on Hungary. The Magyar Nepköztársaság (Hungarian People’s Republic.) (proclaimed 1949), dominated by the communist party, was not what even some fervent communists in the party’s lowest levels had expected it to be. Betrayal, terror, arrests, torture, deportation, work camps in the homeland or in Siberia, were part of daily life. AVO, the secret police was always in evidence and very active in assisting to bring the people the “blessings of the workers’ paradise”. The economic situation was bad, the reconstruction of the destroyed country was slow, there were food and other shortages, but above all there was lack of freedom.

Joseph Stalin died in 1953 and it so seemed as if a slightly more lenient regime took over. In Hungary too the Stalinists were replaced by more lenient and realistic communists led by Imre Nagy, who seemed inclined to gradually change the general situation. And indeed his government demanded national independence, and the withdrawal of the Soviet Red Army, still in occupation and living on the fat of the land. The nation, fed up with the situation and angry, backed him and rose in protest. There were protest demonstrations and Soviet monuments were destroyed. In Budapest Stalin’s enormous statue was dragged from its socle and hacked to pieces and the communist emblem was removed from the Hungarian National flag. It was simply cut out of the white, so that every-
where national flags flew with a big hole in the centre. People took to the streets and there was a general sense of liberty in the air. However, members of the AVO, the Secret Police, and some Stalinists opened fire on the unarmed crowds. Whereupon the workers of a large factory, manufacturing fire arms and ammunition, loaded their trucks and distributed arms and ammunition to the people who thereupon returned fire and hunted down the hated AVH (AVO agents). Then the Hungarian Army sided with the people and the fighting was really on. The Soviet Red Army tried to intervene but soon found that it not only had to face armed civilians but also the Army’s tanks and it was forced to retreat from the big cities.

From October 25th until November 4th, 1956 the world’s attention was focused on Hungary. The Soviets offered negotiations and it seemed that the Hungarians were on the brink of victory and freedom but of course the Moscow bosses could not permit all this. They spoke with two tongues and won time by negotiating, meanwhile regrouping their forces and preparing the final attack. And so the high hopes were crushed by Soviet Army tanks despite the fierce and heroic resistance. Imre Nagy and the popular army officer and minister of defence Pál Meleter were trapped and arrested, later to be hanged. Thousands shared this fate. Not all were killed but large numbers were deported and locked up in prisons and camps some as far away as Siberia.

During this short period of freedom Scouting revived and proved once again that, despite the persecution of the eight previous years, the Scouting Spirit and Ideals had been kept alive. All over the country Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts – in uniform – reappeared in the open, not only rendering the usual services (First Aid etc.) during the
fighting but also founding groups. Buildings, like the former NHQ and Scout Shop in Budapest, confiscated by the communists, were retaken and meetings were held to prepare the official re-founding of the movements. Information of this nature was sent to the International Bureaux of the two World Movements. But the Soviet Union’s interference brought all this to a halt. Some leaders were arrested and deported, others managed to fade away and some left the country. Scouting went “underground” again.

As soon as it was clear that the Popular Insurrection had not been successful, that no assistance was to be expected from the West, during the chaos more than 200,000 Hungarians fled the country. They took to the west and settled all over the world, augmenting the many Hungarian Exiles already there.

Thus many more boy and girl Scouts and leaders joined the Magyar Cserkészszövetség -in-Exile.

A.I.S.G.O.

During the 11th International Conference at Moisson, Rosny (1947) in France it had been stipulated that the Displaced Persons Scouts would be under the wings of the Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau for as long as they resided in countries where there were no National Movements. As soon as they left the camps and settled in a country with a National Movement they were to become members of that movement. Their “National Exile Movements” would then have to be disbanded, as otherwise they could no longer be considered Scouts and would be expelled from the World Brotherhood. But, explained in Chapter I, it did not work that way and the “National Exile Movements”, leading and representing their groups all over the world were still very much operational in 1961.
The Exiled Hungarians and Poles were the backbone of the large family of Exile Movements and they had taken the initiative of creating the Council of Scout Associations In Exile, which, in the World Brotherhood, presented, defended and pleaded the case of the Exiles.

Years of negotiations followed until in 1961, during the 18th International Conference at Lisbon, the Exile Movements were denied membership in the World Movement, a black page indeed in the history of Scouting. (See Chapter I)

Thus in 1961 the excellent, high quality Hungarian Exile Movement was also hit badly when the International Conference at last carried out the decision taken in 1947. The Hungarians, for excellent and respectable reasons, explained in detail in Chapter I, could not and would not obey. These reasons, at the time, seemed pretty unrealistic to say the least, but they were also admired for sticking to their ground and principles and – after 1961 – they still had many friends in the WOSM recognised movements.

In 1976 the expelled Exile movements merged with the Guide movements in Exile and founded the A.I.S.G.O. or Associated International Scout And Guide Organisations. The Hungarians (e.g. Edward Chaszar) played a prominent role. At the time the Magyar Cserkészszövetség-in-Exile numbered 84 groups of which there were 24 in the States, one in the Netherlands and others in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. The movement had two permanent training centres in Brazil, two in the U.S.A. and one in Australia. Though expelled from the World Move-
ments WOSM and WAGGGS the Hungarians loyally stuck to the international rules as laid down by these bodies.

THE WASTED YEARS

After the unsuccessful Popular Insurrection of 1956 Hungary had been plunged into darkness again but the communist regime understood quite well that it owed its existence to the Soviet tanks only, without which it would have been wiped out. And so it must be admitted that the Hungarian rulers, having learned a lesson, did no longer take everything for granted and took an attitude different from that of the rulers of the other East Block states. Economically the situation gradually improved and so it seemed as if the embittered Hungarians were better off. But in the “Goulash People’s Republic” as the country mockingly was referred to the one essential thing, Freedom, was missing, and initially the Iron Curtain remained impenetrable. Hopes may have been raised again during the Czechoslovakian Prague Spring of 1968 when it so seemed that the Dubcek regime was introducing better conditions. But again Moscow did not permit this experiment of “communism with a human face” and sent in its tanks to end it all.

Hungary, more prosperous than the other East Block countries, was soon to become a favourite holiday resort for the other East Block nations and in particular thousands of East Germans from the D.D.R. (Deutsche Demokratische Republik – German Democratic Republic) used to spend their annual holidays in Hungary which they considered to be a much better place than the D.D.R. But Hungary also needed western foreign currency and it opened its borders more and more to Western holiday makers. In the mid eighties some Hungarians were permitted to travel to Austria and other western countries, though never as families. Relatives had to stay behind as hostages so as to make sure that those visiting the west would return.
And so it happened that even Western Scouts and Guides in uniform, camped in Hungary, which of course attracted the undivided attention of Hungarians who – approaching them carefully – told the visitors that they were Scouts too. Some Hungarian youngsters visiting western countries made contact with the local Scouts and declared that they were Scouts too. They showed home made plastic Scout badges for which moulds of the old metal badges had been used. They said that they were members of “Church clubs” which practised Scouting illegally and not without risk. The Scouting Spirit was still lingering on.

THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

On 11/03/1985 in far away but still too close for comfort Moscow, a new man named Michel Gorbatchev was appointed Secretary General of the Communist Party. He became the most powerful of leaders, not only in the Soviet Union but in the whole communist ruled world, Yugoslavia, Albania and China excepted. In the beginning not so much attention was paid to his coming to power but gradually it was detected that he differed from his predecessors and that he introduced certain unexpected and surprising changes which drew worldwide attention such as Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (improvement) intending to reform (but not to liquidate) the Soviet Union. These two words were like two stones dropped into a quiet, stagnant pool causing ruffles that did not stop at the S.U.’s borders but also influenced the many satellite states in East and Central Europe, Asia and Africa. The East and Central Europeans, for decades having lived under regimes that they hated and never really accepted, were suddenly filled with hope. No one could foresee or predict that within a rather short time the whole Soviet system would collapse but all cherished high hopes that the system would be reformed and would provide more freedom.
Some of Gorbatchev’s ideas were very much like the ones already expressed during the Hungarian Popular Insurrection of 1956 and the Prague Spring of 1968. At the time they were unacceptable to Moscow and crushed, this time they came from Moscow and that made all the difference.

Glasnost and Perestroika had great influence on the East Block countries, in particular on the situation in Hungary.

Dictatorships, be they of a National-Socialist, a Fascist, a Communist, a Right Wing Conservative or a military structure, always present to the outside world and the people suffering them, a united front, pretending that there is unity in the ranks even if there are, in reality, fractions which very much would have liked to slit each others throats, and sometimes did behind closed doors.

Such was the case in the Democratic Socialist People’s Republics like Hungary. Neither republic nor regime had ever been either “democratic” or “socialist”, they had only pretended to be but were in fact dictatorships. Socialism or rather Social-democracy is trying to reach its goals by democratic means, via elections etc. and communism was anything but democratic and had nothing whatsoever in common with real socialism. The system misused, raped and stained the word, so much so that “socialism” got an undeserved bad reputation in the East Block countries as well as in conservative circles in the free countries who gladly co-operated with the communists to further blacken real socialism.

Suddenly cracks were discovered in the so called United Front and it was found that there were not only tough Stalinists but also dissidents leaning towards social democracy and last but not least technocrats and specialist who, neither believing in nor interested in communism, had paid lip-service to it whilst performing their technical tasks of national importance, such as keeping the railways running and providing the electricity.
Neither the technocrats nor the “lenient communists” leaning against and – in secret – preferring a social-democratic system, could do anything for as long as the tough Stalinists and their secret police were in power. If their deviations from the party line were detected they were arrested and eliminated. So during the early Gorbachev period, for as long as it was uncertain whether his position would prove to be a stable factor, everybody was very careful. But when his position grew stronger and stronger things in the other communist ruled countries started happening as well and the Stalinists had to experience how the reigns of government gradually slipped out of their hands and were taken over by others, still pretending to be communists, but far more lenient, and more realistic.

In September 1987 150 Hungarians met in the village of Lakitelek and founded the M.D.F. the Hungarian Democratic Forum. They were an active opposition and, going as far as they dared, waited for the government to take action. But Glasnost and Perestroika more or less paralyzed the government and nothing really happened. So the M.D.F. got more and more influence. In the winter of 1988-1989 the Hungarian regime was subjected to a lot of inland pressure and changes were heralded. The old regime was made to resign and the “hard liners” were replaced by more humane, liberal and lenient communists who understood Gorbachev. Generally speaking the nation was divided in several sections:

A) Those who did not – at the time – expect the system to totally collapse, but were hoping for a more lenient regime, providing a little more freedom, less pressure and important changes.

B) Those to whom the communist system had been beneficial. They simply refused to believe in or were willing to accept the signs of the time and hoped that with some slight reform here and some alteration there, the system would stay in place.
C) Those who were impatiently awaiting the moment – which they hoped would come – when the communist system would be brought down, either by free elections or, if necessary, by violence. They took the risks and they demanded freedom.

ON THE ROAD TO REVIVAL

Their movements banned, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, despite the oppression, persecution, betrayal and risks had maintained certain contacts, always bearing in mind the hope that once the day might come that they would be able to revive Scouting. It boosted their morale and helped them to face and survive those wasted decades. But it was not without risk and many got into trouble and had to suffer for their Scouting ideals.

During all the unexpected changes the Hungarians got restless and more and more dared to stick their necks out. The pre-1948 Scouts too, be it that they were all 40 solid years older!

Yet not even the most optimistic amongst them really believed that it would be possible to revive scouting and they all understood that they might be risking their freedom, Scouting, after all, still being banned. Involved in what they were about to do, some, who had foreign contacts, saw to it that these were informed of what they intended to do so that – should everything fail and they were arrested – these friends in the Free West would be able to inform the press.

“ I puzzled over the magic that Scouting holds within it, that can exite elderly gentlemen from the East Block countries to risk breaking the Law and face imprisonment to keep the movement alive” (John May, British International Commissioner, in (British) Scouting magazine of June 1991
Istvoan Kristo Nagy, a member of the oppositional National Council of the Patriotic People’s Front, a Scout before 1948, was the first who publicly spoke of the possibilities of reviving the Hungarian Scout Movement.

Some others were toying with the same idea, not so much an immediate revival but more a matter of drawing the nation’s attention to what Scouting had been, what it stood for and what part it had been playing in Hungarian life before it had been banned and disbanded by the communists. So they planned to organise a museum exhibition dedicated to the Magyar Cserkészsőszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association.) and the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association.) They presented their plan to the authorities who, as was only to be expected, flatly refused their permission and the applicants were only too happy that they were not arrested.

But the idea lingered on. So somewhat later, without having asked any permission at all, they boldly announced that in the Mora Ferenc Muzeum in the city of Szeged on May 27th, 1988, a Scouting Exhibition would be opened to the public and that it would last until February 28th, 1989. Considering that Scouting was still officially banned and even the wearing of a
Scout pin-badge was still punishable, it was very likely that the initiators, when making the announcement, did not really believe that the exhibition would last longer than a single day before being closed by the authorities. But surprise, surprise. The authorities just did not have the courage to close it and so after so many decades in limbo, Scouting carried the day. The exhibition attracted more than 60,000 visitors, including official representatives of the Austrian and the West German Scout movements (in uniform) as well as WOSM’s World Bureau in Geneva’s Secretary General (until November 1988) Dr Laszlo Nagy. (The latter was a Hungarian who had fled his country in 1948.) Amongst the many visitors were also some top-leaders of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség-in-Exile, and no one hindered them.

The exhibition developed into a meeting point for Scouts from all over Hungary and the possible revival of the movements was always the main topic of discussion.

Meanwhile the old Stalinist regime had been wiped out and replaced by a more lenient but in name still communist but more realistic government lead by Prime Minister Karoly Grosz who paid visits to Western countries in order to obtain financial and material support. His visit to the U.S.A. offered the Hungarian Exile movement a grand opportunity to talk to him.

“I was delegated to formally ask the Hungarian Prime Minister Grosz during his visit to the United States to have Scouting permitted in Hungary once more. In his reply the Prime Minister called the 1948 dissolution of the Hungarian Scout Associations a “grave error” and indicated that he has been a scout himself.” (Gabnor Bodnar in a letter dated 09/03/1989 to the author.)

Hungarian State Television and Radio gave extensive coverage to the Prime Minister’s US tour including the above event,
mention of which was also made in the Hungarian newspapers.

On July 15th, 1988 Hungarian TV stuck out its neck, transmitting a talk show with nine well known “former” Scout leaders.

“The approach was positive, friendly, with limited exceptions which could be expected”.

(The above letter was to the author.)

Soon afterwards a second TV program dedicated to Scouting with a group of “formers”, including a Cistercian teaching monk and a famous musicologist, reminiscing about their experiences in Scouting and the influence it had had on their lives.

Scouting had stepped out of the dark shadows and back into the limelight and could no longer be ignored. It became the object of daily comment and much debate.

THE MUZEUM KAVEHAZ MEETING

October 12th, 1988 was to become a historic date. Some 60 Scout leaders, a large number of them dressed in their well preserved, well hidden but still forbidden uniforms, openly gathered in the Muzeum Kavehaz, (Museum Coffee-house), a restaurant in the very heart of the Budapest city centre. Considering the fact that that very evening the Hungarian TV gave extensive coverage, the meeting may not have been that secret after all, but important it was. But it was also risky; the communists were still in control and power and no doubt the omnipresent secret police was there taking names and
making notes. Also it is not unimaginable that a few of the participants – willingly or unwillingly – had been infiltrated by the secret police to sabotage or report on the proceedings.

The initiators in the chair proposed the revival of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) based on the same statutes and principles as before 1939. One Undivided National Movement. Further, it was suggested to appoint a Temporary Executive Committee to be charged with the execution of the plans. The leaders – having a feeling that they were shaking off the chains which had made Scouting impossible for decades – voted and it was found that a very large majority was in favour. Only a few abstained, maybe out of fear of the consequences. A few voted against for various reasons.

Some thought it not the right time to revive scouting.

Some put forward that the reintroduction of pre-1939 Scouting would also mean the return of the old Scout Promise in full. In accordance with the World Organisation’s rules that would imply the inclusion of “Duty To God”. They were of the opinion that such a Promise could not be demanded from youngsters who – born and bred in an atheist country – had never had any religious training at all and consequently no notion of God. As Barry Newman, an American reporter, wrote in The Wall Street Journal of 08/08/1989

“After 40 years of an impious regime some of the old Scouts, though believers themselves, say that Hungary’s children will feel more at ease without the word “God” in the Scout Promise.”

Other, independent foreign observers feared that kids, being made to repeat “doing their duty to God” without knowing what “God” was might be no more than parrots repeating
meaningless words. As a British journalist, a former Scout, wrote

“Hypocrites are created that way.”

But Laszlo Nagy (WOSM’s Secretary-General) was still optimistic when he told Barry Newman (see above):

“I am convinced it is not an ideological or religious problem. Everything is a question of proportion.”

But there were also some to whom the communist rule had been and still was beneficial. As many others they were hoping that the communist domination, with a little reform here and there, might be able to maintain itself. They suggested not to revive the movement but let the Uttörö take over Scouting’s name and externals and no doubt they were inspired by the Polish situation where the original Scout Movement Z.H.P. instead of having been banned had been taken over by the communists and, outwardly, had looked like a genuine scout movement all the time. The benefit would be that the thus created Scout Movement would have thousands of members, but would still be under party control. Very understandably the proposal was totally unacceptable to the majority of those present who, wanting a fresh start, considered these – no doubt Uttörö and Party inspired proposals – as being “too close to communism”. Rumours had it that some of the proposers had been or still were actively involved in Uttörö (Pioneers) and that they had been sent by the latter – if not to check – to at least sabotage the proceedings and to create discord. In the latter they succeeded. The seed was sown which lead to a “Scouting Schism” that persisted and created difficulties that Scouting could well have done without in the years ahead.
All this happened even before the first groups had been founded (or reappeared) and the youngsters – after all the most important in the movement – were involved.

“In as much as there were, at the time, no organised troops and no sponsors, the legality of this body (the Temporary Executive Committee) was seriously in question” (Gabor Bodnar’s above mentioned letter.)

Or as the World Bureau in Geneva put it in its “Report on Hungary” no 104:

“Legally, the Hungarian Association does not yet exist, since the Parliament does not vote on the new “Law On Associations” until December (1988). For the time being the Provisional Executive Committee of the Hungarian Scout Association is operating de facto.”

These were the facts indeed, but so what? One cannot blame these men and women who, in a quickly changing atmosphere, in their loyalty to Scouting, in their enthusiasm, gave free reign to their pent up emotions and did something instead of waiting for something to be done. And the government? It did not act.

In November, 1988, Laszlo Nagy, the Secretary General of the World Organisation of Scout Movements (WOSM, Geneva) retired and was succeeded by Jacques Moreillon. But Laszlo Nagy had been involved in the revival and so after his retirement he represented WOSM on several occasions. Considering his background he could not be blamed for his enthusiasm and commitment. In the above WOSM “Report on Hungary” 104.3 is the following:

“Laszlo also negotiated on our behalf with the leading (government) authorities who were surprised at this sudden spontaneous revival of Scouting in the country, but they are not opposing it. Their philosophy is apparently that “there is room for everyone”, the more so since the Scout Programme does not appeal to the
same boys and girls as the Youth Programme sponsored by the Communist Party. They feel that there is no competition, but a reasonable peaceful coexistence and even co-operation.”

Even government ministers can underestimate the situation and be mistaken.

In a museum in the city of Koszeg, on October 22nd, 1988, a second Scouting exhibition was opened by Imre Sinkovits, dressed in full Scout uniform. He was, without question, not only a leading Hungarian actor but also a very popular one. Even during the “blackest and leanest of years” he had steadfastly and publicly always acknowledged being a Scout. During his opening speech he openly pronounced the three-fold basis of Scouting: The Service to God, Country and Fellow Man.”

THE CANDLE LIGHT MEETING

The Temporary Executive Committee did not sit still and called a second meeting on November 1st, 1988, this time in a Budapest Theatre. More than 600 persons attended, mostly dressed in uniform and this time not “old timers” only but many younger ones as well. When the meeting was in progress the following, recorded by an eyewitness, occurred.

“Suddenly the lights went out. The electricity supply had been cut. But some candles were produced – Scouts tend to come well prepared – and we started singing old Scout songs.”

When it was found that that the vast audience did not intend to evacuate the building and the candle light meeting went on, the saboteurs restored the electricity.

Various proposals were put to the vote. A permanent Executive Committee was installed. As President Mr Urhelyi, soon to by succeeded by Med. Dr. Laszlo Surjan, a surgeon of repute and of unstained integrity after the 4 decades of communist
government. A Girl Scout leader was chosen as Vice President. The other committee members were also appointed, e.g. Dr Levente Mathé who was to act as International Commissioner. The meeting expressed its wish to apply for membership in the World Movements in Geneva and London and further it was decided to strengthen the contacts with the Magyar Cserkészszövetség-in-Exile, the two World Movements and the western National Movements. This was Levente Mathé’s task and he proved to be a hard worker and a good and popular promoter of the cause in foreign countries. He was also a good correspondent and he understood that it was essential to maintain foreign contacts once they had been made. So he answered the letters received and this was much appreciated abroad, e.g. by the author.

Those who had opposed during the Muzeum Kavehaz meeting – as was their good right – launched some counter proposals, among others, to be careful, to at least act only in close cooperation and after consultation with the Uttörö (Pioneers) and then to reform the Uttörö (Pioneers) and turn them into a Scout movement. These proposals were rejected by a large majority, which was understandable. But the movers, not used to democratic decision-making (how could they have been) could not accept this. They left the meeting and the regrettable Scout Schism was almost a fact.

The opposition had been prepared. In the newspaper A Magyar Nemzetben of November 4th, 1988, it published its ideas and explained that the revival of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) and The Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) was very unrealistic as they would be old fashioned and not liberal enough. Further that the two MCSs would be to closely related to the Churches.
Meanwhile, however, the first Scout groups had been founded/revived and on November 7th, 1988 some of these took another daring step by honouring the late Honorary Chief Scout Pal Count Teleki, who had died in such a mysterious way on April 3rd, 1941. A large procession went to his grave. All Boy and Girl Scouts as well as the leaders were in perfect uniform. Wreathes and flowers were laid, and though it was still risky and scouting was not yet official, no one interfered. Which was very encouraging indeed. Later a memorial stone, with a Golden Fleur de Lis above it, was inserted in the wall of the house the Honorary Chief Scout had been living in. Frequently wreathes and flowers were laid down in his memory.

On November 10th, 1988, an audience of 200 met in Szeged for a Scouting symposium dealing with the future of Hungarian Scouting. The meeting was addressed by the organiser of the Exhibition, which was still on, and by Gabor Bodnar, the president of the Exile Movement who told the Exile Movement’s story and explained how important it had been to the young Hungarians living in Exile. Laszlo Nagy also spoke. He explained “Scouting Today”, pointed out that during the last 4 decades there had been considerable changes in Scouting’s system, program and set up, explained WOSM’s rules and how to gain registration and recognition.

In the Jurta Theatre, in Budapest, November 12th, 1988, there was
another meeting of Former Scouts. This time organised by neither Magyar Cserkészszövetség’s Temporary Executive Committee nor by the opposition. An effort to bridge the ever widening gap between the two?

Also in Budapest, on November 17th, 1988, the opposition Patriotic People’s Front, withstanding the still communist government, is being informed about Scouting by Istvan Kristo Nagy and Scouting is thus given and getting more and more public attention. The more so as Hungarian State TV is covering all these events and showing them to the nation, thus lending a great hand to Scouting’s revival. But of course the M.Cs.Sz.’s opposition was also trying to extend its influence, holding several public meetings, publishing its points of view in various magazines and newspaper.

And so, with historic 1988 drawing to its close, the two factions were gradually drifting apart, the gap was widening more and more. Hungarians, in favour of one united national movement, were offering their good services. The World Bureaux of WOSM and WAGGGS stressed the importance of unity, and did their best to bring the parties together, Foreign National Movements, such as the British and German were giving advice and so did the Dutch branch of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides.

1989

During the 3rd General Assembly, January 6th, 1989, the representatives of the opposition left the meeting and the regrettable Schism was a hard fact. There were to be two movements.

WOSM Geneva called a meeting of the two fractions on neutral ground in the World Bureau in Geneva (08-09/01/1989) but it was not possible to unite the two factions, though both promised to contemplate agreement.
On January 10th, 1989 the Parliament passed the Law permitting Freedom of Association meaning that without government permission new associations could be founded and registered in Court. This was an important event after four decades in which only communist organisations had been permitted to operate and all other activities in this field were punishable. On the 18th of January Hungarian State TV once again dedicated a long program to the rebirth of Scouting.

On January 23rd, 1989 in one more attempt to come to an agreement the opponents met again but to no avail.

On January 24th, 1989, the Law on Associations became effective and registration was possible. Early that day the top leadership of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) gathered on the steps of the Budapest Municipal Court and waited for the door to be opened whereupon they went in and were the first to file their request for official registration and recognition. They received the following official document, marked No. 1, indicating they were the first.

A Fővárosi Biróság,
Végzés,
A Fővárosi Biróság a Magyar Cserkész Szövetséget, székhelye:
Budapest I., Bem rakpart 6. szám./ az 1989. évi II,
tv.15. – ának/1/ bekezdése alapján 1, sorszám alatt a társadalmi szervezetek nyilvántartásába veszi.
Budapest, 1989. január 27.
Dr Perge Lajos s.k. biró
Municipal Court of Justice.
7.Pk 20 493/1989/ 1 szam.
Decision

The High Court of Justice registers the Magyar Cserkészszövetség residing: Budapest I., Bem rakpart 6. in complete agreement with Article II, paragraph 15, section 1 under registration number 1.

Dr Lajos Perge, magistrate.

This was their finest hour. A dream fostered and cherished during 41 dark, wasted years of suffering and oppression was reality! Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) was back!

At Budapest on January 28th, 1989 the opposition called a General Assembly. It was decided to found the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Groups Association.) within the framework and with support of the Patriotic People’s Front, a political organization. One of the rules was to be that every group was to be totally independent in every respect and that no rules or general instructions would be imposed from the top. Meaning that every group could do as it pleased or saw fit, in program, training or dress. Further it was not quite clear whether the association would be interested in WOSM or WAGGGS recognition, though the top, with its letter dated 28/01/1989, informed WOSM, Geneva of the organization’s founding.
On January 31st, 1989 the leaders of the Magyar Cserkészszapatak Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) also visited the Budapest Municipal Court and had their movement registered.

In the Culture Building of the Obuda gas-works, on February 11th, 1989 the now legal Magyar Cserkészszövetség held its first legal General Assembly which approved the constitution and elected a National Leadership and a Counsel Committee. Professor Laszlo Surjan, renowned otorhinolaryngologist, was elected President. Represented at this historic event were WOSM, WAGGGS and several Western Scout movements. Imre Sinkovics, the actor, in uniform, recited appropriate poems and prose. A message was sent to WOSM in Geneva, saying that the movement had been refounded and was applying for WOSM and WAGGGS recognition and registration.

And so there were two movements and even Laszlo Nagy, the former General Secretary WOSM, who had good connections with both, gave up his hope and desire to reconcile the opponents and suggested the creation of a Federation that could be recognised by WOSM. But WOSM was very hesitant and, generally speaking, was/is not in favour of Federations. Experience had taught that in various countries the movements in such Federations were often very different indeed in spirit, morale and quality and did not always meet or maintain the required standards and requirements.
OUTSIDERS REACTIONS

East and Central Europe were in the limelight and the developments had world attention, also in Scouting and Guiding in general, which, as the two World Movements, were totally surprised by the revival of Scouting and Guiding in the East Block countries and not prepared for it.

From February 24th-26th, 1989 at Lockenhaus, Austria the usual “German Speaking Conference” was held. For the first time the Hungarians of both movement had been invited. Wolf Kuhnke, German member of the European Scout Committee WOSM, later sent a report saying that the various Committee members had had the opportunity of meeting the Hungarians.

“Now this movement has got legal status in Hungary and consists of two separate associations. It is said that there are two more but they are insignificant.”

“During the Lockenhaus meeting both association have exchanged their views and they have moved closer. They will establish a commission which will have regular meetings in Budapest to discuss all relevant problems. Both association have the intention that Hungarian Scouting should be recognised by the World Association. Therefore the participants from our side clarified the best solution would be to have only one association.”

The meetings were held, on a regular basis too, but the two were miles apart and there were more arguments than agreements. Neither party was willing to give in or to reach a compromise. Alarming reports from both sides were received in Geneva and on the 22nd of March 1989 WOSM decided to once again send former Secretary-General Laszlo Nagy to Budapest on a fact-finding mission. His findings were not optimistic.
THE GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout leaders had been involved in the revival process right from the start. Girl Scout groups had been founded in both movements, meaning that the pre-1926 situation had been restored.

Mrs B. Beever of WAGGGS, who travelled all over Central and Eastern Europe, according to notes taken at the International Commissioners (WOSM and WAGGGS) meeting at the World Scout Bureau in Geneva 03-04/02/1990) reported:

“The girls are organised both in single sex and joint units. There are female members in the Magyar Cserkészszövetség. (Hungarian Scout Association) and Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) and in addition an all female association has also started.”

And indeed whereas the men, instead of being productive and creative, were wasting their precious time in endless quarrelling, the ladies organised an “all female” meeting at Gödöllő to commemorate the Pax Ting of 50 years ago (10-11/09/1989). In all peace and quiet the ladies of the two movements and some, who had not allied themselves with either, met and talked. Apparently it was a pleasant get-together. It so seemed that the ladies – always less fanatic than the men – had had enough and were fed up with all the quarrelling. In all peace and quiet they discussed the general situation between the two movements.
Anyway the possibilities of a separate Girl Scouts Movement were considered and this lead, in December 1989, to the re-founding of a separate “all-female” movement under the old name Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association.) Whereupon most of the “all female” groups left the two movements and joined the revived Girl Scouts Association. No doubt the men of both movements objected but – grudgingly – had to accept the fact and promised their co-operation and support and so the ladies had it their way. A copy of the new constitution was sent to WAGGGS in London for approval whereupon the new association was invited to send observers to the 27th World Conference WAGGGS at Singapore (12-23/06/1990). The Hungarian Girl Scouts gladly accepted the invitation but they did not apply for Associate Membership until July 1991. But during the 28th World Conference at Nyborg, Denmark (01-09/07/1993) WAGGGS was pleased to welcome back the Hungarian Girl Scouts, a former founding member!

WAGGGS’ “Our World News” (September 1993) wrote:

“Emoke Vig was a Guider in Hungary before the ban came in 1948. Forty years later she seized the chance offered by the political changes to help re-establish the Movement. It was a humbling experience for the Conference delegates to meet such a loyal member, but tremendously gratifying to welcome the Association of
Hungarian Girl Guides back into the Movement after its long exile.”

And so indeed the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) was back in the WAGGGS. Was back on its feet and without all the problems and the fuss, the blown up trivialities the leaderships of the Male Movements were struggling with. Showing once again that women are less fanatic, more lenient and often wiser than men.

CHANGES

During 1989 the political situation Hungary changed considerably, even more so than in the other East Block countries where things did not happen until later in the year. It is true that there was still a communist regime, but a diluted one, the hard-core of Stalinists had been removed and been replaced by more realistic men who understood the signs of time. The summer of 1989 was beautiful and once again thousands of East Germans had come to Hungary for their summer holidays, which enabled some to meet their West-German relatives, who also came to Hungary. This had been going on for years, but never had the East-Germans been permitted to cross the Hungarian-Austrian border.

This suddenly changed when on September 11th, 1989 the Hungarian government decided to open the Iron Curtain, permitting not only Hungarians to travel freely and unrestrictedly to the Free West but also the East Germans. Whereas the Hungarians were pleased to be able to travel to Austria for a day or a couple of days, the East-Germans used the opportunity to find refuge in West-Germany and they – leaving everything behind – went West in their thousands. The still Stalinist East-German government protested vehemently, but the Hungarian government took no notice. It ordered the official demolition of the Iron Curtain and the removal of all obstacles, mine fields, barbed wire fences and watchtowers. So pleased and delighted were the Hungarians that the population gladly
assisted in breaking away the Iron Curtain. Even Scouts removed barbed wire and photos showing them at work were published. Shortly thereafter US President George Bush visited Budapest and the Prime Minister handed him part of the barbed wire as a souvenir.

On November 9th, 1989 an even more spectacular event occurred. That evening The Berlin Wall came tumbling down unexpectedly and the surprised world saw on TV how the East and West-Berliners re-united and rejoiced.

In mid-November, 1989 the Hungarian communist party decided to disband. That way the more lenient and realistic members got rid of the hard-core old timers and Stalinists, and without them were able to create a new party based on democratic-socialism.

SLOW PROGRESS

It was no wonder that under all these different, changing circumstances, Scouting was able to flourish but did it?

Quotes from WOSM’s Situation Report of November 1989:

“Laszlo Nagy has paid two official visits on behalf of the World Organisation to Hungary and has had extensive negotiations with all the parties concerned. On his second visit (October 1989) he came back hopeful that agreement could be reached to form one single association, but this was not to be as the older men, running the two existing associations, could not come to an agreement.

“Jacques Moreillon has now written to both associations to see if there is any way in which they could reach agreement, in order to be able to be considered for recognition by the World Scout Conference in Paris next
year. So far no reply has been received from either association.”

Steps had to be taken to solve the problems. It was a hopeless and confusing situation, the core of which was not very well understood by the western partners and was never sufficiently explained to them either as both parties had their own bewildering and mystifying interpretations of the conflict. Again it was suggested to let the two form a Federation, and though WOSM was still reluctant, it did indeed seem to be the only solution.

“The movement is a run by old men fighting yesterday’s battles and pursuing their own agenda, so that the needs and aspirations of their young people are not being met. It can also be said that these old men see themselves as the guardians of the fundamental values of Scouting and the last line of defence against these values being swept away in a tide of “liberalism”, a word used with real venom.”

1990

The two Associations answered Jacques Moreillon’s letter. Quotes from WOSM’s “Situation Report no 2” of January 1990:

“The two Associations in Hungary (The Hungarian Scout Association and the Hungarian Scout Group Association) sent three delegates each to Geneva for a working meeting on the 8th and 9th of January, 1990. The result was that a Federation has been formed and the application for this Federation of Hungarian Scouting to join the World Organisation is being made.”

It was true, WOSM was not in favour of a Federation but understood that this was – at the time – the maximum that the two parties concerned were willing and able to accept. And so WOSM/Geneva received a letter dated Budapest 17/01/1990 from the Magyar Cserkészsövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) stating that the association, after much debate, had ac-
cepted the compromise to found a Federation so that the recognition and registration of Hungarian Scouting as a WOSM member would be possible. A letter to WOSM dated Budapest 19/04/1990 confirmed that the Magyar Cserkészet Tanácsa (Hungarian Scouting Council) had been registered by the Budapest Municipal High Court.

Meanwhile the government had negotiated with Russia and on March 12th, 1990 began the withdrawal of the (now former Soviet Red) Army, which had been stationed in the country since 1944. The last soldiers left mid-1991. But even more important were the first free elections on the 25th of March and the 8th of April 1990 when at last the Hungarians were able to elect the government of their choice. This meant the disappearance of the last all-communist regime, and the introduction of the first really freely elected Government after so many decades. The much hated and much detested, unpopular Magyar Nepköztársaság (Hungarian People’s Republic), proclaimed in 1949, was soon replaced by a normal republic. The population, however, as in all the other former East Block countries, expected wonders, and many disappointments were in stall as wonders do not so often happen in these times and so not all the changes and improvements dreamt of were coming overnight.

SCOUTING, BUILDING THE FUTURE

Between the 31st World Conference (WOSM) at Melbourne in 1988 and the 32nd Paris Conference (WOSM) in 1990 the world situation had changed drastically and surprisingly at such a breathtaking pace that the astonished world could hardly keep up with or grasp. The Iron Curtain, keeping two totally different worlds apart, had shredded and had been opened and its symbol, the Berlin Wall, had come tumbling down. World Scouting and World Guiding were also greatly influenced by the surprising revival of the movements in the countries in which they had been banned and disbanded many
decades ago. But, despite their limited means and limited man-power, the World Bureaux did their best to make the most of it and performed miracles.

The 32nd World Conference WOSM was held in Paris. It was to become a milestone in World Scouting’s history. As WOSM’s August 1990 official newsletter World Scouting News put it:

“The 32nd World Scout Conference which took place in Paris, France from 23rd to 27th July, represents a significant event in the history of World Scouting with a record number of 1,000 participants representing 100 member countries and guests from seven other (East Block) countries. It was the largest Conference in Scouting’s 83-years history.”

“The World Conference’s theme “Building the Future” took on a special dimension with the revival and spreading of Scouting in Central and Eastern Europe.”

The Conference voted to admit 10 new member countries but the focus was on the re-entry of Czechoslovakia and Hungary. John Beresford, President of the World Scout Committee called the delegations to the platform, one by one, and handed them the recognition certificates under thundering applause.

From the WOSM “Summary Report”, dated Paris 27/07/1990):

“More than 1,000 conference participants gave an emotional welcome to representatives of the newly organised Scout organisations in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. There are now 10,000 Scouts in Hungary and 70,000 in Czechoslovakia. Both countries were founding members of the World Organisation in 1922.”

Wrote one of the Hungarians to the author (August 1990):

“When we stood on the platform and were given the documents, I felt very emotional. Here I was in Paris, in
uniform, a recognised Scout again after more than 40 wasted, black years during which I had dreamt of our return but had never expected that I would ever live long enough to see the day. On that platform I suddenly realised that at last I was a free man again. I had to fight down my tears.”

And so the Magyar Cserkészet Tanácsa (Hungarian Scouting Council) having been recognised Hungarian Scouting was back in the World Scout Movement.

During its General Assembly the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides (IFOFSAG) on 01/10/1991 recognised and admitted the Magyar Öregcserkész Klub (Hungarian Former Scouts Club) and it was hoped that many, who had been playing such an important part in the revival story would now hand over to the younger leaders and further support Scouting as members of this association, which can do so much beneficial work.

As already stated earlier WAGGGS welcomed back the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts) in 1993.

And so this could have been the end of this story. The end of a long struggle, the end of a successful revival and the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Hungarian Scouting.

But it was not to be, it was only the beginning of another turbulent episode.

Were the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association), the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsege (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) and the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) the only Scouting organisations? They were not.
A French report to WOSM, Geneva, dated 09/09/1992, stated that there were about 10 smaller movements. The reasons why they kept apart from the official Hungarian Scout Movements were various. Some said that it was totally wrong to revive Hungarian Scouting as it was in 1939, others that Hungarian Scouting, should not have given in to the government’s demands during WW II but should have disbanded instead. By not having done the latter it had irrevocably and irreparably stained itself and should not be revived. Others again considered the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association) and even the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsege (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) too conservative and not progressive enough. These opponents were receiving support from the many German and French dissident associations that also did not want to accept World Scouting’s rules and refused to join WOSM/ WAGGGS.

A Roman Catholic priest and Scout visited France and got well acquainted with The Scouts d’Europe. In the late sixties a French bishop, who had stubbornly refused to accepted certain reforms within the Roman Catholic Church, had – after a long conflict – been expelled by the Pope and his followers had seceded from the French Roman Catholic Scout Movement and founded Scouts d’Europe. Which had thereupon influenced Roman Catholic groups in Belgium and Southern Germany, who also left their original WOSM recognised movements and had chosen for a dissident existence outside the World Movements. Nevertheless they still considered themselves Scouts and in fact the only good ones. The Hun-
harian priest was soon convinced that Scouts d’Europe could not but be the best movement as he was certain that no hidden, disguised communists would be operating in its ranks and, as far as the latter was concerned, he was not so sure about Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) and he even suspected Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) and Magyar Cserkészslány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association). So he founded Europai Cserkészek Magyar Szövetsége, the Hungarian Section of Scouting Europa. In 1992 it had about 400 members mainly in Budapest and was the largest, non WOSM and/or WAGGGS movement.

The Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association) and the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) when creating the Magyar Cserkészet Tanácsa (Hungarian Scout Council) had agreed that the Presidents and the International Commissioners of the movements would take turns as President and IC of the Magyar Cserkészet Tanácsa on an annual basis. All went well for as long as the Magyar Cserkészszövetség was in charge. Its leadership was a closely knit, active, loyal, hard working and responsible team, running a perfect administration and keeping the records and regularly reporting to WOSM and WAGGGS. This was totally different when Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége was in charge of the Magyar Cserkészet Tanácza. WOSM’s letters were maybe read but neither answered nor shared with the
partner and WOSM information or messages were not passed on to the other movement either. This very much annoyed the other movement as well as WOSM.

Further the latter’s groups being totally independent and no rules being imposed from the national leadership, it was a very loose organisation. WOSM, was not even able to assess it membership, and found that the movement could not supply details, not having a membership register or an administration. It was an unpleasant situation. Further the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége leadership was constantly quarrelling internally and it so happened that these leaders even took each other to court to carry their various points. The press had their hay-days, reporting extensively and Scouting was harmed badly and damaged in the public’s eye, the people not being able to distinguish between the two movements. This very much embarrassed Magyar Cserkész- szövetség.

Now it so happened that during the rebirth of Scouting the groups founded, sometimes more or less by mere chance, joined one of the two movements. Some soon found that the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége was not exactly meeting their requirements and when they got fed up with the strife and quarrels in the leadership they got in touch with the Magyar Cserkészszövetség and arranged for a transfer.

WOSM had also found that things were not running as smoothly in Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége as they should be in a well organised movement. The general impression was that the situation was badly deteriorating. On top of that complaints from Magyar Cserkészszövetség were received and the latter asked WOSM to come and investigate on the spot.

Excerpt from the Monthly Report (WOSM) for November 1991.:
102.2.2. Since Paris, we have been informed of problems within the Federation and particularly within the smaller association (the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége).

Indications of that were clear during the multipurpose seminar in Hungary in April 1991, which was organised for the two associations but was practically attended only by the larger one.

102.2.3. Finally, on 5-9 November, 1991 at the request of Mr Laszlo Surjan, President of the Federation and the large association (the Magyar Cserkészszövetség) European Regional Executive Dominique Benard made a fact-finding mission to Hungary to consider the situation of the Federation which was blocked by the crisis within the small association Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége.

In particular, Dominique’s mission aimed at answering the following questions: What is the actual membership of the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetség (which had never responded to our annual census form)? What kind of conflicts exist within the M.Cs.Sz. and why? What differences exist between M.C. and M.Cs.Sz. which justify the maintenance of two separate Associations?

102.2.4.: Dominique’s mission revealed the following facts:

The Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetseg (Hungarian Scout Group Association) probably has less than 1,000 members and is rapidly shrinking. It is presently divided into 2 opposite factions, each of which has called a general assembly and elected a different President and National Board. The question of which faction legally represents the M.Cs.Sz. is presently before court, and one of the factions has expressed its readiness to merge with the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (the Hunga-
ian Scout Association). (The latter Association now has 17,501 members, 10,716 males and 6,785 females – and every local group is registered by computer. It is open to the different denominations: 60% of the sponsoring bodies are Catholic parishes, 12,5% are Protestant parishes and the rest are schools or other associations.)

The Federation (Council of Hungarian Scouting) is paralysed by the conflict. The positions within the Federation rotate on a yearly basis between the two Associations and, this year, it is M.Cs.Sz.’s turn to chair the Federation; yet no one can determine who the chairman of M.C.S. is. Consequently, Dr Surjan, the President of the M.Cs. and presently Chairman of the Federation, refused to abandon his position, otherwise the Federation would be totally unable to function.

There are no essential differences between the two Associations which continue to justify their separate existence, and there is therefore every reason to recommend a merger and to cancel the Federation.”

It so happened that after Dominique Benard’s return to Geneva all the members of the WOSM Steering Committee were gathered in that city for a WAGGGS/WOSM meeting. The matter was discussed immediately and it was decided that, in the name of the Steering Committee, Jacques Moreillon, as WOSM’s Secretary-General, would send a letter to the Hungarians, requesting them to settle the problems through a merger of the two Associations and to agree on the appropriate legal adjustments.

The Magyar Cserkészzösvetség (the Hungarian Scout Association) reacted immediately, stressing its willingness to solve the problem, but the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Group Association) did not even have the politeness to reply at all. The Magyar Cserkészszövetség tried
to contact the other association’s leadership, but these gentlemen were so busy taking each other to court that nothing got off the ground.

During its April 24th-26th, 1992 meeting the World Scout Committee discussed the matter and authorised the Secretary General to send the Federation a letter demanding some specific and detailed replies to various questions to be answered within a period of three months. But the President Dr Sujan was not able to give a good answer owing to the fact that contacts with the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége could not be established. So on July 31st, 1992 a reminder was sent. quote:

“As the World Committee has received no answer to its questions, it seems that the Association of Hungarian Scout Groups does not meet several requirements of the World Constitution.”

With his reply, dated 31/08/1992 Dr Surjan had to once again disappoint WOSM, he had not been able to reach the gentlemen.

Meanwhile WOSM’s investigations into the matter had revealed that some of the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége groups were “phantom groups” consisting of one person whose home-address was used as the group’s address. The Wallenberg Group was given as an example. It was lead by one of the top leaders and registered at his Budapest home address, but in fact had no members. Meanwhile also more and more groups left the M.Cs.Sz. and joined the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (WOSM report 17/06/1992) which now had 25.000 members and 462 groups.

Meanwhile at long last one of the top-gentlemen of the Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége (Hungarian Scout Groups Association) woke up and, sensing the danger, wrote a letter of protest – dated 30/09/1992 to WOSM. He claimed the
membership to be far larger than the estimated 1000, said there were 31 groups and 10 more in the process of being founded. But the International Commissioner of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association), in his letter of 07/10/92 stressed that the leaders of the other movement were at war with each other. He also reported on the existence of the “phantom groups” naming several and stating that once again a number of Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége groups had joined his movement. He also reported on the fact that the co-operation in the Magyar Cserkészset Tanácsa had come to a complete standstill.

During a public ceremony, also well covered by the TV, radio and press, on October 10th, 1992 at 1000 hours precisely 15 M.C.S. groups joined the Magyar Cserkészszövetség. They were welcomed as being “All good leaders and all good groups”. The M.Cs.Sz. was now estimated to have about 400 members left.

But in September 1992 the World Scout Committee met in Geneva and on the 27th cut the knot.
With its circular letter No 27/1992 of October, 1992 all National Scout organisations were informed via their International Commissioners, reading:

“The World Scout Committee: recognises the disbandment of the ‘Council of Hungarian Scouting’ a Federation that comprised the ‘Hungarian Scout Association’ and the “Association of Hungarian Scouts Groups”.

notes that the “Hungarian Scout Association” is open to all young people in Hungary without distinction, is representative of Hungarian Scouting, and fully conforms with the requirements of the Constitution of WOSM.

resolves to change the registration of Hungary with the World Scout Bureau from the “Council of Hungarian Scouting” to the “Hungarian Scout Association” which thus becomes the only recognised National Scout Organisation in Hungary, and to so inform the World Scout Conference.

And so the Magyar Cserkeszet Tanácso, the Federation, had ceased to be.

The first highlight of 1993 was from March 13th – 16th, 1993. Garth Morrison, the British Chief Scout paid an official visit to Hungary. Magyar Cserkészszövetség pulled out all stops to make this visit an unforgettable one and a great success also in the field of publicity. Morrison reported later that he had been told that the M.Sz. had 25,000 registered members and, as far as the expelled movement was concerned he wrote: “H.S.G.A has fallen to 300 members. No attempt was made by anyone from this movement to lobby or speak to me”.

Yet Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége did not give up and wrote to WOSM again on March 31st, protesting and
claiming 43 groups, which was thought to be incorrect and overdone. In its reply of 30/06/1993 WOSM drew the final line, saying:

“Your organisation faced a lot of internal difficulties during nearly one year. You were divided between two antagonistic factions and nobody could say what was the legal leadership. This blocked the functioning of the Hungarian Scout Federation during several months. Furthermore you never replied to my repeated requests for information. It is so easy to reject the responsibility on other people. The only solution is for your group to negotiate with the Hungarian Scout Association an agreement that would enable your group to join.”

“WOSM is reluctant to accept Federations as there are no fundamental differences, particularly in Hungary.”

Magyar Cserkészszövetség’s second highlight of the year 1993 was in June. Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain paid an official visit to Hungary. The Scouts, providing guards of honour were once again in the public eye.

But the most important highlight was no doubt the 50th anniversary of the 4th World Jamboree at Gödöllő. Sixty solid, eventful years had passed since. A National Camp, in commemoration was held on the same campsite as in 1933 and once again Hungarians were pleased to welcome their many foreign guests, including – in a special camp – a number of IFOFSAG members, from several countries, some of whom had been there before, in . . . 1933. Well appreciated guests of honour were Mrs Betty Clay, and her daughter Gill Clay. The former the only surviving child of the Chief Scout of World and the Chief Guide of the World, the latter the Founder’s granddaughter. Wherever they went they were greeted with great enthusiasm.
Those who are not to be forgotten are the members of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség-in-Exile. Since 1945, augmented in 1948 and 1956, they had kept the Hungarian Flag flying all over the world and in their new countries of residence they had given their full dedication to Hungarian Scouting. Denied official status in the World Brotherhood in 1961, they remained loyal to their ideals and the true Scouting Spirit. Even in the darkest of times, when their ideal seemed unrealistic to say the least, they too were dreaming of a once free Hungarian Scouting in a free Hungary.

As soon as the situation in their old, beloved homeland changed and Scouting was able to revive, they stepped right in and gave it their full support. They acted as advisors, they sent their Gilwell training teams, they gave financial and material support, their handbooks etc. etc. They did a wonderful job for which they had been preparing all the time. As early as 1989 they paid the passage to the U.S.A. for 26 young leaders from Hungary and gave them Gilwell Leadership Training at their training centre in Fillmore, USA. All 26 received their certification as leaders. In 1990 a training team was sent to Eibisberg, Austria and the trainees of the previous years augmented the staff. In 1991 the Exile Movement again organised a training camp, this time at Gödöllő in Hungary. Again the previous trainees augmented the Exile training staff but in 1992 the trainees were totally in charge and were just given a helping hand by the sea-

Left: WOSM’s World Emblem.
Right: The emblem of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides, IFOFSAG

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sioned Exile instructors. The Exiles were pleased to serve and to share their training methods, the time-proven Gilwell training system, and their know-how, gathered during 45 years of Exile, with the enthusiastic, dedicated young Hungarian leaders.

All the time the Exiles proved that as far as WOSM was concerned they had no hard feelings related to 1961 and they loyally co-operated with WOSM and WAGGGS, though they knew that this would not mean that they would ever be recognised by the World Organisations. They were very pleased with their close relationship with the revived Hungarian Movement.

It was decided to change the name of their world wide organisation. No longer would they call themselves Magyar Cserkészszövetség-in-Exile now that Magyar Cserkészszövetség in Hungary had revived. Instead they chose the name Külföldi Magyar Cserkész- szövetség (Hungarian Scouts Association Abroad) the real exile being over. They had done a wonderful, much appreciated job!

ADDITIONAL I

In 1914, the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary were united by their Head of State. The Emperor of Austria was also the King of Hungary. Together they were called the “Kaiserreich and Königreich” or K&K (Empire and Kingdom) and the K&K ruled, controlled and dominated large parts of Central Europe.

In 1914, there was a conflict between the Kingdom of Serbia and Austria. On top of that, in Serajevo, the heir to the K&K throne and his wife were assassinated by a Serb nationalist. War broke out and Germany and Russia intervened. Very soon other countries were also involved and World War One (1914-1918) began. Those on the Austro-Hungarian side
(e.g. Germany and Turkey) were called the Central Powers and their opponents (France, Great Britain, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, Romania and Greece) the Allies.

The Allies won the war which, on the Western Front, ended on November 11th, 1918 at 11:00 hours. Before that date, the Russian, German and Austrian Empires and the Kingdom of Hungary had collapsed and were no more.

MAP 1

Map 1 shows the Kingdom of Hungary as it was in 1914. The country covered 325,411 km² and had a total population of 20,886,480. This did not mean that all these inhabitants were real Hungarians. The white area 1/1 had an almost 99% Hungarian speaking majority, as had area 2/1 which in fact was part of area 1/1. Area 3/1 was mainly Slovak with Hungarian minorities. Area 4/1 (Ruthania) had a mixture of Hungarians, Slovak, Ukrainians and Ruthenians. Areas 5/1 and 6/1 a mixture of Hungarians and Romanians, area 7/1 a mixture of Hungarians and Serbs and area 8/1 was mainly Croatian, whereas area 9/1 had a mixed Austrian and Hungarian population.

During the Peace Treaty of Trianon, 1920, which, like the other Treaties that ended World War I, was not an example of political wisdom, Hungary was reduced to the white area 1/1 only (93,030 km², population 10,568 millions). Slovakia
3/1 and Ruthenia 4/1 united with Bohemia and formed the Czechoslovakian Republic to which area 2/1 with its 99% Hungarian population was also attached. Areas 5/1 and 6/1 were given to Romania, no 7/1 and no 8/1 to the newly created Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Thus Hungary had to pay for being one of the losers, which made it rather curious that it had to hand over area 9/1 to Austria, after all, also a loser.

The Hungarian speaking populations living in the areas 2/1 - 8/1 were suddenly cut off from their homeland and were supposed to become loyal citizens of their new countries.

SCOUTING I (1918 – 1938)

The partition of Hungary also effected the Scout Movement. The Hungarian troops in the areas 2/1, 3/1 and 4/1 were permitted to carry on and to found a movement of their own and thus, as an equal partner, joined the National Czechoslovak Scouting Federation which the Czech and the Slovak Movements had formed. They were also permitted to keep in close contact with the Hungarian movement. The troops in areas 5/1 and 6/1 had to join the Romanian movement and the same applied to the troops in area 7/1 who had to join the new Yugoslav Scout movement. As hardly any Hungarians lived in area 8/1, it is unlikely that there were Hungarian troops in Croatia.
After having annexed Austria (March 1938) Adolf Hitler, the Führer of Nazi-Germany demanded the Sudetenland area, the borderland of Czecho-slovakia. On 29-30/09/1938 a conference was held in Munich (München) at which were present Nazi-Germany, Fascist-Italy, the United Kingdom and France. Czechoslovakia was not invited but told to hand over Sudetenland whereafter it was taken over by Nazi-Germany in October 1938. Also in October 1938 a conference was held in the former Austrian capital Vienna (Wien) which ended the Czechoslovak Republic. It was divided into independent Bohemia (later occupied by Nazi-Germany 15-16/03/1939), independent Slovakia (in 1939 to become an Nazi-puppet state) and autonomic Ruthenia. Slovakia had to return to Hungary the area 2/2 (12.103 km2 and 1.062.022 inhabitants, 830.000 of them Hungarian speaking), which was incorporated into Hungary on November 12th, 1939. When in September 1939 Nazi-Germany and the Soviet Union attacked Poland, Hungary occupied Ruthenia 3/2. During a second Vienna Conference Ederly (Hungarian name) or Transylvania (Romanian name) 4/2 was ceded to Hungary by Romania.
The Hungarian speaking groups in area 2/2 returned to the Magyar Cserkészhgy (Hungarian Scout Association) and the Magyar Cserkészügy Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association). In "independent Slovakia" the Nazis created a Hitler Jugend styled movement and banned all scouting and guiding, but the few Slovak speaking groups, operating in area 2/2 were not involved and the Hungarians permitted them to carry on. So a few Slovak groups were still operational, be it outside their own country. The Hungarian groups in Ruthenia 3/2 also rejoined the Hungarian movements and the groups of the other nationalities were also allowed to continue.

In Romania Scouting and Guiding had been dissolved by Royal Degree in 1937. As soon as Ederly, Transylvania 4/2 was Hungarian again the Hungarian speaking groups re-emerged and joined the Hungarian movements.

1944-1945

Slowly but surely and unstoppable the Soviet Red Army drove back the German, Hungarian and Romanian forces and approached the original borders. Romania made a switch, changed sides and retook Ederly, Transylvania 4/2 in the process. Ruthenia 3/2 was also occupied by the Red Army, and was lost for, not only Hungary, but also Czechoslovakia, and was incorporated in the Soviet State Ukraine. Czechoslovakia was "liberated" by the Red Army and retook area 2/2 and so Hungary was once again restricted to its pre-1938 borders 1/1.

With the Red Army occupation of Ruthenia 3/2 Scouting was over. In Romania Scouting tried to revive but soon the coun-
try was a communist state and neither Romanian Scouting nor Hungarian Scouting got a real chance. In the Czechoslovak Republic Scouting did survive and revive to be banned by the communist regime in 1948. During the period 1945-1948 all Hungarian activities were surpresssed in area 2/2 and the Hungarian speaking Scouts kept as low profile if active at all. No doubt they met, but not in uniform and not in public at all.

1989

Gorbatchev’s Perestroika and Glasnost affected all the East and Central European countries. Hungarian Scouting revived and so did Czechoslovak, Romanian and even Ruthenian Scouting.

But in the latter countries Hungarian Scouting revived too!

In Czechoslovakia, on 9/02/1990, a Committee to "Prepare the Revival of Hungarian Scouting in Slovakia" was founded. On March 11th, 1990 at a meeting in Dunaszerdahelyen(H)/Dunajska Streda(S) the Szlovakiai Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian name) or Zväz Skautov Madarskej Národnosti (Slovak name) being the Hungarian Scout Association in Slovakia was founded. The groups founded since 1989 united in this movement which was officially registered and recognized by the Slovak Ministry of the Interior on April 6th, 1990. On April 17th, 1990 Government permission was granted to publish the Hungarian language magazine "Cserkesz" (Scout). On May 1st, 1990 the Central
Bureau was officially opened in Dunaszerdahely or Dunajska Streda. On June 25th, 1990 the movement filed a petition for admittance to the Czechoslovak Scout Federation. The Czech National Movement had no objections, the Slovak Movement had. The latter considered the Hungarian speakers - very rightly so - as Slovak citizens and was of the opinion that, though Hungarian speaking groups could exist, they ought to be members of the Slovak National Movement. The discussions following were endless, proposals and counterproposals but it looked, as if - with Czech support - the Hungarian Movement would be considered again as a third partner in the Federation. However on January 1st, 1993 the Czechoslovak Federal Republic was dissolved and so was the Scouting Federation. The Hungarian speaking movement lost Czech support and had to deal only with the Slovaks. The problem was not yet solved in 1994.

In Ruthenia part of the former Soviet State Ukraine, which was - at the time - on its own way to independence, in the city of Munkacz on December 15th, 1991 Hungarian speaking Scoutleaders met and founded the Karpataljai Magyar Cserkészsövetség. (Hung name for Carpathian Hungarian Scout Association.) or in Ukrainian the Uhor-szka Associácia Szkautiv na Zaker-pattyi (Hungarian Scout Ass. in Carpathia.) It is a small but effective movement of high quality.

In Romania the communist dictator Ceausescu was replaced on December 22nd, 1989. and Romanian
as well as Hungarian Scouting were revived immediately. During a camp (14-18/05/1990) the Romaniai Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian name) (Hungarian Scout Association in Romania.) or in Romanian Uniunea Cercetasilor Maghiari (Union of Hungarian Scouts.) was founded. The Hungarian speaking movement associated with the Romanian speaking movement and together they formed the Cercetasii României (Scouting Romania) which was recognized and registered by the World Movement as a member during the 33rd World Conference at Bangkok, 19-23/07/1993.

Reference must now be made to Map 1 area 7. This area is known by several names, viz Ban-sag/Banat/Vojvodina and since 1920 belongs to Yugoslavia. It houses a fair Hungarian minority. The Savaza Izvidackih Organizacija Jugoslavija (S.I.O.J.) (Association of Scouting Organizations Yugoslavia) was founded in June 1950 with permission of the Third Plenary Session of the Yugoslavian Communist Party. Though its Scouting was of good quality, the movement was under party-political influence and control, and was unable to join either WOSM or WAGGGS. When Yugoslavia disintegrated in various new independent national states, each new state had its own section of S.I.O.J. which dropped the political and asked for WOSM/WAGGGS recognition. It is unknown whether the Hungarian speaking minority in Vojvodina (Northern Serbia) ever had its own S.I.O.J. groups. How so ever that may have been there suddenly emerged the Vajdas Agi Magyar Cserkészsövetség (Hung. name.) (Vojvodina Hungarian Scout Ass.) or in Serbian the Savez Skautkinja i Skaut Vo-
It goes without saying that the above movements in Slovakia, Ruthenia, Romania and Vojvodina were and are getting the support of the Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scout Association, WOSM.) and the Magyar Cserkészlány Szövetség (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association-WAGGGS.) as well as the Magyar Öregcserkesz Klub (Hungarian Former Scouts Club/IFOFSAG) and the Kulföldi Magyar Cserkészszövetség (Hungarian Scouts Association Abroad.) the Former Exile movement.

HUNGARIAN ORGANISATIONS IN HUNGARY

a) Magyar Cserészszövetség.
   (Hungarian Scout Association. WOSM.)

b) Mgyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége.
   (Hungarian Scout Groups Association.)

c) Magyar Cserkészszövetség.
   (Hungarian Girl Scouts Association. WAGGGS.)

d) Magyar Cserkészcsapatok Szövetsége.
   (Hungarian Scout Groups Association.)

e) Európai Cserkészek Magyar Szövetsége.
   (Hungarian Association Scouting Europa.)

f) Magyar Öregcserkész Klub.
   (Hungarian Former Scouts Club)
HUNGARIAN SCOUT ORGANISATIONS ON FOREIGN SOIL

a) Kulfoledi Magyar Cserkeszszovetség.
   (Hungarian Scouts Association Abroad.)
   (Former Exile movement.)
b) Szlovakiai Magyar Cserkeszszovetség. (Hung name.)
   Zväz Skautov Madarskej Narodnosti (Slovak name.)
   (Hungarian Scout Association in Slovakia.)
c) Romaniai Magyar Cserkeszszovetség. (Hung name.)
   (Hungarian Scout Association in Romania.)
   Uniunea Cercetasilor Maghiari. (Rom. name) (Union of
   d) Karpataljai Magyar Cserkeszszovetség. (Hung name.)
   (Carpathian Hungarian Scout Association.)
   Uhorszka Associacia Szkautiv na Zakerpattyi.
   (Hungarian Scout Ass. in Carpathia.) (Ukr.name,)
e) Vajdasagi Magyar Cserkeszszovetség. (Hung. name.)
   (Vojvodina Hungarian Scout Ass.)
   Savez Skautkinja i Skaut Vojvodjanskih Madjara.
   (Serb name)
   (Hungarian Ass. of Girl Scouts and Scouts in Vo-
   jvodina.)

OTHER HUNGARIAN ORGANISATIONS MENTIONED

f) Magyar Demokratikus Ifjusagi Szovetség - Madisz
   (Hungarian Democratic Youth Association.

   g) Uttoro
   (Communist Youth Organization,)

   h) Magyar Ifjusag Orszagos Tanacs
   (Hungarian National Youth Council)

   i) Nepi Cserkezek Nunkakozosege
      (Working Community of Poplar /Scouts)

   j) Halado Cserkezsapatom Munkakozosege.
      (Working Community of the Progessist Scout Groups)

   k) Magyar Demokratikus Cserkeszszovetség.
      (Hungarian Democratic Scout Association)

   l) Magyar Cserkeszfiuk Szovetsge
(Hungarian Boy Scouts Association.)
m) Magyar Örszem Svövetség
(Hungarian Guards Association),
Magyar Nepk Oztarsasag (1949)
(Hungarian People's Republic.)
CHAPTER 7. Yugoslavia - Jugoslavia

A GARDEN OF EUROPE

There is no doubt that former Yugoslavia is one of the world’s undoubted beauty spots, an area of overwhelming yet rough and unsurpassed, varied scenery; hills and mountains, the slopes mostly covered with vast, almost impene-trable forests; in the valleys brooks and larger rivers quietly flowing or wildly foaming. The interior is splendid and the Adriatic Coast is of great beauty, including the many historic, old sea ports. When in the mid-fifties Yugoslavia emerged from behind the Iron Curtain and opened its borders to the developing mass-tourism, it became one of the areas much favoured by West European holiday makers.

A region that looks like Paradise, but was it ever?

Yugoslavia did not exist before 1918 and no longer after 1991. In between those years it was a patchwork quilt of various countries and nations combined in the aftermath of World War I (1914-1918) but never really to become one nation, one people or one country.

Round about the year 600 Slavonic tribes moved into this region and in their rather isolated valleys created small, independent communities. Because of the nature of the terrain, the valley dwellers originally had little or no communi-cation with their neighbours on the other side of the moun-tains and if they had, it was not always friendly or peaceful.

Yet in later times, through mutual interests such as a shared religion or language, the valley tribes united and created small nations such as the Serbs, the Croats, the Slovenians, the Albanians, Montenegrins, etc. etc.
In the border areas the various nationalities intermingled, forming mixed communities in villages and towns. But whereas in other parts of Europe this lead to a melting together and the creation of a new people, e.g. by intermarriage, a common religion and a common language, in Yugoslavia they never lost their original national identity and never merged into one new nation.

An example of such an area is presently known as Bosnia-Herzegovina. Roman Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbs and Muslim Serbs as well small groups of others inhabit the region.

SERBIA – SRBIJA I

Serbia’s history is rather complicated. In the 7th century the Srbi or Serbs settled in their present territory and much later in 1169 created the Kingdom of Srbija (Serbia). During the reign of King Stephan Doesjan (1331-1335) Srbija was a large country and included Albania, Epeiros, Macedonia and Thessalia.

Meanwhile the Turkish Sultanate sought expansion in a western direction and its victorious armies penetrated into Central Europe and the Balkans.

Of course the original Balkan populations resisted and in 1389 a combined army of Serbs, Hungarians, Albanians and Bulgarians tried to stop the Turkish advance but was beaten during the Battle of Kosovo Polje (Field of the Black Birds). Thereafter the Turks conquered the Balkans and Hungary until in 1529 and – for the second time – in 1683 their westward advances were (only just) stopped at the city walls of Vienna, the capital of the Austrian Empire.
Meanwhile the Serbs and the other nations were subjected to Turkish rule and government. A situation that lasted until the end of the 18th century.

During those hundreds of years the Balkans were very often the battle field on which the Austrians and the Turks fought each other. Obviously this caused the local population a lot of distress and suffering to which was added a true tradition of tribal conflicts and blood feuds. But gradually – in a very slow process – the Turks were pushed eastwards again.

All the time the peoples of the Balkans craved for freedom and independence. They often rebelled and revolted, usually unsuccessfully as the Turks hit back mercilessly.

A more successful Serb rebellion was led by Djordje Petrovic (1752-1817), nicknamed Karadjordjo or Black George. Under his command Beograd (Belgrade) was liberated in 1807. The grateful Serbs elected him to be their King. Thus was created the Kingdom of Srbija (Serbia) and the Royal House of Karadjordjeviá.

But the Turks returned and retaliated. In 1813 the Serb army was beaten, the King had to flee his country. From 1815-1817 there was another uprising under the leadership of Milos Obrenovic and Serbia obtained a more or less certain independence recognised by the Turks but meaning, nevertheless, that the principality remained under Turkish suzerainty. King Karadjordjo returned but was murdered by Milos Obrenovic. Which caused a blood feud between the two families. In the years thereafter the two families played “musical chairs”, first the one and then the other family was in charge. It was not until 1867 that the last Turkish army left Serbia. But with the Turkish retreat the Austrian Empire gained more influence in the Balkans. In 1882 the Kingdom of Serbia was re-founded and in 1903 Peter I Karadjordjo (1903-1921) ascended the throne.
Freedom and independence made the Serbs very happy but unfortunately they began dreaming of the Greater Serbia of long ago. They wanted to take all the territories where Serb majorities or minorities were living and to unite them with their Kingdom. Neither Turkey, nor Austria and Hungary liked this attitude very much. Neither did the Croats, the Albanians, the Slovenians and the other minorities or majorities living in the regions concerned.

CROATIA - HRVATSKA

Croatia was originally an independent Kingdom under Croatian Kings and remained autonomous even when in 1091 the Hungarian King Ladislaus I ascended the throne. In the 14th century Bosna (Bosnia) took leave of Croatia and declared its independence. Meanwhile Croatia as well as Bosnia were threatened by the Turkish invasion and the Croats sought Austrian protection and offered the throne to the Austrian Emperor Ferdinand in 1527. But there was no stopping the Turks and soon most of Croatia had been conquered by the latter. Many battles were fought on Croatian territory until in 1699 the Turks ceded the country to Austria. In 1867 the K&K (Keiserreich und Königreich) being The Austria Empire and the Hungarian Kingdom was created with a mutual Head of State, the Emperor/King. Croatia was given autonomy with a parliament (Sabor) of its own but under Hungarian supervision. A situation to last until 1918.

SLOVENIA - SLOVENIJA

The original Slovenians were pushed to the south by the Germans, Austrians and the Hungarians. In 1335 it fell in the hands of the Hapsburgs, the Austrian Imperial Family, but in the 15th century the south western part belonged to the City State of Venice. When the Turks advanced Serbs and Croats fled to Slovenia and the German colonisation reached its peak in the first part of the 16th century. In 1848 Slove-
nia, in vain, tried to become an independent state, but remained divided and in 1866 40,000 were under Italian rule and more than 100,000 under Hungarian (Hapsburg) rule. A situation which lasted until 1918 and caused the front lines of World War I (1914-1918) to run right through the Slovenian territory where the Italians fought the Austrians and Hungarians.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In the 14th century Bosna (Bosnia), with its mixed populations of Croats, Serbs, Albanians and even Hungarians, seceded from Croatia and declared its independence. Shortly thereafter it was occupied by the Turks and subjected to the Sultanate’s rule. Now, during the period of Turkish rule, which seemed endless, some well to do, leading Serbs, hoping to obtain some influence, thought it wise to embrace their masters’ religion, Islam. And so, ever since, there were Moslems in Bosnia. In 1875 the Bosnians revolted and the Turks had to leave the country which was thereupon (1887) occupied by the K&K and in 1908 the Austrian partner of the latter annexed Bosnia which was to be an Austrian Province until 1918. This was greatly resented by the population, particularly the Serb part which wanted independence or alignment with Serbia. Some of these Serbs united in the Mlada Bosnia, a fierce nationalistic movement not averse to violent actions.

MACEDONIA – MAKEDONIJA

The country knew its finest hours during the reign of King Alexander III the Great (356-323 B.C.) He conquered the Middle East and Egypt and marched into today’s Pakistan. After his death his empire fell apart and soon Macedonia was reduced to its original size. In the Middle Ages the country was invaded by Slavonic tribes, the Serbs and Bulgars. The original Macedonians were absorbed by these,
though the name lingered on. The area fell victim to the Turkish expansion. By the end of the 19th century a movement for independence IMRO came into being and in 1903 there was a revolt which was crushed by the Turks in their worst possible way.

MONTENEGRO – CRNA GORA

Until Serbia disintegrated in 1360 the region was a part of the latter. It then became the independent Principality of Zeta, as it was known until well into the 15th century when the name was changed into Crna Gora, land of the Black Mountains. The inaccessible mountain range was a natural fortress and the Turks never succeeded in conquering the country and subjecting its people. Its independence was recognised in 1878 and it became a kingdom in 1910.

DIVISIONS

The various nations were not only divided by their way of life, their national feelings and their languages but also by their various religions.

In 1054 the Christian Church, in a “brotherly spirit” and conflict had split into the Western Roman Catholic Church, based in the Vatican in Rome, the Eastern Orthodox Church based in Constantinople, (now Istanbul) and the Coptic Church in Egypt and Abyssinia. The Pope in Rome excommunicated the Eastern and Coptic Christians, hurled anathemas at them and condemned them all to burning in hell. Later the Eastern or Orthodox Church also split in a Russian, a Greek and a Serb section.

The Serbian, Montenegrin and Macedonian religious leaders sided with the Orthodox Church, their Croatian and Slovenian brothers remained loyal to the Pope in Rome. This greatly influenced the various nations, the religious barrier
being a second frontier keeping them wide apart. But living in Bosnia-Herzegovina there was a mixture of Roman Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbs, and Islamic Serbs, the latter sometimes named Bosnians. All had one thing in common, they hated and detested not only the Turks and the Austrians but also each other. They were kept at bay by the Turks and later by the Austrians.

SERBIA – SRBIJA

With Russian support the Kingdom of Serbia grew stronger and stronger whereas Turkey got weaker and weaker. The Serbs allied themselves with Greece, Bulgaria and Montenegro. They attacked the Turks and the First Balkans War began (October 1912 – May 1913). The Turks were virtually driven out of Europe and only just managed to hang on to the part of the city of Constantinople/Istanbul situated in Europe.

This war over and done with, the spoils and the territories conquered were divided but it was found that the Bulgarians benefited most and so the other victors – with Turkish assistance (!) – attacked their former ally and the Second Balkans War began. (June 1913 – August 1913). Bulgaria was beaten. The Turks regained the slice of Europe, that still belongs to them to-day. Macedonia was divided between Serbia, Greece and Bulgaria.

This made Serbia a large Kingdom but also a challenging and demanding country that thought that the Dream of a Greater Serbia might be within its reach at last.

The peoples of the Balkans exhausted, poor and standing on the ruins, fostered the hope of rebuilding in peace and quiet their destroyed countries and homes. It was not to be.
In Vienna the Imperial Austrian government, arrogantly, looked down upon the Serbs.

Frans-Ferdinand (1863-1914), Archduke of Austria, married to Countess Sophia Chotek, was heir to the Austrian Imperial and the Hungarian Royal Throne. He and his wife paid an official visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina and on June 28th, 1914 arrived in its provincial capital Sarajevo. During a car-drive the Serb-Bosnian Gavrilo Princip, 20 years old and a member of the above mentioned Mlada Bosnia, emptied the contents of his revolver into the Imperial bodies.

These deaths caused consternation and anger in Vienna. The Austrians blamed “the Dream of a Greater Serbia” and the Government of the Serbian Kingdom. An ultimatum of almost impossible demands was sent to Beograd (Belgrade) but Austria did not even wait for a proper answer and Austro-Hungarian forces invaded Serbia.

The situation escalated. Russia sided with Serbia, Germany with Austria. France had a treaty with Russia. Germany, in order to launch a surprise attack on France, invaded Belgium but Great Britain had a treaty with Belgium and came to her rescue. And so began the Great War, later to be known as World War One (1914-1918). It is often said that in Sarajevo, on that fatal June 28th, 1914, Gavrilo Princip fired the first shots of World War I.

SERBIAN SCOUTING

Baden-Powell’s ideas and his Scouting for Boys also attracted the attention of some Serbian pedagogues and others involved and interested in youth work. One of them, was Dr Milos D. Popovic (1876-1954). He had already founded the S.T.M., the Savez Trezvene Mladezi or Association of Sober Youth, a temperance organisation fighting the overdone consumption of alcoholic or strong drinks. As such he
was the editor of a magazine Saveznik and he published an article explaining and promoting B.P.’s Scouting. He thereupon translated Scouting for Boys.

Its Serbian edition was published under the title of “Little Tschetnik”. In his home town he founded the first of a number of Serbian Scout troops, all within the S.T.M.’s organisation but under its own leadership and named Savez Cetnika I Planinki (Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.). It had its own seal. The word “Chetnik” or “Tschetnik” chosen was originally the name given to the partisans who, in the years gone by, had fought the Turks during the guerrilla wars.

It was again Milos D. Popovic who took the initiative to call an all-leaders meeting in 1912 which led to the founding of the Stvaranje Savoza Izvendnika Nr Srbije – I (Scout Association of the Principality of Serbia), later also known as the Izvidnicka Organizacija Kraljevene Srbije (the Scout Association of the Kingdom of Serbia.).
The new movement’s development was no doubt greatly hampered by the First and the Second Balkans Wars as mentioned above. The Scouts played their part in these wars. Some of the leaders as soldiers in the front lines and the boys in the auxiliary services and as messengers, delivering mail, working in hospitals, refugee centres etc.

In 1914, just before the outbreak of World War One, Dr Milos D. Popovic saw to it that a special Scouting magazine “Young Chetnik” was published for the first time.

WORLD WAR ONE, 1914 - 1918

The Austrian-Hungarian armies crossed the Serb borders and though the Royal Serb Army fought bravely, it was no match for the enemies and was soon overwhelmed although not really beaten. Part of it retreated into the mountains and waged a guerrilla war that the occupying forces thought unpleasant, whereas the bulk of the Serbian army, with King and government and many civilians withdrew to allied Greece and dug in around Thessaloniki, taking a firm stand with Allied support. Civilians were evacuated to Egypt. In Egypt as well as in Greece the Serb Government opened schools. But the authorities also understood that more had to be done and it was essential to keep the children off the streets and out of mischief.

Dr Milos D. Popovic who was also in Greece gathered the Scouts in the area and formed new troops which many new-comers also joined. The same was done in Egypt. The government, understanding the importance and the necessity, promoted
Scouting’s activities, a.o. by exempting Scout leaders from military duty so that they could not only lead the Scout troops but also the services the Scouts – in both countries (in Greece often under fire) – rendered to their fellow countrymen in hospitals, first aid stations, casualty wards, refugee camps etc. etc.

The movement in Exile used the name Savez Malih Cetnika i Planinki, (the Union of Junior-Chetniks and Girl Scouts).

Serbian students were enabled to study at foreign universities and thus in Kent, England a very active Serbian Scout troop consisting of students was operating.

A NEW COUNTRY

During World War One a number of very idealistic South Slavs being Serb, Croatian, Slovenian and Montenegrin intellectuals, met in London in 1917. During a congress they contemplated the possibilities of creating a United Kingdom of Yugoslavia (South Slavia) comprising Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, a new, multinational Kingdom under the leadership of the Serb Royal Family, the House of Karadjorjhevic. These plans were later summarised in the Pact of Corfu. Idealists as they were, they apparently overlooked the many unbridgeable differences between the nations involved.

At the time, the Balkans were still involved in the terrible war and it is very doubtful whether the peoples concerned were at all aware of the highbrow plans. Certainly they were not asked to express their opinions. It may well have been that e.g. the Slovenians, under Austrian rule, and the Croats, under Hungarian rule, wanted changes and – maybe – independence. It may, however, also have been that they did not fancy a United Kingdom under the Serbian
Royal House, afraid as they were of the Serb domination, and the dreaded Serb Dream, mentioned earlier.

And so it happened that – soon after WW I had ended in November 1918 – a brand new state was born, the Krajevinu Jugoslavij (Kingdom of Yugoslavia). King Peter of Serbia was to be King Peter I of Yugoslavia who – in 1921 – was succeeded by his son Alexander I (1921-1934). Slovenia – detached from Austria, Croatia – detached from Hungary – with Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina formed the new Kingdom, to which was added a part of Hungary – Vojvodina – with a mixed population consisting of a Hungarian majority and a Serb minority.

Though all these various nationals were now supposed to be Yugoslavs and to melt into one Yugoslav nation, nothing of the kind really happened. They remained, as before, Serbs, Croats, Slovenians, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Albanians, Italians and Hungarians and whatsoever more. The official language was to be Serbo-Croatian. It is true, the two languages were almost the same, but for starters the Serbs used and still use the Cyrillic alphabet, the Croats and the Slovenians the Latin one. There was no melting or harmonising but, on the contrary, lasting trouble and unrest and the rise of fierce, fanatic, nationalist political movements aiming at independence. Apart from nationalism, religious differences also played an important role, the border line between the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches running right through the new kingdom, with the Islam in the middle. Many, in the new Yugoslavia and abroad, wondered how long this experiment was going to last.

YUGOSLAV SCOUTING

Dr Milos D. Popovic and his friends, having returned from Greece and Egypt to their liberated Serbia and busily reconstructing and reviving the Izvidnicka Organizacija Kralijvine
Srbije, (the Scout Association of the Kingdom of Serbia) must have had a difficult time and must have faced enormous problems. Because of this, or perhaps for financial reasons, it was decided to merge with the Sokoli (Falcons), a national and nationalistic association of Serb sportsmen. The united movement used Scouting methods but wore the Sokoli badges. In 1920 this new movement published a magazine named Sokolic. In 1920 the Sokoli Scouts participated in the first World Jamboree of Olympia, Richmond Park in London. Apparently it was soon found that the combination of the two movements was not so successful and beneficial as had been expected and as early as 1921 the two separated again each to go its own way according to its own methods.

But Dr Milos Popovic and friends were no longer living in Serbia but in the new Yugoslavia. So it was decided to choose the following name for the Scout Movement Savez Izvidnika I Planinki Krajlevine S.H.S. (the Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia S.H.S.). The abbreviation S.H.S. standing for Srbija – Serbia, Hrvatska – Croatia and Slovenija – Slovenia.

It was this movement which in 1922 participated in the 2nd International Conference at Paris when the World Association of the International Scout Movement (W.A.I.S.M. – see Chapter I) was founded and Yugoslavia was since known as one of the founder members.
There is no solid evidence that in Slovenia (until 1918 an Austrian province) and in Croatia (until then Hungarian territory) there had been Scout troops before 1918. It is, however, not unlikely and almost to be expected. The Austrian and the Hungarian Scout Movements were widely spread all over the two countries. So it may have been that the Slovenian and the Croatian Scout troops, their regions suddenly belonging to the new Kingdom of Yugoslavia, cut off from their original organizations, sought a relationship with the Serbian Movement. If so they were no doubt welcomed by the Serb leadership which now had to deal with a country much larger than before.

The movement stood under Royal protection, but in truth – contrary to the Royal Families of many other countries – neither the King nor the other Royals ever took a real interest in Scouting’s work and achievements and lacking this Royal support the association unfortunately did not gain great popularity. It was an urban movement. The rural population being poor and hard-working had neither the time nor the interest.

Yugoslavian emblem and Badge with the Coat of Arms introduced shortly after the separation from Sokoli in 1921

Bureau’s 1926 statistics reveal that 2,700 Yugoslavian Scouts were registered. The number of Girl Scouts is unknown. Financial support was received from the United States Association of the Abstinent Youth, teetotaler organisation. This is not surprising, Dr Milos D. Popovic, as mentioned earlier, having established a similar organisation, no doubt had his connections with comparable associations in other countries.
In an ‘artificial’, new country like Yugoslavia – where so many nationalities, languages, religions, cultures, customs and characters were supposed to melt into a brand new nation – the creation of a National Yugoslavian Scout/Guide movement cannot but have been a tremendous task not to be underestimated and one must admire those who undertook this assignment. No doubt they based themselves on number 4 of the original Scout Law – “A Scout is a friend to all and a Brother to every other Scout no matter what nationality, class or creed the other may belong too” – and there was hardly a country where this was more appropriate.

To consolidate the new movement a first national camp was held in Serajevo which began on May 6th, 1923. Everything was done to create and build up the national unity of Scouting, to promote good understanding and to remove the differences and barriers between the nationalities. 1924 saw the publication of a national Magazine for Scouts and Guides and a Yugoslavian Contingent was sent to the 2nd World Jamboree in Ermelunden near Copenhagen, Denmark. In the very same year the first Yugoslavian Scout leaders attended a Gilwell Training Course at Gilwell Park near London. Some returned as Deputy Camp Chiefs (DCC, four Wood Badges) which entitled
them to run national Gilwell training in Yugoslavia. And indeed in 1925 Professor Agapoff, assisted not only by some experienced Yugoslavian but also Russian Exile leaders organised the first National Scout leaders training course and in 1928 the first national Wood Badge (Gilwell) course was held in Vrdnik near Fruska.

In 1920 the Yugoslavian Girls’ section was represented at the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts’ 1st International Conference in St Hugh’s College at Oxford, England, and at the 2nd (1922) at Newnham College, Cambridge, England. The first ever World Camp for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the 3rd International Conference was held at Foxlease, England, the B.Ps’ home from July 16th to 23rd, 1924. In May 1926, the representatives of the Yugoslavian Girl Scouts were present at the 4th International Conference at Tarrytown, New York State, USA. (In those days there were no jet-planes and so the ladies had to cross the ocean by boat. Very generously the U.S. Girl Scouts Association paid the travelling expenses for all foreign participants.) It was during this conference that – amongst other things – it was decided to introduce the International Thinking Day, to be celebrated on February 22nd, the birthday of the Chief Guide of the World and the Chief Scout of the World. It was also proposed to set up an International Organization like the one the Scouts already had in WAISM. (1922). And so in 1928 the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) was founded during the 5th International Conference in Parad, Hungary. At that time the ladies also introduced the Trefoil as their World Badge. The Yugoslav Girl Scouts being present from then on belonged to the WAGGGS’ Founder Members and were/are very proud of that.

The boys’ as well as the girls’ section of the Savez Izvidnika i Planinki Kraljevine S.H.S. were always very active internationally. Until 1939 the Yugoslavs attended all international meetings, camps and Jamborees of WAISM. and WAGGGS.
A boys’ contingent was sent to the 3rd World Jamboree 1929 at Arrowe Park near Birkenhead, England.

In 1929 the first conference of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was also held in the capital Beograd (Belgrade). It may well be that, in order to underline the national unity of the Scouts, it was decided to change the name of the movement again to Savez Skauta Kraljevine Jugoslavije (the Scouting Association of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia) as in 1930. Simultaneously a new badge and emblem was introduced with the Crowned Royal Eagle and the magazine The Scouts Messenger was launched.

In 1931 a Panslavic Jamboree was held near Praha (Prague) in Czechoslovakia and the Yugoslavs were there, whereas in 1932 they had their own 2nd National Camp near Zagreb. The 4th World Jamboree (1933) was organised by the Hungarian Movement in Gödöllö, so not too far away, and a large contingent of Yugoslavs Scouts was sent. A 3rd National camp was held near Beograd in 1935 and in 1937 50 Yugoslav Scouts pitched their tents in sub-camp 6 of the 5th World Jamboree at Vogelenzang, The Netherlands.

Meanwhile the Girl Scouts had faithfully attended the various WAGGGS conferences. The last one being the 10th World Conference WAGGGS at Adelboden, Switzerland in 1938.
Thereafter, in summer 1939, a fair contingent showed up at the first ever Guides’ World Jamboree, named Pax Ting, in Hungary.

A few days after the latter had ended, World War Two (1939-1945) began and would influence Yugoslavian Scouting tremendously.

According to the B.S.I.B.’s statistics the Savez Skauta Kraljevine Jugoslavije was said to have 6,500 registered members, mainly in the urban regions. The number of Girl Scouts was not traced.

A PRELUDE TO WAR

The idealists who – during WW I – had designed the United Kingdom of Yugoslavia must have been badly disappointed. The culture, the nationalistic feelings and the religions kept the various peoples, supposed to be Yugoslavians, widely separated and never did they melt into one nation, one people. In theory Yugoslavia existed, in practice it did not.

The “national” government was in Beograd (Belgrade) in former Serbia and the Royalty was Serb too, these were some of the elements feared by other nationalities who saw it as the road leading to the fulfilment of the Serb Dream of a Greater Serbia and Serb domination.

Local nationalism, braced up by the churches, caused lasting trouble and unrest. In Slovenia, economically the strongest part of the Kingdom, people used to dream either of a return to Austria or of an independent state. The Croats too would much rather have been independent. In the latter region fierce, fanatic nationalists founded a political party the USTASA which, resenting Serb supremacy, demanded an independent Croatia. The accomplishment of same seemingly being impossible, the USTASA took a more and more
extreme course and sought and found foreign allies in the Italian Fascists and later the German National Socialists (Adolf Hitler’s Nazis) who lent a willing ear and gave their support. Gradually the USTASA got the character of a Fascist and later a National Socialist party.

With a certain regularity political murders were committed by almost all parties and nationalities. The King as well as politicians were often targets. Some lost their lives whilst seated on the benches of the House of Parliament. King Alexander I (1901-1934) having succeeded his father King Peter I, went on an official state visit to France. In the port of Marseilles he was welcomed – with great ceremonial – by the French President. The two dignitaries were being driven to the railway station when a Croat threw a bomb and killed both. King Alexander’s son, King Peter II, succeeded his father, but being a very young lad, his Uncle Paul acted as the Regent until 1941.

Foreign countries also influenced Yugoslavia. Benito Mussolini, Il Duce, the leader of the Italian Fascists and in charge of Italy, also had a dream. He claimed the Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea and their coasts to be Italian and – starting with Libya – began practising the rule. He had eager eyes on Tunisia and Algeria (both French) as well as on Malta (being British) and – after having conquered Abyssinia in Spring 1939 – his troops landed in Albania. The latter’s King and government had to flee and the country was annexed by Italy.

It cannot be denied that in Yugoslavia there were those with a certain sympathy for Italian Fascism and German Nazism but on the other hand international Communism also had its followers, not surprisingly in the poorer parts of Yugoslavia.
WORLD WAR II – 1939 - 1945

When the conflict began in September 1939 Yugoslavia was not involved and it so seems that originally Nazi-Germany did not intend to attack Yugoslavia.

Having occupied Denmark and Norway in April 1940, on May 10th, 1940 Adolf Hitler, the Führer of Nazi Germany, ordered his armed forces to attack France and in order to get into this country quickly he invaded the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium. Il Duce had been invited to participate in this offensive. But he was doubtful whether the Italians were really “war-minded” and secondly he was uncertain as far as France’s military strength was concerned and so he decided to be careful and to wait to see which way the cat would jump. So he politely declined the Führer’s kind invitation, telling him that his armed forces were not yet ready.

By mid June 1940, France, to everybody’s surprise and shock, had virtually been beaten by the Germans and Il Duce decided that it was now safe to intervene and so he ordered his forces to invade southern France where he met stronger opposition than he had expected.

France having been occupied, the Führer and Il Duce expected Great Britain to either sue for peace or to gradually collapse. An invasion of Great Britain had never been planned and when planned was not carried out. Badly underestimating the British character and mentality, (and Winston Churchill!) instead of finishing off the British Isles, Hitler concentrated on his preparations for the attack on the Soviet Union to begin in early spring 1941.

Yugoslavia might still not have been involved in the war had not the Führer’s friend Il Duce made a mistake. Realising that, particularly in German eyes, he had cut a rather poor figure, Benito Mussolini desired to show Adolf Hitler that he
too could do what Nazi-Germany had already accomplished. So he decided to attack Greece from Albania and to conquer it within a few days. He did not inform Hitler, who was very much engrossed in his planned attack on the Soviet Union.

But Mussolini was in for an unpleasant surprise. When in early winter 1940-1941 his troops crossed the Albanian-Greek border, the stubborn Greeks refused to surrender. Instead they fought bravely and had the cheek to counter attack forcing the Fascist armies to retreat well into Albania, parts of which were occupied by the Greeks.

Adolf Hitler, having watched Il Duce’s bungling with anger, contempt and disgust, was compelled to come to his ally’s rescue. This, to his anger, forced him to postpone his attack on the Soviet Union by a few months, until June 22nd, 1941. German forces had to be transferred from Poland to the south. But Hungary and Yugoslavia were located between the Germans and the Greeks. The Hungarian government, faced by either fighting the Germans or letting them through, permitted the Nazis to pass through its territory, despite the opposition of the larger part of the population. Yugoslavia was requested to join the German-Italian side and to also permit German forces to have free passage through its territory. The Yugoslavian Prince Regent and the government in Beograd/Belgrade seemed inclined to show signs of willingness. But when everything seemed settled the unexpected happened. A group of young army officers staged a coup d’état, dissolving the government and the Regency, putting King Peter II on the throne and rejecting the Nazi demands.

Short-tempered Adolf Hitler, being in a hurry having his attack on the Soviet Union on his mind, hesitated no longer and ordered his armed forces into Yugoslavia on April 6th, 1941.
YUGOSLAVIA AT WAR

The war began with an unexpected, devastating German Luftwaffe air-attack on Beograd/Belgrade. Once again Adolf Hitler had Lady- Luck on his side. Whereas several Yugoslav army units resisted, others surrendered without a fight. Particularly the Croats (but not all of them) refused to defend the Yugoslavia that they had never fancied. Officially Yugoslavia surrendered on April 17th, 1941 and the German Wehrmacht launched its attack on Greece which in the end had to give in too and was occupied by German and Italian forces. Il Duce, Benito Mussolini’s face had been saved but at what cost.

King Peter II, his government, a large number of civilians and some army units left the country and went to Egypt and later to London to act as one of the many European governments-in-exile. Yugoslavia fell to pieces.

Slovenia, before 1918 an Austrian province and Austria now being part of Germany, was partly annexed by the latter and partly by Italy which also annexed/occupied (Croatian) Dalmatia and the Adriatic coast. Serbia was allowed a puppet-government led by Mr Nedic, but was reduced to its pre-1914 size, the Hungarians retaking Vojvodina with its Hungarian speaking majority. Bosnia-Herzegovina was occupied.

Croatia was different. The Fascist USTASA had greeted the invading Nazis and Fascists as liberators and the victors granted Croatia independence under the leadership of Ante Pavelic, the USTASA Führer. Croatia was proclaimed a Kingdom and an Italian Duke was requested to mount the throne. He accepted the invitation but preferred to stay at a safe distance – in Rome – and thus kept his hands clean. Anyway he would not have been more than a figure head as the USTASA Führer Ante Pavelic was the real ruler and dicta-
tor. Soon a Croatian army was created, equipped and trained by Nazi- Germany in the real SS-style.

To Adolf Hitler all seemed well that ended well. With Yugoslavia partly occupied, partly on his side and Greece also beaten and occupied he was at last able to transfer his attention and forces to the Soviet Union’s borders and to carry out his main objective; the destruction of the Soviet Union, that is of communism and the enlargement of his Thousand Year’s Reich. On June 22nd, 1941 he attacked that vast country.

THE PARTISAN WAR

But mistakes and miscalculations will always be made. Very soon the Germans, the Italians and their new allies, the Croats, found that in Yugoslavia all was not as well and as peaceful as they had expected it to be. Yugoslavia and Greece both turned into a hornets’ nest stirred up.

It was soon discovered that some units of the Royal Yugoslav Army had not surrendered but, instead, had retreated into the almost inaccessible Serbian mountains. They took the historic name Tschetniks (Chetniks) and began a guerrilla war led by Colonel – later General – Draza Mihailovich (1883-1946). Consequently valuable Nazi and Fascist army units, badly needed in the Soviet Union and in Northern Africa were thus tied up in Yugoslavia to repel the Chetniks.

But that was not all. It was soon detected that another armed resistance group had come into being too, firmly resolved to fight the occupation forces and all collaborating with them including and above all the new Croat USTASA army. A new, dim name emerged: Tito. Soon to be internationally known. At first it was rumoured that this person was
a woman, but in fact is was a man, named Joseph Bros (1892-1980). A Croat of a different kind: a communist.

Now it so happened that General Mikhailovich very much resented and disliked the Germans and the Italians but he hated and distrusted the communists even more. He was unable to co-operate with Tito. This led to the tragic development that a true patriot and royalist – who commanded his Chetnik forces and originally attacked the Nazis, the Fascists and the Croats – took an even more dramatic step. He decided to no longer assault the Germans and their allies and reached an agreement with them. Henceforth he would no longer hinder the occupants who, in turn, would leave him alone. In a united effort all would concentrate on the destruction of Tito’s partisans. An agreement that pleased the Nazi-Germans and the Italian-Fascists, who once more expected to be able to withdraw part of their forces to reinforce the Russian and North Africa fronts. But that proved to be wishful thinking.

The Western Allies (Great Britain and later the U.S.A.) had parachuted into Yugoslavia military missions to assist Mikhailovich. They also dropped arms and supplies. But Mikhailovich’s negotiations with the Nazis could not be kept a secret and in late 1942 the Allied officers, attached to him, detected things and sent disturbing reports to the Allied command. Thereafter the Allies shifted their support to Tito, who rapidly became a National Leader. (For full details see the book Eastern Approaches by British Fitzroy Maclean, a (former) Scout leader who was in command of a British military mission first sent to Mikhailovich and later transferred to Tito.) This very much boosted the moral of the Tito partisans and also strengthened his forces. Not all of the Mikhailovich Tschetniks (Chetniks) approved of the agreement with the Nazis and Fascists. They wanted to fight them and to liberate their country. To do so they had no other choice but to join Tito’s partisans, so they deserted to them. Tito’s
army was soon known as N.O.B. or National Liberation Movement, in which served men and women of all Yugoslav nationalities and religions. What united them was the desire to liberate the country.

Statements that all Tito partisans were convinced communists are incorrect. The Nazis, assisted by their allies, launched seven major full-scale offensives against the N.O.B.. whose command followed a policy of fighting as long as possible, then disappearing into the hills, mountains and forests. In May 1943 Tito was attacked by forces six times his size. He lost a quarter of his men and women and half his equipment but managed to keep the N.O.B. together. His situation improved when in September 1943 the Italians pulled out of the war. Thanks to which he obtained a vast quantity of heavy Italian arms and took over the Dalmatian coast. The N.O.B. now controlled larger areas of the coastal and inland regions and was fully supported and supplied by the Western Allies. But not by the Soviet Union! Initially supplies and arms had been dropped by parachute, now British and American planes could land on airstrips prepared by the N.O.B. and navy vessels could discharge in the coastal ports. Wounded partisans were flown out to allied hospitals in Italy. British and American fighter planes stationed in Italy and later on liberated Yugoslav islands were able to assist the partisans and strafe their attackers.

The guerrilla war was a dirty war. Partisans were not taken prisoner but executed. Whole villages suspected of supporting the partisans were burned, the inhabitants murdered. Serbs and Muslims were murdered for just being Serbs and Muslims. Croat USTASA soldiers were given a bonus for every Serb or Muslim killed. Of course the other side retaliated. Nationalism, religion, hatred and revenge, they all played their parts. It was ethnic cleansing, it was holocaust and the innocent civilians suffered.
In May 1944 Tito’s enemies launched their last massive offensive to wipe him out and to cover the withdrawal of their troops from Greece. He received adequate Allied air support and the Soviet Red Army approaching through Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria threatened his enemies too.

The N.O.B. had been very much aware of the great efforts that the Americans and British had made to support it. Also that the Soviet Union had done little or nothing.

Tito had always taken a very independent attitude. He made it quite clear to everybody, including Moscow, that he was his own master, would run things his way and that he was not inclined to take anybody’s orders, thus also excluding Joseph Stalin. This may have been one of the reasons why Stalin, who needed puppets that he could manipulate, did so little to support and supply him. When the Red Army approached the Yugoslavian borders, Tito made it quite clear that he would permit that army to assist him in liberating Beograd/ Belgrade (20/10/1944) but that he needed no further support from it and would not permit it to advance into Yugoslavia, whose liberation and cleansing his N.O.B. had very well in hand. And so the Red Army, at the time having its plate full, did not enter Yugoslavia, probably fearing – and not without reason – that there might be clashes with the obstinate, resolute and independent N.O.B.. Tito’s message had been received and was well understood – with reluctance – in Moscow where increasing doubts grew whether Comrade Tito was really a true, loyal and easy to mould puppet -communist. Also the fact that he had become very popular with the Western Allies was not to Moscow’s liking.

This was a matter of great importance. Yugoslavia, unlike the other East and Central European countries was consequently not liberated/ occupied by the Red Army. Whereas in the other East and Central countries well trained, Moscow-obedient servants were put in charge and carried out all
orders without limitations, Tito was able to shape the country’s own future and destiny and that development was never put under pressure by the Red Army’s bayonets. Tito’s new government reigned without Soviet control.

In winter 1944-1945 the Nazis and their USTASA and other collaborating cronies slowly retreated, all the way attacked by the N.O.B. and the powerful American and British Air Forces. The withdrawing German and Croatian units, lucky enough to cross the Yugoslav-Austrian or Yugoslav-Italian border, were only pleased and relieved to surrendered to the American and British soldiers who had conquered Northern Italy and Austria. The N.O.B partisans, in pursuit of their enemies, stopped short at the borders and shook hands with their British and American comrades in arms.

The war was over but the atrocities were not. Of course the leading Yugoslav collaborators and in particular the USTASA leaders, like Ante Pavelic, had seen to it that they had fled in time and found a safe haven elsewhere. Leaving behind their followers, who had carried out their orders and now had to pay for their crimes. Tito demanded the extradition of all Yugoslavs having served on the German side. The British and Americans having to deal with enormous numbers of P.O.W. only too gladly handed the Croatians and other Yugoslavs amongst them to Tito’s N.O.B., expecting them to be brought to fair justice and punished. Western as they were they had no idea of the hatred that had erupted during the dirty war and how both sides had acted and reacted. In the aftermath the revenge was terrible and thousands, having been returned to Yugoslavia, were killed in mass executions. It was primitive, it was an eye for an eye. Only a few, like General Mikhailovich was properly tried but also executed in 1946.

Yugoslavia had suffered a lot and had paid a terrible price.
But it had also caused more hatred, distrust, and desire for revenge consequently more blood feud. Thus was laid the foundation of what was to happen in the years 1990-1995.

YUGOSLAV SCOUTING IN EXILE

When in Spring 1941 King Peter II and his government were obliged to leave Yugoslavia and go to Egypt and later to London, a number of Yugoslav civilians managed to follow. Particularly in Egypt but also in England schools had been opened and education was provided. Wherever there was a sufficient number of Scouts – boys and girls – groups were founded and other youngsters were invited to join. The number of groups was limited but particularly in London there was a large group which was very active in every respect. Full support was received from the Yugoslavian government in Exile and from the British Scout and Guide Associations. Many a Yugoslav Scout took the opportunity to go to Gilwell and follow the Wood Badge courses.

SCOUTING DURING THE PARTISAN WAR

There can be no doubt that when the Nazi-German forces attacked Yugoslavia by surprise in April 1941 the Scouts – in particular in the urban areas – played their usual part and lent a hand to soften and ease the suffering and worked in hospitals etc.
But as Yugoslavia ceased to exist, so did the Savez Skauta Kraljevine Jugoslavije. (Scouting Association of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.) which faded away.

Serbia, under Nazi supervision grew into an “independent” state with a Nazi controlled puppet-government. Apparently the situation was such that Dr Milos Popovic saw possibilities to continue Scouting and in 1941 created the Srpski Savez Izvidnika i Planiki, (Serb Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts), which apparently was permitted to operate. As its badge and emblem it used the Arrowhead but without the former state symbols. As for Slovenia partly taken/ occupied by Italy and by Germany, though no firm evidence has been traced so far, it must be expected that Scouting was disbanded and forbidden.

In the new “independent” Croatian Kingdom, under USTASA dictatorship Scouting groups were no doubt banned and disbanded.

The rest of Yugoslavia was soon a battle field and it is hardly likely that any Scouting activities were possible.

Whereas in Poland (see Chapter 4 – Polish Scouting) Scouting – so much larger in numbers – as a whole played such a magnificent part in the resistance/partisans, including the “all Scouts-battalions”, such was not the case in Yugoslavia where Scouting was so much smaller and had been re-
stricted to the more prosperous cities and larger villages. No doubt boy Scouts and girls Scouts and the leaders continued their contacts but the circumstances scattered them all over the country and not only that but also all over the warring factions. Some may have been in Mikhailovich’s Tsjetniks for the simple reason that as conscripts they were serving in those units that followed this officer and took to the mountains to continue the fighting. Others, Croats, again as conscripts, may, against their will, have been enlisted in the Croat USTASA army.

But again, others were with Tito partisans, the N.O.B. Amongst the personnel serving in the Allied military missions parachuted into Yugoslavia, there were a number of British, American and Canadian officers with a Scouting background and in their memoirs they – fleetingly – mention meeting Yugoslav Scouts serving with Tito’s partisans. One of the British officers said that one St George’s Day he and some Yugoslav partisans repeated the Scout Promise.

Thousands of uprooted civilians had attached themselves to the N.O.B.’s partisan units to find protection against the atrocities committed by the Nazi SS and the hated and feared USTASA units. (USTASA will forever be a dirty word.) As out-laws they shared the N.O.B.’s dangers, the privations, hardships and sufferings. The women, sometimes well armed, performed as well as the men and so did the older boys and girls. But there were also the children. Circumstances permitting, some school education was provided and a partisan youth movement was set up providing tutoring and relaxation. Trained youth leaders were in charge and amongst them Scouts and Scout leaders, who introduced elements of Scouting in the program. It also seems that Dr Milos Popovic remained in contact with the Scouts and Scout leaders (male and female) serving in the Tito Partisans or the N.O.B.
AN EFFORT TO REVIVE SCOUTING

When the terrible slaughter was over the Scout leaders in the N.O.B. ranks asked its High Command permission to revive the Scout movement. Permission was refused, it having been decided that a political youth movement, a true copy of the Soviet Pioneers – ZVEDAC – was to be introduced. There was no space available for other youth organisations. This, of course, was only to be expected. So many a Scout leader continued the work, begun in the partisan youth movement, in the new state youth movement. They introduced many Scouting activities and in their hearts they kept their Scouting ideals high and alive.

REFUGEES OR DISPLACED PERSONS

When Yugoslavia had been liberated by the N.O.B., a communist regime was founded under Tito’s leadership. The Kingdom was replaced by a Federation of Popular or Peoples’ Republics. At first Tito was the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence until in 1953 he became President of the Yugoslav Federation. Neither King Peter II nor the London Exile government were welcome anymore and almost overnight many Yugoslavians still in Egypt, England and other countries suddenly found themselves to be Displaced Persons, be it that they were spared the experiences and hardships of the Displaced Persons Camps in West Germany, Austria and Northern Italy in which so many of their compatriots, having left Yugoslavia during the final episode of the war, had found refuge.

As mentioned, most of the latter had every reason to go west, having collaborated with the German Nazis and/or the Italian Fascists or having served in their auxiliary forces or in the Croatian USTASA army.
Others, who had been loyal soldiers in the N.O.B., also preferred to go into exile rather than to live in a country that was going to be dominated by the communists.

Obviously the Yugoslav D.P.s were a mixed bunch and sharply divided in various groups according to the various nationalities, political backgrounds, religions, and attitudes during the war. It was by now quite clear that from 1918 to 1941 the Kingdom had never been able to create one country and one nation and that it had all been very artificial. To put it mildly, Yugoslavs in the various camps were not on speaking terms and conflicts erupted that the Allied camp leaders had to deal with by separating them.

YUGOSLAV SCOUTING IN EXILE

As generally mentioned in Chapter 1 and more in detail in the other, previous Chapters, Scouts and Guides of the various East and Central European nationalities living in the Displaced Persons’ Camps in West Germany, Austria and Northern Italy got together and founded groups whereupon these groups united in “National DP Movements”. They were registered, supported and protected by the Displaced Persons’ Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. In “Jambo-ree”, the B.S.I.B.’s monthly magazine of 1948 (page 227), Jean R. Monet – a British Scout leader – in charge of the D.P. Division (stationed in Frankfurt am Main) mentions three Yugoslav D.P. groups (117 members) in occupied West Germany and one group (166 members) in Austria. Later he reported that one Yugoslav Patrol from the British and one from the US-zone participated in the DP Scouts International Patrol Rally held in Wellerode near Kassel (US-zone) from 19 – 31/08/1948. Further he states that in that same year 247 Slovenian Scouts, living in West Germany, Austria and Northern Italy, had formed a “Slovenian National D.P. Movement”, which as such had also been registered by the B.S.I.B. D.P. Division.
In Jamboree of February 1950 a distinction was made again, mentioning 250 Slovenian and 150 Yugoslavian Scouts and their badges were shown. So there were a Yugoslav (see 11) and a Slovenian (see 12) D.P. Movement. But concerning a Yugoslav DP or Exile Movement that is about as far as it goes. Whereas (see Chapter I) all “National DP or Exile Movements” stuck closely together when the DPs were spread all over the world, there was never thereafter a mention of a Yugoslav Exile movement, though it so seems that something similar but very small has been operating in the U.S.A. for a while. If so they never got involved in the general Exile activities. But apparently, when having settled in their new countries of residence, the original numbers were too small to carry on as a unity. Perhaps they no longer considered themselves to be Yugoslavs but again as Croats, Slovenians, Serbs etc. or did they, very sensibly, join the National Movements of their new countries. The Yugoslav DP or Exile movement had simply faded away.

The Slovenian DP or Exile movement also faded away but in a different way. It has been mentioned that in the past Slo-
venia had been divided by Austria and Italy and that the Yugoslav-Slovenian/Italian border had cut it into two parts with Slovenes dwelling on both sides of the border.

When during the final stages of WW II, in winter 1944-1945, Slovenians fled from Yugoslavia most of them crossed the border and settled in camps in Italy. Regretfully the B.S.I.B. report mentioned does not indicate the location of the Slovenian D.P. groups registered, but no doubt some, if not all, were in the North Italian D.P. Camps. Whereupon, no doubt, the Slovenian DPs soon mixed with the Slovenians who had been already living there for generations.

The fact is that after 1944-1945 there were Slovenian Scouts in the Italian districts bordering on Yugoslavia, no doubt founded by local and DP Scouts that united in the S.Z.S.O Slovenska Zamejska Skautska Organizacija. (Slovenian League of Scouting Organisations.) According to International Law they were Italians and so they were in the eyes of International Scouting. WAISM. (now WOSM) – in cooperation with the Associazione Scouts Cattolici Italiani – tried to convince the S.Z.S.O. that it would be better to join the latter which would have meant that they would have been part of the International movement. But loyalty to their Slovene nationality, homeland and traditions was stronger and S.Z.S.O. chose to stay out of the A.S.C.I. and the great World Brotherhood of Scouting. A.S.C.I. nevertheless supported and assisted them as much as possible and S.Z.S.O. groups flourished in cities like Triest, Gorica etc. By that time the days of the B.S.I.B.’s DP Division had long since gone though S.Z.S.O. – never having been part of it – lived on.

Meanwhile Europe had been split into two blocks, a western and an eastern or communist one. Tito and his new Federal Republic belonged to the East Block. But very soon it became quite clear that there was a difference between self-assured Tito and his Partisans, who after all had liberated
their own country, and the various communist “managers” or leaders of the other Eastern and Central European countries who had been planted there by Moscow, as Stalin’s very obedient servants, and were kept in power and place by the force of the Red Army which had its garrisons in each of those countries, but not so in Yugoslavia.

Tito had his own ideas and acted very independently. Soon there were conflicts between Tito and Joseph Stalin in Moscow. It now paid that Tito had refused the assistance of the Red Army and had preferred to liberate Yugoslavia with his own partisans. So that, unlike in other East and Central European countries, Stalin was not able to apply force. Also Stalin did not risk ordering the Red Army to invade Yugoslavia and replace Tito by one of his puppets. Knowing how the Germans and Italians had fared during WW II, he did not take the hazards of having to fight a determined partisan army in a terrain so suitable for guerrilla war-fare.

In June 1948 it came to a clear break between Stalin and Tito. Yugoslavia was expelled from the Moscow led communist block and went its own independent ways (Titoism). Meaning that Yugoslavia did no longer belong to the Soviet influenced region of Eastern Europe. Gradually Tito renewed his contacts with was his former Western Allies and slowly holes developed in the Iron Curtain between Yugoslavia and the rest of the world and it later disappeared totally when Yugoslavs were permitted to travel and encouraged to work in Western Europe. Further a flourishing tourist industry was created attracting thousands of West Europeans who gladly spent their summer holidays and money in the sun of the Adriatic coast or the rough, and beautiful interior. Yugoslavia became “A Garden Of Europe”, Europe’s favourite holiday resort.

Yet it cannot be denied that the President’s regime was not democratic. Every sign of opposition or attempt at a revival
of nationalism was smothered immediately and with a firm hand. Many a nationalist, a Stalinist and/or other opponent landed in jail. It kept the country quiet and peaceful and there were no nationalistic outbursts. The various peoples were no longer able to get at each others throats. So in a way the Tito regime was a blessing in disguise and indeed gave Yugoslavia a few decades of real peace and development.

YUGOSLAV SCOUTING IN THE POPULAR FEDERATION

The Scout leaders in and outside the ranks of the Pioneer type youth movement Zvedac remained loyal to authentic Scouting and used all its possibilities in the groups in their care. The breaking away from Moscow meant a more lenient atmosphere in the country and so they considered the prospects of the new situation.

No one could deny that the Scouts – who had served in the N.O.B. – had been loyal and good partisans. The communist authorities had to admit that too. So when the Scout leaders, no doubt influenced by if not led by Dr Popovic, once again approached the Party with a request to be permitted to revive Yugoslav scouting, the reaction was different.

In June 1950, during its Third Plenary Session, the Yugoslav Communist Party contemplated and discussed the request, put it to the vote and the majority of deputies decided to grant permission for a revival of scouting on an experimental basis, in co-operation (or under supervision?) of the State Youth Movement.

All over Yugoslavia the Scout leaders (male and female), relieved and pleased, gladly founded “initiative committees” and the preparations for Scouting’s revival began.
At the time The Socijalisticka Federativna Republika Jugoslavija (Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia) consisted of Srbija (Serbia), Hrvatska (Croatia), Makedonija (Macedonia), Slovenija (Slovenia), Crna Gora (Montenegro) Bosna I Herzegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina). To Serbia belonged the Provinces of Vojvodina, (Hungarian majority) and the District of Kosovo and Mitohija (mainly populated by Albanians) but they were autonomous.

Scouting re-emerged in Serbia in 1950. In Slovenia, and Montenegro in 1951 and in Macedonia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina, in 1952. “National Movements” were established in each state and on February 8th, 1953 the Constitutional Session of the Scout Associations of Yugoslavia was held and a Federal Movement was founded named: S.I.O.J. Savez Izvidackih Organizacija Jugoslavije or Zveza Tabornikov Jugoslaije etc. simply meaning Association of Scouting Organisations Yugoslavia, a name to be used until 1958.

No doubt this revival must have pleased Dr Milos D. Popovic, the founder. Having survived the war, he was still serving his country. Initially as a deputy in the Constitutional Assembly and later as a member of the Federal Government of the Federation of the Peoples’ Republics of Yugoslavia. In 1954, in his 78th year, he died in Beograd/Belgrade, no doubt mourned over by his Scouts.

Particularly in the beginning the S.I.O.J. leaders were well aware that they were walking on thin ice and had to be very careful. The Scouting they revived was
based upon B.P.’s original ideas and the developments of Scouting in the Free World. Those in charge were realistic enough to understand that their movement would be considered to have a political flavour and they also realised that for that reason the World Bureaux WAISM (later WOSM) and WAGGGS would never be able to recognise them and/or admit them to the World Organisations, the International Rules not permitting such. So S.I.O.J., in order not to embarrass the World Movements and not to provoke its opponents in the party, never asked for such recognition.

This may also have been the reason why, World Scouting’s Arrowhead or World Guiding’s Trefoil was not chosen as a national badge and emblem but the Five Pointed Red Star with a Torch with a Red Flame and a small Red Star in the centre (see 13). The Red Star was the symbol of international communism, it was also the symbol of Tito’s moderate communist party but above all, to most in and outside Yugoslavia, it was the Partisans’ emblem under which they – not all of them communists – had so gallantly fought the Nazis and the Fascists and liberated their country.

Later this emblem was placed on a green Maple Leaf (see 14) which vaguely reminded one of the Arrowhead, the leaf also having three points.
In 1958 the S.I.O.J. changed its name to Savez Izvidaca Jugoslavije (S.I.J.) and its emblem and badge were also altered. The Green Maple Leaf *(see 15)* was now much more prominent (resembling the Arrowhead very much more) with a Red Star and a compass needle also featuring the S.I.J. names in the various languages used.

Each Federal State had its own S.I.J. Section which was more or less autonomous. Also they had emblems and badges of their own in addition to the S.I.J. emblem and badge, most of them on a Maple Leaf and with the Star. In Serbia the Initiative Board began its work on December 2nd, 1951. The Savez Izvidnika Srbije (Serbia) was founded on November 16th, 1952 and officially started its activities on January 19th, 1953. Its symbol *(see 16)* was officially introduced in 1951. The Zveza Tabornikov Slovenije’s *(see 17)* was slightly different, showing a Tepee, a campfire, and the Red Star on a background of three pointed spruces or fir trees, also reminding one of the three Leaves of the Arrowhead *(see 18)* belonged to the Savez Izvididaca Crne Gore, picturing the Black Mountains of Montenegro, the Star and the Compass Needle. The badge 19 and emblem of the Savez Izvidaca Hrvatske in Croatia. The Savez Izvidaca Bosne I Herzegovina *(see 20)* and the badge 21 belonged to the Sojuz Na Izvidnicite Na Makedonija.

These “national” badges were used until 1958 and became extinct when the S.I.O.J. became S.I.J. and a new Federal Emblem (15) was introduced and accepted by everyone.

As explained before, unlike the other East and Central European countries, Yugoslavia was, at the time, no longer behind the Iron Curtain. Contrary to the citizens of the other communist states the Yugoslavs were permitted to travel to foreign countries freely. They were even encouraged to go and find employment in Western Europe and there were no restrictions, and unlike in other countries their families were
not held as hostages, so as to press them to return. The Yugoslavs could go and come as they pleased and they could take their families for prolonged stays in the west.

Was Scouting in the Free Western World aware of these developments in Yugoslavia?

The general opinion was that there was no Scouting or Guiding behind the Iron Curtain or rather in the communist states. It was known that certain Scouting and Guiding activities and methods had been adopted or copied by the communist youth organisations. If some in the World Movements were at all aware of there being two youth organisations in Yugoslavia, they used to lump them together, not realising that some genuine Scouts were trying to activate and revive authentic Scouting.

Also it must be admitted that the S.I.O.J. and later the S.I.J., for safety reasons and in order not to provoke those in the Party who were still against them, kept a very low profile. No doubt the leadership, well aware of World Scouting and Guiding’s rules, realised that their Movement, under political
supervision, could never be accepted as a member.

So generally speaking World Scouting and World Guiding were not well informed.

Yet when Yugoslavia opened its borders to tourists from the west, a limited number Scouts from West European countries, hesitantly and in civvies at first, but later openly and in full uniform, hiked or even held summer camps in the beautiful country. In their uniforms they attracted the attention of the S.I.O.J. members and former Scouts. These Westerns were surprised to find that there was a “Scout-like” movement in Yugoslavia and this led to limited, yet regular contacts at the grass-root level. The lenient system also enabled S.I.O.J./S.I.J. leaders and members to go West. Some found employment in the West European countries and once there made contact with the Scouts and Guides of their new places of residence. And so slowly but surely some in Western Scouting got the idea that something was going on in Yugoslavia. Traces of evidence have been found that some S.I.J. leaders were invited to participate in western national leaders’ training courses and western national camps.

President and Marshall Tito died on May 4th, 1980, a vexed personality admired by some particularly in the Western World for his performance during the Second World War and for the fact that he had broken with Moscow. He was considered by the so-called “Third World” to be a great champion of their cause and hated again by others for being a communist. It is indeed difficult to please everybody.

However, being a clever politician he had kept together the Yugoslavian Federation. His methods may not have been
democratic but during his period in office the various nationalities had been granted a period of about 35 years during which they had been able to live in peace as he kept at bay – admittedly with an iron fist – the spine-chilling nationalism and religious intolerance which had previously done so much harm and would, a few years after his death, again lead to unbelievable atrocities and ethnic cleansing which baffled humanity.

SLOVENIAN SCOUTING I

As mentioned when Tito had broken with Moscow he gradually granted his peoples more freedom a.o. permitting them to travel abroad. The Slovenes benefited most. They only had to cross the nearby Italian-Yugoslav frontier in order to visit their Italian Slovene relatives in the bordering areas. An opportunity also taken by the younger generations born after the war, who wanted to see the free western world that they had never known. Amongst them were members of the Pioneer type State Youth organisation, the S.I.O.J. Scouts and those who had never wanted belonged to either.

Peter Lovsin was a young man who, as early as 1984 visited the Slovenians on the Italian side of the border and got acquainted with the S.Z.S.O Slovenska Zamejska Skautska Organizacij (see 22) or Slovenian League of Scouting Organisations. He participated in one of their summer camps and took an interest in Scouting. He returned home, well provided with handbooks, all sorts of information and full of ideas. He gathered a number of friends and with 12 of them
founded a Scout troop. In 1985 the troop went to Italy and the members experienced and enjoyed a summer camp of an S.Z.S.O. Gorica troop.

In 1986 Peter Lovsin was back again in Italy and on that occasion he took the Scout Promise. He concentrated on the further development of his troop and in 1987 he conducted a ceremony during which his friends also took the S.Z.S.O. Scout Promise. Peter was called up for military service but after his return to civvy street in 1988 he once again took charge of his Scouts that now numbered 30. At the time this was all illegal and very much against the law.

THE END OF FEDERAL YUGOSLAVIA

But meanwhile the world was changing at a breathtaking pace, ever since on 11/03/1985 Gorbachev had come to power in the Soviet Union and gradually introduced Glasnost – Openness and Perestroika – Renewal. Ultimately this would lead to alterations in all the East Block countries and in the end to the collapse of the Soviet Union which on 08/12/91 – nearly 70 years old – was replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Beginning in Hungary in summer 1989, changes set in in all East Block countries. The Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain came tumbling down on November 9th, 1989 and in winter 1989-1990 the East Block ceased to be and one country after the other shook off the communist chains and retook its long desired independence and liberty.

In Yugoslavia with its lenient regime things remained rather quiet. Yet it is often said that the disintegration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia commenced – unwittingly – immediately after Tito’s death. Like most strong willed, self assured men of his prestige, there was no successor having the same qualifications and authority. More or less his death
left a vacuum. The presidents of the Republics took the post of Federal President in turn. But there was unrest and unease. Particularly so when in 1987 the Serbian president Milosevic was acting as Federal President. To the benefit of Serbia he abolished the autonomy of Vojodina (mainly Hungarian) and Kosovo (mainly Albanian) and integrated them into Serbia. He was suspected of reviving the Dream of a Greater Serbia and this worried and alarmed the other Republics, particularly so when Serbia also claimed Croatian and Bosnian territories with Serbian majorities or minorities. Gradually Tito’s’ inheritance – the Federal State – in which the various nations had lived rather peacefully, changed. The spine-chilling, sinister old-fashioned nationalism reared its ugly head again and combined with intolerant, religious fanaticism and memories of what had happened during WW II, formed a mixture like gunpowder that might explode any minute. The old scourge of Yugoslavia.

In the Federal government and parliament there were conflicts and clashes between the various Federal Republics. Some of which stated publicly that they wanted to secede from the Federation and to declare their total independence. Particularly the Serbs objected to this.

But it all began in Slovenia. On 08/03/1990 it dropped the communist name of “Socialist Peoples Republic of Slovenia” and changed it into simple “Republic of Slovenia”. During a referendum, held on 08/04/1990 80% of the population voted in favour of the opposition and independence whereas 20% remained loyal to the communist party but not necessarily to the Federal State.

The collapse of communism in the rest of Eastern and Central Europe no doubt had a strong influence on the situation and on June 25th, 1991 Slovenia and Croatia announced their intention to separate from the Federal Republic and on the 26th both states actually declared their independence
and hoisted their old national flags, dating back to 1848, but without the Red stars added in 1946 and 1947.

Since V.E. Day, May 8th, 1945, when WW II ended in the European theatre, apart from the Hungarian uprising in 1956, there had been no fighting in Europe, but on June 28th, 1991, real war began in Yugoslavia when the Serbian dominated Federal Army ordered its Airforce to bomb Slovenian's Ljubljana airport and its ground forces attacked the Slovenian and Croatian militias. The artificial Yugoslavia, created 1918, revived in 1945, now ceased to exist, the more so as on 09/09/1991 Macedonia also declared its independence and on October 14th, 1991 Bosnia-Herzegovina acted likewise. All hell was let loose and an endless war combined with ethnic cleansing began to continue for years and not to end until some sort of a peace treaty was signed in Paris on December 15th, 1995.

SLOVENIAN SCOUTING 2

Before the secessions, in the Federal Republic there had not been and, at the time, there still was not the Liberty of Association. Meaning that no one could found an association without government and/or party permission and these permits were not given easily if at all, the party wanting to keep an firm grip on life in general. However, as of 01/01/1990 the – then still communist – Slovenian government had re-established the “Liberty of the Founding and the Belonging to Non-State
controlled Associations”.

This was of great importance to Peter Lovsin and his friends, who had not only been waiting for this but had prepared for it too. That very same January 1st was founded the Roman Catholic Parents’ Association, strongly supported by the Roman Catholic Church. This association in turn supported Peter Lovsin’s Scouts of which, at the time, there was one group in the capital – Ljubljana – with 40 members under Peter Lovsin’s leadership, one in Pestumie, 25 members, led by two young students, and one in Cerknique, 20 members strong and led by a Roman Catholic priest. There was an influx of new recruits and more troops were founded.

In the Ljubljana Cathedral, on March 31st, 1990 the Z.S.K.S.S., Združenje Slovenskih Katoliskih Skvatijnj In Skavtov (Slovenian Association of Catholic Boy Scout and Girl Scouts) was founded. Present were Sergio Gatti, the International Commissioner of the Federazione Italiana dello Scautismo, leaders of the A.G.e.S.C.I.(Associazione Guide E Scouts Cattolici Italiani) and representatives of the S.Z.S.O Slovenska Zamejska Skautska Organizacijn operating in Northern Italy. The badge and emblem (see 23) chosen resembled that of the S.Z.S.O.. A.G.e.S.C.I. as well as S.Z.S.O. supported the new movement, which immediately informed WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London of its existence. The latter’s “Eurofocus” magazine no 1 of 1990 as well as the former’s “World Scout News” of February 1990 stated that letters and reports had been received concerning the revival of Scouting and Guiding in Slovenia. Which was a mistake but the WOSM and WAGGGS were not aware of that.

In its June/July number (1990) of WOSM’s “World Scout News” there was again mention of “a modest revival of scouting notably in the Northern province of Slovenia”, whereas the German magazines “Mitteilungen” (Informa-
tion) of the D.P.S.G. (Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg,(RC)) and “Neue Briefe” of the (open) German Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder also reported that they were in communication with the Z.S.K.S.S.

Thus the Scouting World was getting the wrong impression that – as in the other former East Block countries – Z.S.K.S.S. was to be considered as being a revival of Yugoslav scouting. Only a few insiders within the ranks knew that the Z.S.K.S.S. was in fact a new but certainly not the only Scouting organisation in Slovenia. The Federal S.I.J.’s Slovenian section the Z.T.S. (Zveza Tabornikov Slovenije or Scouting Association Slovenia) still existed and was – after all – also based upon Scouting.

S.I.J. – SAVAZA IZVIDACKIH JUGOSLAVIA

When Yugoslavia was still relatively quiet and peaceful, so before the above mentioned events took place, the Belgrade based Federal HQ of the S.I.J. (Savaza Izvidackih Jugoslavija) also approached WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London, which must have come as a surprise to them. S.I.J. informed the World Movements that a process of purification and reform had been set into motion, cleansing the movement of all non-Scout items and that they hoped that, one day, the S.I.J. might be recognised by and admitted to the World Movements. (From WOSM Situation Report no 3, April 1990.)

In Paris (23-27th July, 1990) was held the historic 32nd World Conference of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. Historic as the revived Hungarian and Czechoslovakian Scout Federations were readmitted to the World Movement and a large number of representatives of the other re-emerging Eastern and Central European movements had been invited to attend as observers. WOSM
Situation Report no 4 (September 1990) stated that delegations of Z.S.K.S.S. and S.I.J., were present.

WHO IS WHO?

But meanwhile letters from all over Yugoslavia were received by WOSM as well as by WAGGGS, informing them that there were more associations, all claiming to be Boy Scouts and/or Girl Scouts, and all asking for support and information. To the World Bureaux the general situation seemed rather confusing and mysterious. Who were the writers? Who and what were they representing? As it later turned out they mostly belonged to the various “national” S.I.J. sub-sections”.

A quote from WOSM’s Situation report no 5 (January 1991):

“The European Scout Office has helped the Slovenian Scouts to produce essential documents in the national language. Membership stands at more than 200 members. Italian scouts are providing them with considerable support.”

In this case reference is made to the Z.S.K.S.S. But S.I.J.’s Slovenian section’s (Z.T.S.) membership was many times larger than the Z.S.K.S.S.’s. and so the report continues:

“Contact with the Savaza Izvidackih Jugoslavije (S.I.J.) – nation-wide organisation, - which was invited as guests to the 32nd World Scout Conference in Paris, – is being re-established and a fact-finding-mission to Yugoslavia by the European Scout Office is planned before May 1991 at the latest.”

In fact the S.I.J. Federal NHQ at Beograd/Belgrade issued an invitation to WOSM and the itinerary of the visit was organised by it in co-operation with the local leaders and the independent Slovenian Z.S.K.S.S. Yrjö Gorski, a Finnish European Scout Office WOSM employee, made the first trip,
from April 19th – 28th, 1991, so just before the secession. (His report dated 06/05/1991.) He visited four of the six Yugoslavian Republics (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia) as well as Vojvodina, one of the two (still) autonomous provinces of Serbia. There were discussions with presidents, ministers, with mayors of various cities and of course with the Scout leaders at federal district and unit level as well as with religious leaders, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic. He continues:

“It is a difficult assignment for a foreigner to try to analyse Scouting in a country comprising six republics and two autonomous provinces, inhabited by five races who practise four religions and speak three different languages, written in two different alphabets.”

Gorski stated further that the Federal S.I.J. was a well established nation-wide, national organisation with a membership of about 153.000 boys and girls and was totally non-political, (about which more later).

“The structure of the organisation is similar to that of the country, allowing the six Republics and the two autonomous Provinces the freedom to make their own decisions regarding their scouting activities.”

Both parties, WOSM and S.I.J. had high hopes and considered the possibilities of – after necessary slight changes and adjustments to the WOSM rules – Federal S.I.J. to be one day recognised and admitted to the World Movements.

S.I.J. was, as were most youth organisations in the communist sphere of influence, a mixed movement, meaning boys and girls were working in the same units. This was considered to be quite normal. But it very much hampered WAGGGS’ position, plans and possibilities. It was not easy, not to say impossible, to convince the well organised S.I.J. to change its framework and to divide its structure in separate boys’ and girls’ sections. Meanwhile in the western
world many Scout and Guide associations had merged into one, the girls being members of WAGGGS and the boys of WOSM. A solution that could also be applied to S.I.J.. Another difficulty WAGGGS had to face was that most of the re-emerging and the existing movements (such as S.I.J. and Polish Z.H.P. See Chapter IV – Polish Scouting) all contacted WOSM first and WAGGGS not until much later. Hence WAGGGS, unfortunately, was always a step behind and faced with the hard fact that she did not find it easy to tear the girls away from their familiar, sometimes very old structures and to convince them to create separate girls’ movements.

WOSM’s well developing relationship with S.I.J.’s Federal HQ suddenly came to a stand-still.

In June 1991 Slovenia and Croatia not only declared their independence but war broke out. When in September 1991 Macedonia and in October 1991 Bosnia-Herzegovina also declared their independence, the overall situation got more and more complicated. Yugoslavia, the artificial state created in 1918, had ceased to be after almost 75 turbulent years. The name was kept by Serbia (including the former autonomous provinces Vojvodina and Kosovo) and Montenegro which, together were henceforth known as “Little or Small Yugoslavia”.

From WOSM’s Situation report no 6 (September 1991):

“In June, before the sad events that took place in Slovenia and which presently are taking place in Croatia, a delegation of the Yugoslavian Scout Association (S.I.J.) travelled to Geneva for meetings at the World Scout Bureau, to pursue discussions relating, among other matters, to WOSM membership. The organisation numbers more than 100,000 members – boys and girls – from all Republics in Yugoslavia. A contin-

WAGGGS, in its World Bureau Circular of October 1991, covering the period June/October 1991, stated:

“Due to the difficult and sad situation in Yugoslavia, it has not been possible to develop contacts or make visits as had been hoped. However, as soon as the situation improves, further efforts will certainly be made to strengthen and promote Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting throughout the area.”

Self-determination is a great thing and a country or a nation can declare its independence but such independence is not a reality unless it has been recognised by the international community. For as long as a country has not been accepted by its neighbours and has not been admitted to the United Nations as a full member of same, there is no real independence.

WOSM and WAGGGS soon noticed that with the declarations of independence the various national S.J. sections of the new, independent nations seceded from the Federal Movement and declared themselves to be the “National Scout Movement” of their new, independent country. The S.I.J. Federation as such was finished. So far WOSM and WAGGGS had had to deal with two partners: the Scouting Federation S.I.J. plus the Slovenian RC Z.S.K.S.S. Now there suddenly were:

S.I.H. Savez Izvidaca Hrvatske – Scout Association of Croatia.
S.I.M. Sojuz Na Izvidnicite Na Makadonija – Union of Scout of Macedonia.)
S.I.B.H.Savez Izvidaca Bosne i Hersegovina – Scout Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Z.T.S. Zveza Tabornikov Slovenije – Scouting Association of Slovenia. . . . and
S.I.J. Savez Izvidjaca Jugoslavije, the Federation of the Serb and Montenegro Scout Associations.

Whereas the Serbian government had great difficulty in accepting that the Federal Republic had gone to pieces and the Serbs suddenly lost the considerable influence they had always exerted, in the former Kingdom as well as in the – now – former Federal Republic, the S.I.J. FHQ in Beograd/Belgrade, immediately accepted and faced the reality. WOSM’s Situation Report no 8 (May 1993) stated that a message had been received from S.I.J. Federal HQ in Beograd/ Belgrade announcing that on 28/02/1992 it had decided to limit its membership, its activities and its territory to “Little Federal Yugoslavia”, being Serbia and Montenegro, including Vojvodina and Kosovo, so in fact to the S.I.J. Serb/Montenegro Sections. According to the same report S.I.M. – Sojuz Na Izvidnicite Na Makadonija (Union of Scout of Macedonia also applied for WOSM recognition. (1985 female and 3635 male members.)

But neither WOSM nor WAGGGS could register them as members for as long as their independent states had not been recognised by the United Nations. But that was not all. Certain WOSM and WAGGGS rules had also to be met and in order to do so some adjustments and reforms had to be made in the organisations concerned.

So it seemed as if progress in Yugoslavia came to a grinding halt. But not for long as most of the new countries were soon able to take their seats in the UN Assembly in New York.

THE CONFLICT’S EFFECT ON SCOUTING

Considering the war situation in Former Yugoslavia it was wonderful to find that it did not so much effect the co-operation between the leaders of the former S.I.J. sections

Scout leaders from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia as well as the two Slovenian Associations (Z.T.S. and Z.S.K.S.S.) and the Croatian Association (S.I.H.) have had a two-day meeting in Geneva with the World Scout Bureau and its European Regional Office. Carried out in a Scouting Spirit the discussions looked at ways in which Scouting can contribute locally to help society and, in particular, children and young people to cope with the difficult times resulting from the present conflict. Scouts have been very active in all parts of Yugoslavia since the beginning of the conflict, working together with relief organisations, notably the International Red Cross.”

Whilst in the old-fashioned way, all over former Yugoslavia the various nations were at each others throats again, it was indeed encouraging to learn that – in these dark days – the Scout leaders of the various peoples were still able to meet and have discussions on neutral territory.

WHAT ABOUT THE RED STAR?

It has been stated before that during the Cold War, which lasted from 1946 – 1988-89, the member associations of the World Movements had very conveniently forgotten the Exile Movements (see Chapter I). Nor had most of them given much attention to the Z.H.P. Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego in Poland which – from about 1956 until well after the Solidarnosc era (1979-1981) – had been misused by the communist regime. Outwardly a Scout Movement, inwardly a communist youth movement. But then again at the grass root level non-political, provided the leaders were reliable, true and loyal Scouts. During and after the Solidarnosc period the real Scout leaders demanded reforms and a return to true, basic Scouting. Such demands were not met by the
top-leadership and consequently some – but luckily not all – true Scouts and leaders had turned their backs on Z.H.P. and new, real Scout Movements had, illegally at first, been founded. (See Chapter IV – Polish Scouting.)

If before Glasnost and Perestroika World Scouting was slightly aware of the Z.H.P. in Poland, it was generally thought this was the one and only Scout-like organisation behind the Iron Curtain.

But hardly anybody knew of the Yugoslav S.I.O.J./S.I.J. This was also due to the fact that, unlike Z.H.P., S.I.J. did not – internationally – beat the big drum and did not attract the attention of the Scouting world in order not to provoke those communists who were still opposed to its existence and operations.

Further, in general, the Western idea was that all East Block youth organisations were belonging to the communist parties, which was true with the exception S.I.J. in Yugoslavia, but this was not discovered until much later.

Bearing in mind the later problems in the Poland, regarding Z.H.P. being accused of having been a communist movement or at least having been tainted by communism, and the problems in Hungary, after Scouting’s revival (see Chapter V – Hungarian Scouting), when S.I.J. stepped out into the international open and made contact with the World Movements, many were wondering what the situation in S.I.J. might have been or was. Particularly so when the “West” discovered that Scouting’s revival and S.I.O.J./S.I.J.’s founding on February 8th, 1953 had been subjected to a lengthy discussion during the Third Plenary Session of the Yugoslav Communist Party in June 1950. In addition to which it was found that S.I.O.J./S.I.J.’s Badge and Emblem was a Green Maple Leaf with – of all things – a Red Star! This was really very suspect indeed! Could a Scout organisa-
tion, founded with communist permission and using a Red Star, be a real Scout Movement and could one really negotiate with this movement concerning its recognition by and admission to the World Movements?

There can be not the slightest doubt that when the Yugoslavian Communist Party permitted Scouting to be revived it kept a grip on it and watched its activities with Argus eyes, particularly as not all communists had been in favour of it. Doubtless, in the beginning the Party will have seen to it that the S.I.O.J. was under its control and that its activities were checked time and again. It maybe, but only maybe, that some convinced communists were planted in its top leadership. Certainly the Party was ready to stop the experiment if things did not go her way. Hence one must give credit to the Scout leaders for the fact that they – aware of being on thin ice – trod with care, preventing a ban and at the same time forestalling a party political influence as in Poland. Particularly at the grass-root levels there were no politics at all but Scouting only. Which also sheds a light on the leniency of Tito’s tolerant regime that, when all went well, left Scouting in peace and quiet and permitted it to be non-political.

But of course WOSM investigated the matter with great care and here follows a quote from Yrjö Gorski’s (European Scout Office) report dated 06/05/91 on his fact-finding-mission in Spring 1991 to Yugoslavia.

“Throughout the history the Yugoslav Scout Movement has never been directly linked to political organisations, nor has it ever been replaced by the communists Pioneer organisation. The leadership of the Scout organisation is very proud of the fact that it has managed to maintain its principals in compliance with the situation in the country and to continue to provide activities to a large number of young people.
Although the organisation as such has managed to remain non-political, it has, however, been faced with situations where political orientations were introduced in the organisation by individuals with political connections. These people used the existing structure to benefit their own political purposes. As a result, some publications, for example, carried articles relating to political matters. It should, however, be noted that this situation arose several years ago, and has nothing whatsoever to do with the present situation.”

“Generally speaking Scout activities in Yugoslavia are similar to those in any other country.”

“The old Promise of the Association made no mention of spiritual values. The constitution, including the Promise, has now been amended, but it will obviously take a while for the spiritual dimension to become included in Scout activities. The Scout Law is divided into twelve parts.”

Reference is also made to the much used word “Partisan” and indirectly to the Red Star in badges and emblems:

“The terminology used in Yugoslav Scouting many sound militaristic. Words such as partisan are, however, more patriotic than anything else. In fact, the word partisan is commonly used by sport clubs, factories, shops, schools, food manufactures etc.”.

The same applied to the Red Star. It is a fact that the latter was one of the symbols of international communism. It was also the symbol of Tito’s moderate communist party. But above all, to most in and outside Yugoslavia, it was the emblem of the Partisans with whom they – not all of them communists – had so gallantly fought the Nazis and the fascists and liberated their country.
In short S.I.O.J./S.I.J. has not been a communist organisation and the Red Star in the Maple Leaf Badge had never been considered to be a communist symbol but more a patriotic one. Another obvious indication that the organisation was not considered to be or to have been a communist movement was the fact that, unlike in Poland, no one of its members (and only a few outsiders in other countries) objected to S.I.J. negotiating its recognition by and admission to WOSM and WAGGGS. Neither did Scout leaders or troops secede from S.I.J. and, like in Poland, create new movements. The fact that Z.S.K.S.S. had been founded in Slovenia was sheer coincidence and had nothing whatsoever to do with a suspected communist S.I.J. past or a rejection of the Slovenian S.I.J. section known as Z.T.S. (Zveza Tabornikov Slovenije – Scouting Association of Slovenia).

S.I.J. members were, officially, first spotted by the Scouting World when they visited the 6th World Jamboree at Cataract Scout Park near Camp Belltown in New South Wales, Australia, the first Jamboree in the southern hemisphere, which opened on New Year’s Eve in Australian summer 1987-1988. Of course they were wearing their (see 15) green Maple Leaf Badge with the Red Star. Obviously they were asked, as were other members later visiting surrounding European countries, whether they were communists. Which they hotly denied.

Yet, as soon as the Federal Republic had fallen apart and the
S.I.J. regional sections had declared themselves National Movements, they soon removed the Red Star from their badges replacing it with the Arrowhead but maintaining the Green Maple Leaf. S.I.J. did so officially on the 9th of October, 1993, introducing on the Green Maple Leaf an Arrowhead with blue, white and red leaves, the Yugoslavian National Colours (see 25). This badge was from that moment on also used by the Serbian Movement.

The Savez Izvidaca Hrvatske, the Croatian S.I.H. (see 26) was more radical and introduced a new design, the Arrowhead chequered in Red and White taken from the old Croatian Coat of Arms, (see 28) dropping the Maple Leaf. The badge was designed by S.I.H. but produced and provided – free of charge – by the Scout Badge Challenge, a praiseworthy initiative of the united West European Scout Badge Collectors Clubs or “Badgers”.

Slovenian Z.T.S. just removed the Red Star (see 29) but Macedonian Sojuz Na Izvidnicite na Makedonija replaced the Red Star with a Red Arrowhead on the Green Maple Leaf completing the badge with the surrounding circular Rope and the
Reef Knot. (see 30) During its negotiations with WOSM even the R.C. Slovenian movement Z.S.K.S.S. also changed its original 1987 badge in 1992. The new one (see 31) was very much like the badge of the Italian RC A.G.E.S.C.I.’s which is not surprising considering that the latter assisted and sponsored Z.S.K.S.S. in every possible way and also, in cooperation with the Scout Badge Challenge Committee, paid for the manufacturing of the badge.

Apart from Z.S.K.S.S. in Slovenia another new movement, not linked to S.I.J. was founded in the autonomous province of Vojvodina, north of Serbia and until 1918 part of Hungary. The area is/was inhabited by a Hungarian speaking majority. The Movement was named in Hungarian Vajdasagi Magyar Serkész szövetség – Vojvodina Hungarian Scout Association and in Serbian Savez Skautkinja i Skaut Vojvodjanskih Madjara or Hungarian Association of Scouts and Guides in Vojvodina. As its membership/promise badge it used the
Hungarian triangle design, a shield supported by two Angles and the shield containing a yellow Arrowhead on a field of horizontal blue and green bars. (see 32)

THE ROAD TO RECOGNITION

Whereas the rest of former Yugoslavia was in turmoil, once the Federal Army had retreated from Slovenia, this country was out of the conflict as it was safe and well hidden behind Croatia. In the economic sense it had always been the strongest part of the former Federal Republic and, now on its own, it was developing well in every sense.

Suddenly having to deal with several National Movements instead of the one Federal one only, WOSM’s and WAGGGS’ tasks were more complicated. But they did not abandon the Scouts of the areas where war was raging. Both were continually in communication with them, at the negotiating table as well as on other occasions and all of them were invited to send observers to several international meetings such as the 14th European Scout Conference at Helsingborg, Sweden in May 1992 and the 7th European Scout and Guide Conference also in Sweden. Furthermore, all possible assistance was given and in August 1992 John T. Murphy, (WOSM’s World Training Commissioner) conducted leader training courses in Croatia as well as Slovenia.

Once the various new states had been recognised by the United Nations and had taken their seats in the UNO’s General Assembly in New York, recognition of their National Movements by WOSM and WAGGS could be contemplated.
The well informed German scouting magazine “Neue Briefe” (New Letters) no 04/92 reported that WOSM received applications for membership from S.I.J. (Savez Izvidica Jugoslavia) operating in the sovereign state of the Federal Republic of (Little) Yugoslavia, now only comprising the republics of Serbia, (including the former autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina) and Montenegro. But also that negotiations with same had been postponed until the situation in former Yugoslavia, where there was a war on, had improved and would be stable. Also the same applied to the Savez Izvidica Bosne I Herzegovina, this country being the battle field on which the Muslim, Serb and Croatian Bosnians were fighting their bloody battles.

The Macedonian Sojuzot Na Izvidnicite Na Makedonija (5620 members) filed its petition for recognition on 28/03/1992, but at the time Macedonia had not yet been recognised by UNO as an independent state.

Croatia had been recognised and so the S.I.H. Savez Izvidica Hrvatska (Scouting Association of Croatia), a mixed organisation, applied for WOSM membership and contemplated WAGGGS membership. This application was considered by the World Scout Committee and approved. S.I.H. was said to have a well established structure at national and local levels, that all faiths were represented in its non-political organisation (3500 members) and that the movement was well involved in community activities. So during the 33rd World Scout Conference at Bangkok in July 1993 it
was announced that the Savez Izvidaca Hrvatska had been recognised and was now a full member of the WOSM.

Slovenia had also been invited to come to Bangkok but had observer’s status only as the situation in this country was far more complicated and recognition was not as yet possible. Z.S.K.S.S. (Zdruzenje Slovenskih Katoliskih Skvatinj In Skvato, the Slovenian Association of Roman Catholic Girl and Boy Scouts) counted 1000 registered members and intended to request WOSM and WAGGGS recognition. But the Z.T.S., Zveza Tabornikov Slovenije (Scouting Association of Slovenia, the former S.I.J. section), with more than 10,000 registered members, sought such an admission too. For several reasons particularly Z.S.K.S.S. (or rather its foreign sponsors) seemed not to be able or willing to merge with Z.T.S. And so on April 25th, 1991, the two signed “a Statement on the Establishment of a Scout Federation in Slovenia”.

As explained in detail in Chapter I, WOSM – having had some strange and disappointing experiences in various countries with regard to Federations (its latest in Hungary, see Chapter V, Hungarian Scouting) – wished to avoid the creation of more of such structures. Hence a quote from WOSM’s Situation Report no 8 of May 1993 stating:

“In September 1992 the World Scout Committee, after careful consideration and on the basis of the minimal information provided by the associations, was unable to conclude that there were grounds to recognise internationally a federation in Slovenia. The WSC also noted the necessity for changes in the constitution of each association. Since then, the associations have sought to establish between themselves a clear, common vision of the future for the development of Scouting for young people in Slovenia.”

Ultimately, after lengthy negotiations, Z.T.S. and Z.S.K.S.S. signed an “Agreement of Association” meaning that Z.T.S.
was to be the National Association and Z.S.K.S.S. was to be associated with it. So Z.S.K.S.S.’ 500 boys and girls were to be “associated Z.T.S. members”. Should Z.T.S. be recognised by WOSM Z.S.K.S.S. would automatically also belong to the World Organisation. Awaiting the signing of this Agreement a 270 strong Slovenian Contingent was permitted to participate in the 1st European Jamboree held at Dronten, The Netherlands (on the bottom of the former Zuydersea) from 01-11/08/1994. The World Scout Committee, meeting on 30/04/94, reconsidered the matter, gave its approval and with its Circular no 17/94 (dated 15/06/94) it recommended accepting the Slovenian Movement into the World Organisation as of the 15th of September 1994. The European Guide and Scout Office in Brussels, in its monthly publication Eurofax no 37 of October 1995, announced that the Savez Izvideca Jugoslavia S.I.J. had become the 137th member of the World Movement on September 1st, 1995.

Quote:

“Because of the extreme complexity of the political situation and the intensive media coverage resulting there from, the World Scout Committee has been particularly careful in its consideration of the application of Savez Izvideca Jugoslavia for membership, and has worked closely with the association during the last two years. Despite on-going conflicts in the area, the staff of the World Scout Bureau have undertaken a series of extended visits which confirmed that the association is doing excellent work under very difficult circumstances.

In the context of the prevailing situation in the Balkan area the association is very active in social work for all segments of the population without distinction. It cooperates closely with the Red Cross in providing aid to refugees, opportunities for the disabled, help for orphans and general aid to areas in crisis. In the true Spirit of Scouting Savez Izvideca Jugoslavia provides a
much needed model of tolerance and respect for differences – which can be the only basis for peace in this part of the world.”

The S.I.J. was now a much smaller Federal Movement than it had been and only comprised the Serbian and Montenegro Movements, regrettfully not including the Hungarian Scouts Association in Vojvodina. It may well have been that when the S.I.J. was recognised there was no Hungarian movement left. After a period of relative calm, when the war between the states of former Yugoslavia began and with it the ethnic cleansing, hundreds of Vojvodina Hungarians fled to Hungary.

And so in late 1995 the situation was as follows:

Recognised and full members of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement were:

Z.T.S. Zveza Tabornikov Slovenije – Scouting Association of Slovenia, including:

Z.S.K.S.S. Zdruzenje Slovenskih Katoliskih Skvatinj in Skavtov – Slovenian Association of Catholic Boy Scout and Girl Scouts,

S.I.H. Savez Izvidaca Hrvatske – Scout Association of Croatia,

S.I.J. Savez Izvidjaca Jugoslavije, now the Federation of the Scout Movements of Serbia and Montenegro – not yet recognised but in the process:

S.I.M. Sojuz Na Izvidnicite Na Makadonija – Union of Scout of Macedonia.

All were represented at the 18th World Jamboree at Dron-ten, The Netherlands, August 1st – 11th, 1995.

The position of S.I.B.H. Savez Izvidaca Bosne i Herzegovina Scout Association of Bosnia- Herzegovina was quite obscure.
Its country was hit worst by the unbelievable, bloody war, ethnic cleansing and intolerance. Though the Spirit of Scouting is indestructible one may well wonder whether, with thousands killed and thousands on the run, there was any Scouting left in this unhappy area. WOSM’s World Scouting News of October/November 1994 reported that 20 Serajevo scouts, Catholics, Muslims and Orthodox, were able to leave the horrors of their beleaguered city for a short period of relief and rest in the city of Venice (Italy) as guests of the city and its AGESCI district. So at that time at least they were still alive.

In November 1995 it so seemed that there was a small possibility of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina ending. But there had been so many cease fires that the watching world was cynical and doubtful until November 1995, when at long last the various political leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia met at Dayton Air Force base in the U.S.A. for lengthy and difficult negotiations. In Paris a Peace Agreement was signed on December 14th, 1995. Whereupon everybody hoped that common sense had prevailed and that the bloodshed and ethnic cleansing would really be over to the benefit of the population.

SUPPORT

During the 7th European Scout and Guide Conference at Helsingborg, Sweden (May 1992) the various movements were asked to lend a helping hand to all in Former Yugoslavia. In October 1992 WOSM received a letter signed by S.I.B.H. Savez Izvidaca Bosne i Herzegovina requesting her to urge the Western movements to continue the action “Pass the Parcel” originally an initiative taken by the UK Scout Association. The parcels containing clothing, food, books and school equipment were transported to Serajevo with the assistance of the International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
The S.I.H. Savez Izvidaca Hrvatske received practical support from the Boy Scouts of America donating 6,000 Scout uniforms. Further support was given by the Scouts of Catalunya in Spain, the Scout Association of Ireland and the Italian AGESCI. Copies of WOSM materials translated by the Croats were shared with their Slovenian brothers. As already mentioned almost all movements in former Yugoslavia were provided with badges, free of charge by the Scout Badge Challenge.

THE WALL OF SILENCE

In 1992, following meetings of the European Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee WOSM (not yet merged), it was agreed that all European Associations would receive material on “Build a Wall of Silence”, a project whereby young people would be able to publicly express their anxiety for and solidarity with the victims of the war in former Yugoslavia. The project would be linked to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The reactions were favourable.

REFUGEES

One might have expected that previous experiences might have taught the human race a lesson but once again overdone nationalism, religious fanaticism and outright racism caused war, ethnic cleansing, bloodshed and set in motion an increasing flood of (mostly) innocent refugees. All lost everything but some could at least stay in their own country whereas others had to cross the borders and landed in refugee camps abroad. Countries like Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary could not cope and soon Bosnians were arriving in other, mainly West European countries.

The Bosnian Scout Association asked their brothers and sisters Scouts in other countries to find possibilities in conjunc-
tion with the appropriate national authorities of temporarily housing Bosnian children in the homes of Scouting families. A request which found the willing response in some of the National Scout and Guide Associations who tried to help, also by entertaining the children.

Andrew Campbell, the International Commissioner of the Scout Association of Ireland informed WOSM that in cooperation with the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland and the Scout Association of Northern Ireland in Dublin had been founded the 1st International Group. The idea was that the young Bosnians would thus be brought into contact with Irish Scouts and would be given the opportunity to make friends with Irish children. It was also seen as an opportunity for them to have fun and to recover after their traumatic ordeals. Furthermore the use of English in a Scout-recreational atmosphere was supposed to accelerate their grasp of the language, which was rightly thought to be essential to their integration. Eurofax no 4, January 1993, reported that 45 of the Bosnian members of the 1st International Group had been invested. All children had been provided with uniforms, new or second hand, thanks to the Irish Scouting community. The Irish Scout Movements expressed the hope that the kids of some of the Bosnian families to be shortly thereafter leaving the camps to be rehoused would be welcomed by and integrated into the local groups, thus providing them with a firm link with their new communities.

The 1st Bosnian group of Dublin took part in Ballyfin '93, a joint venture organised by the Irish Scout Association and the Scout Association of Northern Ireland. Other Scout Associations, involved in similar projects, were asked to exchange experiences. Whether there were many reactions is unknown.
(With thanks to the Archivists of the U.K. Scout Association, London, WOSM in Geneva, the European Guide and Scout Office in Brussels, the Izvidnicki Dokumentacioni Centar “Dr Milos Popovic” at Beograd/ Belgrade, WAGGGS, London and many faithful correspondents in various countries.)
CHAPTER 8. Ukraine

From the 8th until well into the 11th century the Scandinavian Vikings sailed the often stormy seas and, in their frail ships, covered long distances. Looting and plundering the tough sailors not only raided the coasts of Western Europe, Ireland and England included. They also sailed to Iceland, Greenland and landed on the coasts of the areas presently known as Canada and the United States. They passed the Rock of Gibraltar and took some very profitable Mediterranean cruises as well. The population of the Baltic south and east coasts had every reason to fear them too. Sailing up the rivers of northwest Russia they penetrated the country, discovering not only the many lakes but also the upper courses of the rivers Volga and Dnepr (Dnipro, Dnepr, or Dnieper). They took their boats on their shoulders, carried them across land and sailed down the said rivers to the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea and the Bosporus beyond. At first they came as looters, later as conquerors and later still as settlers and traders. whether the original inhabitants liked it or not, the Vikings, in their peculiar way happily and merrily mixed with the locals and left their traces. Thus they founded Viking or Norman states not only in France (Normandy, England and Ireland, but also Ukraine.

The latter realm was named Kievan Rus (Border State), the Kievan State or the Kyivan Empire. It – and its capital city Kiev (or Kyyiv or Kyiv) – became a flourishing state, a centre of trade and culture. Until, in the 13th century, it slowly fell into decay. The state and the nation were subjected to con-
tinuous harassment by its neighbours. The fierce nomadic tribes moved in from the east, the Turks came northward and from the west the Poles were penetrating Ukraine. When the Mongols invaded its doom was sealed. After their departure the Poles moved in and appropriated large regions, creating large Polish settlements amidst the original population, as did the Turks.

Regretfully the various nationalities never mixed. They maintained their own languages, traditions, religions etc. Remained separate until this very day. So unlike elsewhere, no new nation was born, as recent history made very clear.

After Kiev’s decline as Ukraine’s dominating, political centre, the seat of power went to the West Ukraine. In 1253 a Prince Daniel received the title of King and he established his court and government in Lviv or Lwow.

But Poland was to grow mightier still. In 1386 the Polish Queen Judwiga (1370–1399) married Jaquile or Jagiello (1354–1434) the sovereign of Lithuania. As was usual in those days he also mounted the Polish throne and sat down next to his Queen as King Wladyslaw II. Their united realms stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea and soon Ukraine was more and more subjected to Polish domination. So much so that the Poles soon forgot that they did not really belong in Ukraine. On the contrary they considered the terri-
not only lost their independence but also their freedom. Their land was taken by the Polish nobility and serfdom and slavery were introduced. Many Ukrainians preferred their freedom and escaped to the vast grasslands or steppes in the south. Pursued by the Poles, they greatly depended on mobility and consequently on their horses. They were great horsemen and were named Kazaki, Kozaks or Cossacks. They founded democratic, free communities of a military kind, led by chosen Hetmen or Atamen. Mostly always on the move, roaming the vast plains, their main forces, including women, children and the old, had to be defended and so the enemy had to be spotted in time. Small groups on horseback were constantly patrolling and these Kazaki were called Plastuny or Plastuns which translated means Scout.

In the 17th century the Cossacks founded a separate, independent Cossack state on the lower Dnepr. The Cossack Hetman Khmelnytsky restored Ukraine’s old grandeur. Once more Kiev or Kyiv became the capital and the country’s cultural, political and religious centre. Constantly threatened by the contesting, competing ambitions of the Poles, the Turks, the Tartars and others the country maintained a turbulent independence. The Russians were extending their empire at the cost of their neighbours and they were slowly moving southward. At first the Cossacks considered them allies but the Russians deceived them and took the opportunity offered and annexed all Ukrainian territory east of the River Dnej per. Yet it was not until 1775 when the last battle with the Russians was fought and lost. The last Ukrainian stronghold Sich fell. A process of russification was set in and only the Ukrainians in the Polish part of their country were able to retain their language, culture and religion. Ukraine was turned into a battlefield on which the Russians, the Poles and the Turks fought each other and never to the benefit of the Ukrainians. In 1790 the Turks were beaten by the Russians and retreated from Ukraine forever, leaving behind
small pockets of Turkish speaking communities, still in existence today.

Then a new, greedy neighbour desired its share of the spoils. Austria took the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains and the Bukovyna. In 1772 and 1793 Russia, Austria and Prussia annexed large parts of Poland and in 1795 divided the rest and wiped Poland off the map. Meaning also that Polish Ukraine was split up between Russia and Austria.

The Cossacks had long since reluctantly accepted the Russian domination and, as well trained, very capable and highly appreciated military units were serving the successive Russian Czars. Napoleon’s armies, retreating from Moscow and St Petersburg, were constantly harassed by smaller and larger Cossack units, which thus reached the Netherlands and entered the city of Paris. Later they helped the Russians to conquer Siberia and the land north of the Caucasian mountains. But above all the Czars used the Cossacks to disperse the protesting crowds in the Russian cities. There being no love lost between the Cossacks and the Russians, the former had no scruples when they were thus employed.

When in August, 1914 the First World War erupted Imperial Germany attacked Russia. The demotivated Russian soldiers were an easy prey but the Cossacks proved to be very reliable.

UKRAINIAN SCOUTING 1901 – 1922

There was a city which had three names. The Austrians, in occupation and considering it to be an Austrian city, called it Lemberg. Its Polish citizens considering it Polish named it Lwow but the Ukrainians, the original inhabitants, used the name Lviv. This ancient university city was to become the birthplace of Polish and Ukrainian Scouting and Guiding.
May 22nd, 1911 is considered to be the official birthday of Polish Scouting. The Polish student – Andrzej Malikowski – founded three Polish Scout troops in Lwow. (See the Polish Chapter.)

But the city’s Ukrainians also got an interest in the new, almost revolutionary youth system. Dr Olexander Tysovs’kyi (or as his name is written in other languages, Tyovsky or Toisovkiy, and affectionately known as Drot), was a teacher at the Academic Gymnasium of Lviv. He studied Baden–Powell’s Scouting and discovered and recognized its values. So he founded the first Ukrainian Scout troop in 1911 and on April 12th, 1912 his first Scouts made the Promise. This date has since been considered as being the official birthday of Ukrainian Scouting. Concurrently the Ukrainians Petro Franko and Ivan Chmola also founded troops.

Whereas from Lwow Polish Scouting spread quickly all over the Austrian, Russian and Prussian (German) zones of Poland, Ukrainian Scouting from Lviv emerged not only in the western, Austrian occupied part of Ukraine but also in the eastern, Russian dominated region. In fact in the Russian zone Scouting had begun as early as 1909 when officials of the Kiev (Kyyiv or Kyiv) educational authority, under the leadership of the Russian Dr A. Anokin, had discovered Scouting and promoted it. Dr Anokin also formed the first Girl Scouts’ Unit, but officially Ukrainian Girl Scouting began in 1915, during the First World War.

Very soon there were Ukrainian Scout troops in almost every city in the Austrian as well as the Russian zone. In Lviv, on April 6th, 1913, the Scout leaders met and held the First Assembly of Ukrainian Representatives and created a Committee charged with organizing an Ukrainian National Scout Organization. Once again the driving force was Dr Olexander Tysovs’kyi), a very pleasant and likable man, affectionately known as Drot. Apparently he was the one who named the
Ukrainian Scouts Plastuns or Plastuny, thus remembering the old Cossack patrols. He also wrote a handbook named \textit{PLAST SCOUTING}. Further he published a large number of articles promoting Scouting and was assisted by Petro Franke, author of the handbook \textit{Pastovi I Zabavy} (Scout Games and Activities).

In 1914 the 2nd Assembly of PLAST representatives was held which led to the formation of the “Central PLAST Administration”. In July, 1914, just before the outbreak of the First World War, Petro Franko led the first Ukrainian National Camp. At the time Ukrainian Scouting was known as Ukrains’kyi Plastovyi Ulad, something like Ukrainian PLAST organization. The development of Ukrainian Scouting was badly hampered by the First World War which began on August 2nd, 1914. Russia belonged to the Allies, Austria was on the German side. The borderline splitting Ukraine into two parts became a front–line and once again parts of Ukraine were a battlefield. The raging war was to no one’s benefit but least of all to the Ukrainians who only suffered be it that behind the fronts daily life went on as much as possibly normal.

\textbf{WAITING FOR FREEDOM}

Ukraine was populated by Ukrainians, Poles, Russians, and some smaller communities like Turks, Greeks and Romanians. Particularly the Ukrainians and the Poles were discontent and fed up with the Russian or Austrian masters. They were filled with a longing for independence, self–government and self–determination.

On February 17th, 1917 the hungry population of St Petersburg, the Russian capital, had enough and rioted. The government toppled and other politicians and renewers formed a new government led by the true social–democrat Aleksandr F. Kerenski (1881-1970). This March Revolution, as it was
named later, was strengthened when the High Army Command sided with the new government. The Czar was made to abdicate and the democratic Republic was proclaimed. This might have been a blessing, the Russians never having known democracy and real freedom. But the democratic regime was overthrown by a communist Coup d’État on October 25th, 1917, led by Vladmir Iljitsj Oeljanov, better known as Lenin.

The legal, democratic government called in the Cossacks and tried to retake St Petersburg, but the attempt failed and the communists remained master of the situation. An atrocious, cruel civil war began. The army split into several rival units, the Red Army and at least two White Armies, one of the latter fighting to restore the old Czaristic regime, the other one to defend the new Republic.

FREE UKRAINE

During the chaos and the civil war the suppressed nations smelled freedom, rose, armed themselves and were ready to fight everyone wanting to suppress them again. As early as in March 1917 a Central Council (Rada) met in the Ukrainian capital Kiev. In it were represented the various nationalities (and their political associations) inhabiting the region. During the communist Coup d’État of October, 1917, the Rada proclaimed Ukrianian sovereignty. On January 22nd, 1918 the Independent Republic of Ukraine was founded. Whereupon the Kiev communists revolted and fighting broke out. The Ukrainian government thereupon made peace with the Austrians and the Germans and with their assistance restored the order. But that was only the beginning.

During the collapse of the Russian and later the Austrian and German Empires, the Poles had also risen and fought to recover a Free Poland. They were still considering the West Ukraine as Polish territory and sought to retake it. So the
Ukrainians not only had to fight the Russian Red Army and White Armies but also had to keep the Poles at bay. Further, in the south, the Rumanians, who had been on the Allied side, tried to also obtain a fair slice of Ukrainian territory.

Three years the young Ukrainian Republic had to fight the Russian Red Army advancing from the north, the White Armies attacking from the south east, the Poles moving in from the west and the Rumanians marching northwards. It was a complicated, unequal but brave struggle to be fought on several fronts.

In the end the Ukrainians did not benefit and were beaten and when in 1922 the Russian Civil War in the European theatre ended, the East Ukraine was firmly in the Red Army’s hands whereas the West Ukraine was Polish again. In both areas a partisan warfare continued for several more years until it petered out.

Many Plastuns or Plastuny had volunteered and enlisted in the Ukrainian Army. Many had been killed in action on the battle fields for the freedom of their country.

SOVIET UKRAINE

For ‘appearances’ sake the new communist ruler created the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. The Union’s largest republics were Russia and Ukraine. But it was a smoke screen obscuring the reality that the vast country was led by the centralized authority or dictatorship in Moscow, the Union’s capital. The Soviets’ socialism had nothing in common with real and genuine Social Democracy and in the new “Workers’ Paradise” the workers did not benefit at all and the freedom they had never tasted under the old regime they would never experience under the new one.
In the “independent”, new Soviet Republic Ukraine the communists, with the Red Army as their backbone and instrument, introduced a reign of terror. All those having opposed them or opposing still, the intellectuals and the leaders were hunted and if tracked down, arrested and deported or killed on the spot. The short-lived Freedom was finished.

Ukrainian PLAST was one of the victims. It was banned, disbanded and persecuted and many Scout leaders and Scouts were arrested and most of them were killed.

Some Scout leaders, like some Russian leaders (see the Russian Chapter) sought to save Scouting by re-establishing their troops as “Young Communist Scout Troops”, but after a while the new authorities considered them as being “too White”, reactionary and apolitical and so they too were soon banned and disbanded.

Youth work became the communist party’s exclusive right and was taken over by the Pioneer Organization of Ukraine whose task it was to educate and indoctrinate the youngsters.

WEST UKRAINE

The area with its mixed population of Poles and Ukraine was now a Polish province. The Poles did not ignore the fact that there were thousands of Ukrainians living in their territory but they simply expected them to live and feel like Poles.

Polish Scouting flourished but so did Ukrainian Scouting. During the brief period of freedom in 1918 PLAST instituted the Supreme PLAST Council, It was headed by Drot, Dr Olexander Tysovs’kyi. Yet, from 1918-1920, all PLAST activities in West Ukraine were carried out under the auspices of the legally sanctioned “Ukrainian National Society for Child and Adolescent Care”. But in 1921 PLAST took matters in its
own hands again, revived that Supreme PLAST Council and created a Supreme PLAST Command for the overall leadership. PLAST magazines were published, e.g. Dr Olexander Tysovs’kyi’s “Zhyttia v Plasti” (Life in PLAST), a manual on Scouting, was published, also “Molode Zhitty” (Young Life), a Scouting magazine. The movement was becoming very popular and Ukrainian society in general greatly supported the organization. It spread its wings more and more. Even the “working class” youngsters were persuaded to enlist. But its activities were not restricted to the urban areas only, PLAST was also embraced by the rural youth. The movement developed a definite group ethos, part of which included a strong Ukrainian consciousness based upon tradition. In brief, PLAST had a strong influence on the Ukrainian speaking youngsters. Other Ukrainian organizations tended to recruit former PLAST members to strengthen their ranks. Seemingly all went well with PLAST and the movement developed satisfactorily.

In 1922 PLAST Scouts from Polish Ukraine travelled to Transcarpathia/Ruthenia and joined their local brothers for a National PLAST camp. In 1923 a similar camp was held for the PLAST Girl Scouts.

After a period of 10 terrible, chaotic years, it was at last possible to hold the 3rd PLAST Supreme Assembly on April 12th, 1924. A Supreme PLAST Council and a Supreme PLAST Command was elected and a general reorganization was announced. For the 7 – 12 years old the Cub Scouts and the Brownies (Ulad Novykyv) were introduced and 1925 saw the official beginning of the Rover Branch for the 18 to 30 year olds (Ulad Starshykh Plastuniv or USP). Six years later, 1930, the over-30s got their special branch, the Ulad Plastovykh Senioriv or UPS (Senior Scouts). The general idea was that the older Plastuns, who chose to remain in PLAST, could do so as Scout leaders running the groups but also as Seniory, who, as PLAST members, were involved in some
other community service. As in so many Scout movements the conception was that the Scout Promise was made for Life: Once a Scout, Always a Scout. Having promised to uphold the principles of Scouting one is morally obligated to be – for the rest of one’s life – a “good Scout” and a servant of the community. And indeed the Seniory have always been in the forefront of Ukrainian community life, serving on several posts.

At Lviv/Lwow, on July 29th, 1925 was held another Supreme PLAST Assembly during which the PLAST leadership was centralized and Prof. Severyn Levytskyi was appointed Chief Scout – the Grey Lion.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Like all the other Scout movements PLAST communicated with the Founder, Baden-Powell. PLAST was apparently not represented at the 1st World Jamboree of 1920 at Richmond Park/Olympia in London. Nor at the 1st International Conference held during that Jamboree and the 2nd International Conference of Paris of 1922, when the World Association of the International Scout Movement (W.A.I.S.M.) was founded. Yet, no doubt, PLAST thereafter communicated with the W.A.I.S.M. and its International Bureau in London, as it badly wanted to obtain recognition and registration as Ukraine National Scout Organization. Of course its leadership acted against its better judgement and knowledge. They must have been fully aware of the rules that stipulated that the World Organization could grant such a recognition only to Scout organizations operating within the borders of their homeland. There was no doubt about that PLAST was operating in its own homeland, but sadly that homeland was not an independent state but a Polish province. Realistically seen there officially was no such country as Ukraine, apart from the Soviet Ukraine.
It is unknown whether a federation between Polish ZHP and PLAST has ever been proposed by the World Movement or whether that possibility has ever been contemplated by ZHP and PLAST, but it seems unlikely. In those days nationalism was very much rearing its ugly head and – even if ZHP in the best Scout-like manner would have accepted the idea – the Polish authorities might not have permitted it.

Yet the World Movement did not ignore PLAST. It was invited to send a delegation to the 3rd World Jamboree, at Arrowepark near Birkenhead in England in 1929 and during the 4th World Jamboree, at Gödöllő in Hungary, 1933, PLAST Scouts participated as a section of the Czechoslovakian contingent. It may well be that, in that manner, they also attended the 5th World Jamboree at Vogelenzang/The Netherlands in 1937 but no definite proof has been traced.

During all its international contacts the foreign partners’ attention was drawn to PLAST’s plight and difficult situation as a result of the changing circumstances in Poland. Further the hidden Scouts in the Soviet Republic of Ukraine and their even worse predicament were always mentioned.

TRANSCARPATHIA

Said the very old farmer living in the area: “I have been living in Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.” Said the listener: “You have travelled a lot.” Answered the old man: “On the contrary, I have never even left this village.”

This illustrates the history of the region which in the course of time belonged to the various countries mentioned and had been known under various names such as Ruthenia, Transcarpathia, Karpatalja etc. The population was again a mixture of nationalities – original Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Poles, Hungarians, Rumanians and Slovaks with a sprinkling
of Germans – that never really intermingled and never gave birth to one new nation.

World War One over, the area was attached to the newly created Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia. When in 1938 this republic was liquidated the region was retaken by Hungary, but in winter 1944/1945 it was “liberated” by the Soviet Red Army, never to be returned to Czechoslovakia again but to be incorporated in the Soviet Republic of Ukraine.

The new Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia harboured Czechs (42.3%), Slovaks (25%) Germans (23%), Hungarians (5.7%), Poles (0.6%), the remaining 3% being the Ukrainians, the Rumanians and the Ruthenians mainly in the Republic’s “appendix”.

Almost all nationalities in the newly founded Federal Republic had their own Scouting groups. The Czech movement was the largest one and with the Slovaks created the Svaz Junaku Skautu Republiky Ceskoslovenske, a Federal Organization. (See the Czech Chapter.) The Czech Chief Scout and Founder Antonin B. Svojsik invited the Scout groups of the other nationalities to also join this federal structure, which – in 1922, during the 2nd International Conference in Paris – was one of the Founder members of the World Movement and was recognized and registered as a member of same. Consequently all the Scouts, operating within the republic’s borders were also members of the World Movement including the PLAST groups in Ruthenia and Praha (Prague, the Republic’s capital.)

PLAST opened a small office in Prague and it was to play an important role in PLAST’s development in later years. More and more Ukrainian refugees from the Soviet and the Polish Ukraine settled in Transcarpathia or Ruthenia and the Scouts amongst them augmented the local PLAST groups. The leadership of the Czechoslovakian Scout Federation was
broad minded enough not to object to its PLAST branch maintaining a close relationship with PLAST in Polish Ukraine. That made the previously mentioned PLAST national camps of 1922 and 1923 possible.

BUKOVYNA/BBKOVINA

After 1918 this small area, which had been part of the Austrian Empire, was allotted to Rumania, one of the Allied victors of World War One. All Ukrainian cultural activities and manifestations of nationalism were immediately suppressed.

This also meant the banning of PLAST. The Plastuns went "underground", continued their activities and remained in contact with PLAST in Polish Ukraine and Czechoslovakia. In the early thirties attempts were made to establish semi-legal PLAST groups at a number of schools and gymnasiums. Whether this was permitted or was successful is unknown.

And so PLAST continued in one way or the other.

PLAST BADGES AND TRADITIONS

When, in Scouting's early years, Scout-troops were founded outside the British Isles, in most countries Baden Powell's Arrowhead was also adopted as their symbol, be it of a national design. The Ukrainians, very artfully, intertwined their Arrowhead with the Trident.

The Trident is a very, very ancient Ukrainian national emblem, said to symbolize Wisdom, Knowledge and Love. In the very olden days it was used by the Taurian Royal House in the Crimea and later by
the Rurik Royalty which ruled the Kievan State or Kyivan Empire, also known as Kievian or Kyivan Rus. Originally a family crest, it later became a national symbol. After the communist takeover in 1922 the Trident and the Ukrainian Yellow Blue national flag were banned but they re-emerged when in 1990 a Free Ukraine was reborn at last. Regretfully the Ukrainian Scouts, like many others, mistook Baden-Powell’s Arrowhead, a nautical emblem, for the French Royal Fleur-de-Lis and named their national Scout badge the Lil’leika or Lily.

Plastuns meeting other Plastuns – or foreign Scouts – used to greet each other with the familiar three finger salute and a firm left handshake. But whilst doing so they also spoke the word CKOB or SKOB. SKOB is an acronym of four Ukrainian words:

- S for Sylno or Forcefully;
- K for Krasno or Beautifully;
- O for Oberezhuo or Carefully;
- B for Bystro or Speedily.

Together specifying how the Ukrainian Scouts were to prepare for the future. But SKOB also happens to be the name of an eagle, inhabiting the wide, vast grasslands or steppes. A powerful and swift bird, full of action, and held up to the Scouts as an example.

The longer PLAST existed, at first in its homeland, later in exile, the more traditions it developed. A unique feature of PLAST was and is the very strong and extensive support from Ukrainians all over the world, very often persons with influence holding key positions. Some, but not all, former Scouts.

DARKENING SKIES
The Poles regarded West Ukraine to be an inalienable part of Poland. All its inhabitants were considered to be Poles and were supposed to be treated as such. But not quite. Whilst the Polish government tried to get the Ukrainians to assimilate, their treatment in fact, was much different of the Poles and Ukrainians. At first manifestations of Ukrainian nationalism and demonstrations in favour of Ukrainian Independence were condoned, later they were frowned upon. Then, in a later stage, the authorities objected to them. But the Poles did not succeed in changing the Ukrainians’ attitude and so in 1924 was begun an official repression of Ukrainian nationalism and allied activities. But even then the Poles were still rather tolerant and it was not until 1930 that the Ukrainian associations and organizations were officially disbanded and banned. Meaning that, carefully, they went “underground” and continued their activities in disguise but illegally as was only to be expected. That way the authorities lost all control.

It is unbelievable that – of all peoples – the Poles could make this mistake. As if they had not learned the lessons which their own colourful but sad history had taught them. They ought to have known – also from their own illegal experiences during the foreign occupations – that illegal activities are more difficult to check and supervise than the ones carried out openly. Anyway, the banning did not mean the ending and so it was not a very wise move.

PLAST’s last legal Supreme Assembly was held at Lviv/Lwow on December 23rd – 24th, 1929. Then, on September 26th, 1930, the Polish administration ordered the disbanding of PLAST and the termination of all its activities. There were massive arrests of leaders and some were even taken to court. It was all very unpleasant and maddening, but yet, compared to what had happened on the other side of the border, in Soviet East Ukraine, the Polish suppression was
lenient. PLAST having been told to liquidate, the PLAST Command named itself the PLAST Liquidation Commission. In fact it continued its normal activities and the liquidating was a very, very slow process, bordering on sabotage. In 1933 a Commission of Education Camps and Wandering Youth was founded. Under this disguise PLAST work was continued and in 1934 a PLAST Centre was founded in Polish Ukraine. So the Scouting activities continued be it that uniforms could be worn only when camping in the dense forests or in foreign countries, such as Czechoslovakia. The PLAST groups in that country and the PLAST office in Prague (Praha) openly supported the banned PLAST in Polish Ukraine. But the leadership was also preparing for the future. Almost a month after the Polish banning, the PLAST leadership met in the Prague office on October 28th, 1930. They founded the S.U.P.E. (Spilka Ukrainskykh Plastuniv Emigrantiv or) the Union of the Ukrainian Plastun Emigrants. And indeed, large numbers of Ukrainians were leaving their country of birth. Several went to Transcarpathia or Prague but others preferred to go further afield, either settling in Central or West European countries or in the United States or Canada.

Those Plastuns who landed in Czechoslovakia were able to join the existing PLAST groups. The others – wherever they went – were made welcome by the National Scout Organizations of their new countries of residence. But when there was a concentration of Plastuns, they founded new groups. The N.S.O.s concerned were very well prepared to accept these groups within the framework of their movements so that they could have some control. Not that they expected these PLastuns to behave badly but, considering the reasons why these refugees had left their homeland, they feared very much that independent PLAST groups might get involved in Ukrainian Exile Politics – might be attending purely political demonstrations in full Scout uniform. Such Ukrainian demonstrations were often organized in foreign capitals and
usually ended in front of the Soviet or Polish embassies. The local man-in-the-street seeing Scouts would not be able to see the difference and might get the impression that Scouting was involved in politics which was to be avoided and prevented. In retrospect this fear was overdone. The Exile Scouts never acted that way but no one was to know at that time. So the N.S.O.s expected and invited the Ukrainian groups to join their ranks, permitting them to wear their own special badges in addition and, if must be, their own uniform. But to no avail, the Plastuns wanted to stick together and did not join the N.S.O.s but carried on under their own Central PLAST leadership, wherever that might be. (See Chapter One for further details.)

SOVIET UKRAINE

The reluctant inhabitants of the Soviet Republic of Ukraine had not had very happy lives since their country had been incorporated into the U.S.S.R. In 1933 the communist regime abolished all private ownership and the farmers also lost their land which was collectivized. Huge collective farms were built, surrounded by houses in which the former farmers, now labourers, had to dwell. Their original farms were demolished, their fields were ploughed under and united into large corn fields. Ukraine farmers resisted and sabotaged the plans but dictator Josif Vissarionovitsj Dzejoegasjvili, better known as Joseph Stalin (Man of Steel), did everything to break the power and the will to resist. But mass arrests, mass deportations and mass killing, did not work and so Stalin caused an artificial famine by having the last granule confiscated. It was a holocaust and 6 million Ukrainians died of starvation in a region that had once been called “Europe’s Granary” and which had been supplying vast quantities of cereals to Europe. In order to escape arrest and starvation some took to the forests and formed gangs which armed themselves by raiding Red Army depots where they also found food.
THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 – 1945

On September 1st, 1939, Nazi Germany attacked Poland and on September 17th the Soviet Union stabbed Poland in the back when the Red Army also invaded the country. Immediately parts of the West Ukraine, occupied by the Red Army, were subjected to a process of “re-education” and elimination. Mass arrests and deportations, the usual pattern. The West Ukrainians soon found that life was much worse than it had ever been under the Polish regime.

FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE

When in June 1941 Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union, its Fuhrer Adolf Hitler had another one of his Blitzkriegs in mind and expected his armies to quickly beat and destroy the Red Army. The aim was to occupy the western part of the Union as rapidly as possibly in order to thus obtain access to the Ukrainian corn fields, the Dnjepr coal mines and the oil fields north of the Caucasian mountains. Surprisingly it so seemed as if the Red Army was totally unprepared and the German forces cut through its defences like a sharp knife through a lump of butter. Soviet Armies were surrounded, cut off and forced to surrender and sometimes it so seemed as if its soldiers refused to fight for or defend a system that they had learned to fear and detest.

As a result of the splendid isolation in which the Soviet citizens had been held by the regime, they were not, however, apparently aware of the contemptible Nazi ideology which was based upon racialism. In the Nazi eyes the Teutons were the Master Race, all other races were inferior and the Slavonic peoples very much so, suitable only to serve the Masters as Slaves. The population of West as well as East Ukraine, remembering the German assistance given in 1917/1918, sometimes considered the advancing Germans as liberators and greeted them as such in their traditional
way offering them bread and salt. Which surprised the German soldiers.

Some nationalists thought that the Germans had come to liberate them and to restore Ukraine as an independent, free state. They were not to know that the Nazis did not intend that at all. So many, in their ignorance were willing to make sacrifices for this much desired freedom and wanted to enrol in the German forces as auxiliaries, as policemen or guards. Later special Ukrainian and Cossack units were formed which, though in German uniforms, were allowed their own badges and the Yellow Blue Ukrainian flag. The Ukrainians were not the only ones thus mislead. Other peoples, such as the Georgians, the Armenians, the Tartars and even the Russians, were used as German cannon fodder. They all hoped that, by enlisting, they would be able to restore the liberty and the independence of their nation.

But then the tide turned, the Red Army was recovering and attacking. The German retreat began. The Germans feared betrayal and desertion and so they sent their “East Battalions” to Yugoslavia and later to Northern Italy where they were told to fight the partisans, who, in German eyes, were all communists. Also they were stationed in occupied Western Europe where – amidst German units – they were used to man the Atlantic Wall, built to prevent the Western Allies from landing on the coast. Far away from the customary skies it made the men feel uncomfortable. They were willing to fight the Red Army and the communists, for the freedom of their countries, but had no desire whatsoever to fight the British, Canadian or American forces. So it opened their eyes and they understood they were no longer fighting for the freedom of their countries but were used as cannon fodder. So, when on June 6th, 1944, D-Day, the Western Allies landed on the coasts of Normandy, the East Battalion soldiers mostly threw away their arms and surrendered.
During the short period in which the Ukrainians thought that the Germans had come to liberate them and reinstate a Free Ukraine, some surviving PLAST leaders meant that the time had come to revive PLAST. Of course, not openly, as the Nazis would never have allowed a Scout movement, but under the disguise of the Vykhovni Spil’noty Ukrainskoi Molodi or Educational Associations of Ukrainian Youth. Many joined and made the Scout Promise. Whether or not the Nazi Germans ever detected that this was in fact a PLAST operation is not known. They were also opposed to all education given to the – in their eyes – “inferiors” and so the Associations were told to disband and cease all activities.

Meanwhile many Ukrainians in Ukraine also soon changed their minds. Almost immediately after the German fighting units had passed through, they were followed by the SS-Einsatzkommandos who introduced a gruesome terror. The Nazis’ real intentions became evident. First of all the Jews were victimized, rounded up and executed. Neither the Ukrainians, nor the Poles nor the Russians were spotless as far as anti-Semitism was concerned and though, maybe, some thought the Nazis measures a bit drastic, they did not protest loudly. But then the Ukrainians and the others found out that they too were considered to be nothing but slaves. Thousands were trapped and deported to Germany for work in the war industries or in agriculture. In Germany they were obliged to wear a special badge on their clothes with the word “OST” meaning East. It distinguishing them from the Germans and the West European forced labourers, identifying them also as being of an inferior race. They found that the Communist Red Terror had been replaced by the Nazi Brown Terror and that very little had changed.

The turning point of the war came. The German advance, until than untenable, came to a grinding halt. In North Africa in November 1942 during the Battle of El Alamein, in the Soviet Union in the winter of 1942/1943 during the Battle of
Stalingrad (now Volgograd). From the foothills of the Caucasian Mountains and the banks of the River Volga they were driven back and consequently the Red Army also reappeared in Ukraine.

Many Ukrainians had gone into hiding and had formed partisan units which attacked the Germans and unpleasantly hampered their rear and their supply lines. But when the Red Army arrived most of the Partisans did not greet it as a Liberator, on the contrary, some of the partisan groups attacked the Soviet forces as well, fighting for a real Free Ukraine. Until well after World War II, which ended in May 1945, in fact until the mid-fifties the hopeless partisan war continued, though very little of it was ever known in the rest of the free world.

And so Ukraine and Poland were “liberated” by the Red Army. Poland got a communist regime and lost most of East Poland, including West Ukraine to the Soviet Union. Poland was compensated in the West, where large tracts of Germany were given to her and the Rivers Oder and Neisse were to become the Polish/German border. Poles, living in East Poland and West Ukraine were told to pack and settle in the former German regions, from which the Germans had been dislodged. A migration of nations of which, at the time, little was known.

West Ukraine was reunited with East Ukraine, the Soviet Republic, as were Transcarpathia and Bukovyna. One country at last, but no freedom.

DISPLACED PERSONS

Thousands of East Europeans did not wait to experience “a Liberation Soviet Style” and joined the German forces in
their westward retreat, trying to keep well ahead of the advancing Red Army. As driftwood is washed ashore by the waves, so the waves of war brought these refugees together in camps in the British, American and French zones of West Germany and Austria. Here their numbers were augmented by those who had been deported to Germany as slave-labourers or “Ostarbeiter” as well as by those who had been fortunate enough to survive the Nazi concentration camps and some who had been serving in the German Auxiliary units and had been wise enough to throw away their uniforms, to don civilian clothing. They all had in common the desire not to return to their homelands, at least not as long as the communists were in power. These refugees were called Displaced Persons or DPs. Their life in the DP camps was drab, unpleasant and without a future. (See Chapter One.)

PLAST IN EXILE

Particularly the kids suffered a lot but in almost all camps Scout and Guide leaders of several East European nationalities were found and they did not sit and wait until they were helped but they stepped right in and founded Scout or Guide groups. They were greatly encouraged by the camp staffs and the Allied Military Authority.

Reference is made to Chapter 1, describing how the Boy Scouts International Bureau (B.S.I.B.) of the World Association of the International Scout Movement (W.A.I.S.M.) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) reacted. The former by creating the Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, which also took the PLAST groups under its wings and protection even though PLAST, for reasons given earlier, had never been a W.A.I.S.M. member.
Despite the very chaotic circumstances in a destroyed and divided West Germany, somehow the PLAST leaders, as the other DP Scout leaders, managed to communicate with their counterparts in the various camps. They thereupon decided to meet in order to discuss their situation and the future of PLAST. Travelling in occupied West Germany was restricted and all sorts of permits were needed to move from one place to the other. Even then it was difficult enough, there hardly being any public transport and most of the bridges and viaducts having been blown up. Distances, presently covered in hours were then covered in days only. But again the Allied Occupation Authorities were very much in favour of Scouting and were much willing to provide the necessary travelling permits and – if need be – the transport.

The PLAST leaders met at Karlsfeld near Munich (München) on October 6th, 1945. They breathed new life into the Union of Ukrainian Plastun Emigrants (U.U.P.E. or S.U.P.E.) and a temporary PLAST Command was elected. General guidelines for conducting the activities in the DP camps were provided. PLAST grew rapidly and soon more than 10,000 Plastuns had been registered by the D.P. Division of the International Bureau. They, like all the other DP Scouts, were issued with a special D.P. Scout identity or membership card giving them the protection but not the membership of W.A.I.S.M.

On October 20th, 1946 the Ulad Plastovykh Senioriv (U.P.S.) which was going to be a great support in the difficult times to come was also reinstated.
The Plastuns from the DP camps in Germany participated in the 6th World Jamboree at Moisson/France in 1947, the “Jamboree of Peace”. In 1951 some Plastuns attended the 7th World Jamboree at Bad Ischl /Austria.

In 1947 and 1948 the PLAST leadership called more meetings establishing more formal organizational structures. The top was well aware that the Displaced Persons could not live forever in the camps and that shortly they would be departing for the foreign countries willing and able to provide them with a new home and a new future.

W.A.I.S.M., during the Rosny Castle International Conference in 1947, had passed Resolution 14/47 dealing with the D.P. Scout Movements (See Chapter 1) and the PLAST Command had been informed too. So it was well aware that it could provide the leadership for the Ukrainian DP Scouts for as long as they were in the camps, but that, the moment they settled in their new countries of residence, the Scouts would have to join those countries’ N.S.Os. and that the PLAST DP Movement and its leadership would have to disband.

It is correct to say that the DP movements did not take this seriously. For reasons, explained in Chapter I, they wanted to stick together, hoping that their countries, now under communist dictatorship, would soon be liberated and they would be able to return to a free country. They hoped that, until that moment came, they would be recognized as National Scout Movements on Foreign Soil. But W.A.I.S.M. could not and would not and the N.S.Os concerned, having had experience with the pre-war Exile movements had also learned their lessons. No one wanted to make the same mistake for the second time.
RESETTLEMENT

Several countries, for humanitarian reasons, offered to give the DPs a new home and a new future. And so in 1948 the massive resettlement began. The DPs left the camps and sailed all over the world.

Before the departure, like the other DP-Scout movements, the PLAST leadership held its last meetings in Germany. In the city of Aschaffenburg, near Frankfurt am Main, on March 26th-29th, 1948. Very undemocratically it was decided to ignore the W.A.I.S.M.’ resolution, not to take it seriously and not to let the Plastuns – either as a group or as individuals – join the N.S.Os of the countries that were offering them a new home and a new future. Guidelines were given on how to act on arrival and how to react to the invitations to join the N.S.Os..

Thereafter the parting of the ways began but those of the PLAST leadership – still in Germany at the time – met again, for the last time on German territory at Zuffenhausen from October 16th – 19th, 1949. No doubt the experiences of the first Plastuns having arrived at their destinations were discussed.

The Ukrainians went to the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Argentina, Canada and some other countries and only a few unfortunates – for reasons stated in Chapter One – had to remain in Germany, and amongst them some Plastuns.

It has all been told how the Scouts and Guides of the new countries of settlement did everything to welcome the new arrivals and to make them feel at home. How they expected them to integrate into the original population as soon as possible and how they expected them to join their national movement. But to their disappointment they found that the
DPs in general wanted to remain separate and had no desire to mix with the local populations. Wherever possible the refugees created small, closed communities and the Plastuns founded their own groups. At first no one objected to that as it was thought that these groups would, after a period of adjustment, soon join the official national movement. But nothing of the kind happened. The Plastuns, as the other DP Scouts, made it quite clear that they belonged to their own “national movement” and would accept the instructions from their own top leadership only, wheresoever that top might be. Now the W.A.I.S.M. decision (Resolution 14/47) had been taken in the most democratic way by means of a majority vote, so it was a sad thing that this democratic decision was not accepted by the DP Scouts. It was the beginning of an unhappy, unnecessary and unfortunate struggle which harmed Scouting as a whole. Not that there was not an understanding for the DPs’ point of view. The DP Scouts certainly had their supporters in many N.S.Os who, based on their own experiences during the war, were sympathetic but also hoped that, to the benefit of all, the DPs would soon see the errors of their ways and would comply with the World Movement’s wishes.

But meanwhile PLAST had STNYTSI (branches or chapters) everywhere and on July 25th, 1950 the PLAST High Command opened its office in the U.S.A. From here it directed and coordinated the PLAST activities all over the world.

By 1954 the resettlement was almost over and everyone had reached his destination. On February 1st, 1954 an Assembly of the Union of Ukrainian Plastuns was held at Niagara Falls on the US/ Canadian border. There can be no doubt about it that W.A.I.S.M.’s Resolution 14/47 must have been one of the topics on the agenda, but again PLAST decided to take no heed of it. Like most of the other former DP - now Exile – Movements they thought that one day W.A.I.S.M. would
give in and would recognize them as National Scout Organizations on Foreign Soil.

The movement, with financial assistance of many Ukrainians and others, had acquired its own central training and camping centre Plastova Sich in Canada and it was there that in 1957 PLAST celebrated its 45th anniversary with a large national camp. Present was PLAST’s Father and Founder Dr Olexander Tysovs’kyi and the first ever chosen Chief Scout “Grey Lion” Professor Severyn Levytskyi.

ALL ALONE

Despite their disappointing, deplorable attitudes the Exile Movements still had the support of the W.A.I.S.M. PLAST and others, were invited by the World Movement to training courses and other events and meetings. The PLAST flew its flag at the 9th “Jubilee” World Jamboree at Sutton Goldfield in 1957, marking the 50th anniversary of Scouting, and at the 10th at Makiling Park, Manilla/Philippines in 1959.

During the 18th International Conference (the 1st World Conference) at Olivias near Lisbon/Portugal (September 20th – 24th, 1961) the Exile matter was not on the official agenda but behind the scenes there were various activities aiming at finding a solution and indeed a compromise was almost reached, had it not been torpedoed by the Polish ZHP-in-Exile.

This was very regrettable as the problem might have been solved then and there, the more so as most of the Exile Movements were willing to accept the proposals. Now the whole unfortunate affair resulted in large numbers of good Scouts being expelled from the World Movement simply because the parties concerned did not understand each others’ motives and were not willing to accept the compromise which, at the time, was within easy reach.
All relationships between the Exile Movements and the World Movement W.A.I.S.M., now renamed W.O.S.M. (World Organization of the Scout Movement) were thereafter severed. No more facilities, no more Gilwell training, no more information: the Exiles had to go it all alone and, in fact were not Scouts anymore, certainly not in the countries where the words Scout and Scouting were protected by law. So from 1961 onwards PLAST stood alone too.

In 1962 PLAST, undaunted, met again on a grand scale, this time to celebrate the 50th anniversary and at its own settlement “WOLF’S TRACK” in the U.S.A.. This year their first Chief Scout ever, Severyn Levytskyi passed on.

Another blow hit PLAST when in Vienna/Austria, in 1968, its Father and Founder Dr Olexander Tysovs’kyi died. Drot was mourned by Plastuns all over the world and was sadly missed.

Meanwhile there had been important changes in the exile communities, also the Ukrainian one. The 1945 original refugees had been born in their homelands. A few of the second generation had seen the light of day in their homelands too, but most of them entered this world after 1945 and then there was the third generation born in the new countries of residence. Some of the refugees, for convenience sake, had taken the nationality of their new country. Those born after arrival had automatically obtained the country’s nationality and were full citizens. Yet they remained Ukrainians.

Financially too a large number of the Ukrainians were well positioned and they were able to assist the less fortunate and the various Ukrainian institutions like PLAST.

Whereas during the first period after the resettlement all over the world, PLAST had been held together mainly
through correspondence, later the Plastuns were able to travel and to meet and that way the contacts between the various Plastun branches were intensified and strengthened. When special camps or meetings were held Plastuns from all over the world used to fly in to participate. In 1975 there was a world meeting of the presidents of the six PLAST Branches at New York. National Camps were held in Australia and in “Vovcha Tropa” in the U.S.A. in 1982. To celebrate PLAST’s 70th anniversary in 1983, a special camp was held in Germany, where by now a PLAST branch had developed as well.

In 1983 the Ukrainians all over the world – also in Ukraine but secretly – commemorated the Great Famine of 1933 caused by Joseph Stalin.

In 1988 the Plastuns participated in the ceremonies remembering 1000 years of Ukrainian Christianity. Plastuns from the U.S.A., Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Argentina, Australia and France gathered in Rome to meet the Pope.

ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

March 11th, 1985 will always be a milestone in the history of the human race. At the time hardly anybody noticed or paid any attention to the fact that in Moscow a new man, Michael Gorbatsjov or Gorbatchev took over as Secretary General of the Communist party of the U.S.S.R. Meaning that he became the most powerful and influential man, not only in the Soviet Union, but also in the rest of the communist world. The world considered it as just another change in the leadership but soon it was detected that not only the scenario was different but also that the man himself was making a difference in the, until then, rather drab and grey history of the U.S.S.R.. He introduced two important words that were soon absorbed by most of the world’s different languages: Glasnost (Openness) and Perestroika (Renewal). Further his
actions had far-reaching consequences, not only in the communist dominated part of the world, but everywhere. He made it crystal clear to the governments and the dictators of the satellite countries that from now on they would have to stand on their own feet. That whilst dealing with and keeping under their unwilling subjects, they could no longer rely on the power and the bayonets of the Red Army. That there would be other changes as well.

This electrified the world. The Poles and the Hungarians were the first to wrest themselves free from the shackles. The later not only opening but also taking down the Iron Curtain which for so long had separated them from the Free World (11/09/1989). In a short period of time there was an astonishing avalanche of historic moments and events. Reaching its zenith on the evening of November 9th, 1989 when during an East German press conference, worldwide on TV, the East German government’s spokesman was handed a small piece of paper. He read it and his features, clearly visible for everybody, expressed surprise. The news was apparently new to him as well and after a short hesitation he announced that the Berlin wall – so long the symbol of the hated Iron Curtain and Europe’s division – would be opened that very same evening. Shortly thereafter, thanks again to worldwide TV coverage, the breathless and astonished world was able to watch how the East Berliners broke through the Wall and reunited with the West Berliners, for the first time after so many decades of separation.

Rapid changes in all the communist countries. The so long suppressed Cry for Freedom was also heard in the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. On January 21st, 1990 thousands of Ukrainians formed a human chain hundreds of kilometres long, demanding liberty, reform and independence. The first free elections, on a local level, were held on March 18th, 1990 and the communists were swept away, wiped out and replaced by nationalists and renewers. There was commo-
tion all over the country. In the old city of Lviv a National Ukrainian Army was formed and volunteers enlisted by the thousands. On July 5th, 1990 there were demonstrations all over the country demanding far-reaching sovereignty if not total independence and separation from the U.S.S.R.. In August a Declaration of Independence was formulated and published and on December 1st it was subjected to a referendum. The majority of Ukrainians voted in favour. Another surprise on December 9th, 1991 when the leaders of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine met at Brest Litovsk and announced the disbanding of the old U.S.S.R. and its replacement by the Commonwealth of Independent States. Ukraine was free at last.

THE AMAZING REVIVAL OF SCOUTING

In the many countries behind the Iron Curtain, but Poland, Scouting had been banned, disbanded and persecuted by the Soviets. But in almost all the countries, where there had been a Scout movement, it was found that it had been impossible to obliterate the Spirit of Scouting for as long as it lives on in the hearts of the loyal Scouts and Guides. The survivors re-emerged and went to work, reviving the not forgotten movement, its ideals and traditions which, despite all the hardships they had always cherished as a hidden treasure.

In Ukraine, and in particular in the West Ukraine, PLAST had not been forgotten and as early as 1989, during the period of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, PLAST units began to reappear, particularly in the West Ukraine, where PLAST traditions were still strongest. These units were initiated with the assistance of PLAST-in-Exile. The first attempt to hold a PLAST camp was made in 1989 but that was perhaps a little bit premature as it was raided by the still powerful KGB (Secret Police), whose officers dispersed the campers, brutally beating them up. The authorities too tried to suppress
PLAST. But the Scouting enthusiasts, smelling freedom and discovering possibilities, did not give up and in the fall of 1990 an all-Ukrainian congress of PLAST was held in Morshyn, in the province of Lviv and the foundations for a renewed PLAST organization were laid. This, of course, was the moment PLAST-in-Exile had been waiting for. Contact was made and assistance was given. Also by the World Bureau of the W.O.S.M. in Geneva. In Western Ukraine PLAST was soon a large organization again. It also spread to the East and the South of the country, the parts which since 1922 had suffered longest under the communists boot. Yet here too some PLAST units were established by some PLAST survivors. Actually the enthusiasm for and the interest in Scouting was so enormous that the growth had to be slowed down intentionally, so as to have time to train highly qualified and efficient Scout leaders to make sure that the Plastuns would get the best leadership possible. PLAST-in-Exile performed well. Leaders-to-be from the Ukraine were, free of charge, invited to come to the U.S.A. for training. Also PLAST-in-Exile instructors were sent to Ukraine. No effort and no money was spared.

In July 1990, at the Vovcha Tropa Centre in the U.S.A the ceremony of Returning PLAST Ideals to Ukraine was held. A number of Ukrainian leaders-to-be participated in this great historic event when the Vice-President of the Temporary PLAST Council in Lviv took the PLAST Promise. This event was followed by a mass meeting of Plastuns in Lviv in August of the very same year. Plastuns from all over the world and Scouts from Western Europe were present and watched the first public ceremony on Ukrainian territory during which the first liberated Ukrainians took the Scout Promise.

In October 1991, the PLAST Congress – meeting in East Hanover, U.S.A. admitted the new Motherland PLAST movement to its worldwide organization as its 7th branch. PLAST was back home at last.
The World Movements and some foreign N.S.Os supported the newly born Ukrainian PLAST. W.O.S.M. in Geneva invited PLAST- Ukraine leaders to many training courses, meetings and seminars. Also to attend the 18th World Jamboree, Dronten, The Netherlands in 1995. 36 Ukrainians came, including 5 leaders. But not all of them belonged to PLAST.

Some belonged to some minority Scout-like organisations that were in contact with W.O.S.M.. Who were they?

DIVISION

Whereas the PLAST and its many traditions were still well remembered by some in West Ukraine, in East Ukraine there had not been PLAST since about 1922. As mentioned in the early stages some PLAST groups were founded.

But there were many who had heard of Scouting but were not aware of PLAST, They approached directly the World Bureaux W.O.S.M. in Geneva and W.A.G.G.G.S. in London or the various Scout organizations of Western Europe. They were lavishly provided with materials such as folders and handbooks explaining Scouting and its ideals and they did not wait but began the founding of Scout-like groups of their own. For example – in 1997 – there were:

A.D.S. “SKIF” (Scythians) of Dnipropetrovske,
Scout Organization “KYIVSKA RUSS“, in the Kharkiv province.
Scout Organization “KHORTYTSIA” on an island in the river Dnieper.
Scout Organization “BERKUT” (Eagle) in Kryvyi Rih.
Scout Organization “CHYSTA KRYNYTSIA” (Clear Spring) in the Kherson province.

Two further Russian Scout organizations, e.g. Scout Organization of Kharkiv Oblast and Scout Association of Crimea.
In the city of Kyiv/Kiev alone, apart from PLAST there were the following movements: “Dragon”, “Compass”. “Eco Scouts”, “Vershyna” (Peak), The Scouts and Guides of Kyiv and the Scout Organization of Greek Scouts of Kyiv.

Some of these organizations were no larger than one or two groups. It is not surprising that the above Greek movement received the wholehearted support of the Greek Scout and Guide movements, who invited their leaders to come to Greece for training and who supplied them, with handbooks, materials and money.

THE PROBLEM

There are several problems indeed. PLAST-Ukraine wants to be recognized and registered as a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. But all the smaller movements mentioned also want exactly the same. That is fine. But according to the rules only one organization per country can be recognized. So a solution has to be found where the smaller movements merge with PLAST into one real N.S.O.

But even then, PLAST has always considered itself as an umbrella, a federation, the Conference of Ukrainian PLAST organizations with originally six branches – Australia, Argentina, Great Britain, U.S.A., Canada and Germany. Since the collapse of the Communist system three more were added: Ukraine, Poland and Slovakia. The seat of the Federation is in New York, but it is PLAST’s desire to transfer same to the old homeland, as soon as the revived local PLAST in that country is ready to take it. PLAST-Ukraine may one day become a member of WOSM.

It cannot be denied that PLAST-in-Exile has done a wonderful job. It set out to keep alive the spirit and traditions of the original PLAST in Ukraine. Its groups, all over the world, re-
fused to join the N.S.Os of their countries of residence and birth for the simple reason that they wanted to prepare for the moment that their homeland would be free again and Scouting could be revived.

When, very unexpectedly, that moment came, PLAST-in-Exile performed well and was great. So it has fulfilled its task and its groups in the foreign countries now ought to contemplate joining – as special groups – the N.S.Os of their countries not only of residence, but often also of birth, whose citizens they are.

This seems a simple solution but it is not likely to happen. Though citizens of the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and other countries they still consider themselves as having Ukrainian nationality and wish to continue their separate ways – a conflict of loyalties which not everybody can understand. Particularly not the West Europeans, who, working hard to complete the unity of the European Union, are not so interested in nationalities anymore.

Hardly an East or Central European country can claim to have one nation, one people within its borders. And so as there are Poles and Russians in Ukraine, and there are Ukrainians in Poland, Russia and Slovakia. They too have founded PLAST groups and these were also admitted to the world wide family of PLAST. They also stubbornly refuse to join their country’s N.S.O..

All this may badly delay Ukraine’s admission to the World Movements. To solve these problems a lot of wisdom is essential and it may take many more years. Let us hope that goodwill and good thinking will prevail. That the Scout Spirit and the brotherhood principles of Scouting will prevail and overcome the underlying feelings of nationalism which are contrary to the international character of the World Movements.
CHAPTER 9. Armenia

HAIKÄKÄN

The eastern part of the Caucasian Mountains has always been the homeland of the Armenians, a very ancient nation.

When Christianity slowly spread, the new religion’s propagators somehow also reached mountainous, isolated Armenia. The Armenians forsook their ancestors’ old and familiar religion and embraced the new one. In its solitude the Armenian Orthodox Christian Church and religion developed as a total independent entity, not subjected to the heads of the Christian churches in Rome, Constantinople or Moscow.

About 600 years later most of nations bordering on Haikäkän embraced Islam but not so the Armenians and some of their Caucasian neighbours such as the Georgians. Thus they remained isolated Christian pockets in an Islamic world.

Unfortunately the surrounding countries became very powerful, greedy, ruthless and imperialistic, intent upon extending their territories, power and influence. This effected the Armenians very badly and as early as 1079 the country was conquered by foreign powers and lost its independence and freedom. Restoration of these – to every nation – precious and indispensable items was not to be until 1989, about 910 years later.

In 1472 powerful and extending Persia took over but then again it lost Armenia to the Turks in 1522. Meanwhile Czarist Imperialism was enlarging Russia, conquering and subjecting the bordering states and slowly reaching the Caucasian foothills. The Russian armies defeated the Turks and in 1828
Armenia changed hands again and now belonged to Russia. By now the Turks had long since forgotten that the Armenian territory had originally not been theirs and they kept craving for its return to Turkey. And so the region remained a cause of conflict between the Turks and the Russians, both of them ignoring the Armenians. In 1878, after just another war between the two competitors, Haikakan was divided, a situation to last until this very day. The Russians kept the northern part, the Turks retook the southern part. As usual the Armenians had no say in the matter.

TURKEY

Throughout the ages the Turks had extended their country in all directions. For hundreds of years the Balkans and Hungary were Turkish and their armed forces had twice – unsuccessfully – besieged Vienna (Wien), the Austrian capital. In Europe the Turks were very slowly pushed back to their own territory, and most of the Balkan nations regained their freedom. In 1849 Turkey lost Egypt and in 1911 Libya. But even so, in 1914 Turkey was still an enormous country which – apart from Turkey proper, inhabited by the Turks – also included today’s Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan.

Meanwhile either by sheer force or of their own free will, large numbers of Armenians had left their homeland and settled in other parts of the Turkish Sultanate. Particularly so in the big cities of Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. But they also established themselves in adjoining countries like Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. They earned their living as traders, shopkeepers or very skilled craftsmen such as saddle and boot makers.

During World War One (1914-1918) Turkey, which had close links with Imperial Germany, joined the Central Powers being the German Empire, the Austrian Empire and the King-
dom of Hungary. Czarist Russia, on the other hand, was one of the Allies and had sided with England, France, Belgium, Italy, Romania, Japan and later the United States.

TURKISH ARMENIA

I. World War One effected Armenia in many unpleasant ways.

1) The Turkish/Russian border, dividing the country, became a front line and Armenia a battlefield. The Turks and the Russians tried to conquer as much territory as possible, but, in the mountains, the situation remained rather stagnant and neither party was able to penetrate deeply into the other one’s territory. All this fighting was not in the interest of the Armenian population, on the contrary, they were the real losers as the war caused them a lot of destruction, suffering and loss of life.

2) The Turks were obsessed by the idea that the Armenians were pro-Russian and that they were consequently deemed to be a danger behind the front lines. In fact the Armenians were neither pro-Russian nor pro-Turkish, their hatred for both was the same. The Turkish suspicion, stimulated and stirred up by religious differences, in 1915 ignited a terrible pogrom bordering on genocide and ethnic cleansing. Not only in Armenia proper but all over Turkey and in particular in the big cities, a barbaric, well organized massacre commenced. Roughly 600,000 Armenians, men, women and children were brutally murdered in cold blood.

Apart from there being a war on, communications were still in their infancy and the later so omnipresent and almighty media were also still very much restricted, failing the right means of communication. Also, the conditions of war pre-
vailing, the connections with the outside world were cut off. So the news of this dramatic outrage was slow in reaching the outside world. In fact it was not until 1918 and later, after the war had ended, when the first Armenian survivors and refugees managed to reach Western Europe (mainly France), that the bloody and stunning story was revealed to the world.

SELF-DETERMINATION

Then the United States entered the war. Its President Woodrow Wilson was an idealist. In his opinion too many nations or tribes, particularly so in Europe, Asia and Africa, were being suppressed by others. So he conceived the Principle of Self-determination and more or less promised all nations independence.

No wonder that the European and Asian minorities living under foreign domination gladly embraced Wilson’s principles and firmly believed in them. Yet most of his Allies, being colonial powers, paid lip service to his ideas and only half-heartedly supported them when it was in their own interests and so hardly or not at all. To the true believers belonged the Armenians and the Kurds.

The Allies had promised the Arabs and the Kurds independence and so – armed by the Allies – they fought the Turks expecting their reward when the war would be over. (see: Lawrence of Arabia.) In Kurdistan oil was found and that barred its independence. It was cut into pieces and regions were given to Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria, the letter itself a French protectorate, whereupon Kurdistan’s everlasting battle for freedom began. The Armenians expected to be permitted to practice the Right of Self-determination, but they were simply forgotten and part of their homeland remained Turkish and the other part Russian.
Yet it so seemed that for the many nations that had been subjected to the Russian Empire the tide was also turning when in 1917 the Russian Revolution began. The old Czarist regime was overthrown and replaced by a democratic system and government that – perhaps – might have been willing to practice self-determination. But before the new government was firmly in the saddle and could show what it could do to improve the general situation, the Communists/Bolsheviks committed a Coup d’État aimed at destroying the recently founded democratic Russian Republic. A bloody civil war began. The Red Army fought the various White Armies. Regretfully the Whites were divided. Some fought to defend the newly founded democratic Republic, others to restore the Czar to the Throne.

The overall situation and turmoil ignited the nationalism and desire for freedom of the nations so far oppressed by the Russians. Referring to Wilson’s Principles of Self-determination, one after the other declared its independence and took up arms to defend same.

Whereas the Communists claimed to be fighting for the liberation of the enslaved, suppressed and exploited working classes, it was soon evident that they were not fighting for the liberation of the thus far oppressed nations. On the contrary they made it quite clear that there was to be no changing of the old Russian Empire’s borders and certainly there was not to be any Self-determination. Some countries, like Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland were successful in repelling the Red Army’s attacks, in keeping it at bay and out of their countries and were able to obtain their independence. Others, however, like the Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia were not so lucky. They all declared their independence but in 1920 the Red Army reached the Caucasian foothills and penetrated into the mountains.
In 1917 the Armenians had founded an independent Armenia or Haikäkän. Given a change they would no doubt have attempted to also liberate and include Turkish Armenia, but that was not to be. In 1920 the Red Army invaded Northern Armenia. The Armenians fought bravely to defend their new won liberty, but in vain. They were defeated and overwhelmed and Freedom was over again.

Under the pretext of “independence” the new communist masters created the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, one of which was the concocted Transcaucasian Soviet Republic composed of Georgia, Azerbaijan and the Russian part of Armenia. But it was all more apparent than real as the government in Moscow – the new capital of the Soviet Union – ruled with an iron fist.

During the 8th Congress of the Soviets, in December 1936, the U.S.S.R. adopted a new constitution. The Transcaucasian Soviet Republic was disbanded and replaced by a Georgian, an Azerbaijan and an Armenian Soviet Republic. But as before Moscow pulled all the strings. This was not the independence and freedom these nations had in mind and it was a far cry from President Wilson’s Principles of Self-determination.

TURKISH ARMENIA

In 1918 Turkey belonged to the defeated and like Germany, Austria, Hungary etc. had to foot the losers’ bill. Large areas, not inhabited by Turks, were taken away from her. Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan were given self-government under British protection. Syria and Lebanon came under French protection and Palestine became a British Protectorate.

The Turkish Armenians did not benefit at all. They fought but were beaten and their voice was not heard by the big
Powers. In the end the latter decided to leave things as they were and so Turkey was permitted to keep her part of Armenia and Kurdistan.

In 1923 the old Turkish Sultanate was overthrown and replaced by a modern, democratic republic. For a short time the Armenians hoped that independence might be within their reach, but the situation did not change. As before the Armenians remained a suppressed minority totally subjected to the various moods the Turks were in.

THE SURVIVORS AND THE REFUGEES

Meanwhile the conditions of many Armenians had changed. As mentioned, after Turkey’s defeat in 1918, large regions had been taken away from it and so, generally, the conditions of the Armenians dwelling in those areas also improved a bit.

The survivors of the massacre, either living in Turkish Armenia or elsewhere in what had remained of Turkey, soon lost their dreams of a united Free Armenia.

For obvious reasons a large number of these survivors sought to leave Turkey and indeed thousands did. They hit the trail to the west, hoping to find refuge in neighbouring countries. But many went far afield and landed in Switzerland, England, some in Belgium and the Netherlands but the bulk of them in France. Their number was later augmented by refugees from Russian Armenia.

ARMENIAN SCOUTING

Scouting, born in Britain, spread like a wild fire and surprisingly reached faraway places such as Russian and Turkish Armenia. English was the world language and in almost every country there was someone with a certain knowledge
of it. It is said that in the early years of the 20th century next to the Christian Bible, the Muslim Koran and *Scouting For Boys* were the books most read.

**A) Russian and Turkish Armenia before 1922**

The Armenians, on both sides of the border, were very keen sportsmen and they had a Physical Culture Society, also known as HO-MEN-ET-MEN, operating in both areas. There are indications that before World War One began in 1914 this association recognized the value of Scouting and introduced it in its general program. So there were HO-MEN-ET-HEM Scout troops in Russian as well as in Turkish Armenia. Even after, in 1922, when the Soviet Republic of Armenia was created, there were some troops left but the communist authorities saw to it that they quickly disappeared, though HO-MEN-ET-HEM was permitted to carry on under certain conditions.

**B) Egypt**

In the early years of the 20th century there were British possessions all over the world and it was often said that the sun never set in the British Empire. In all these colonies and protectorates there were British communities. In them British Scout troops were founded. At the time Egypt was a British protectorate and it had a large British community concentrated in the big cities of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez.

In 1910 in these cities the first British troops came into being and their activities were carefully observed by the local Egyptian boys. They too were attracted by Scouting and wanted to join. And so, with British support, Egyptian troops soon existed. But there was also a very large Armenian population and its kids also got an interest and so in early 1912 the first Armenian Scout troops appeared in Cairo and Alexandria. They later claimed to have been the first Arme-
nian Scout troops ever, but – as mentioned above – there may have been Armenian troops in Russian and Turkish occupied Armenia before 1914 and 1922.

C) Turkey

According to information found in the B.P. House archives in London, Scouting was not unknown to the Armenians in Turkey. The massacres had caused them much misery. Yet their Scouting continued and new Scout troops were set up. They united in the existing Armenian Scouting and Physical Culture Society, HO-MEN-ET-MEN. A British Scout leader, as a British army officer serving in the Allied Control Commission, which – after 1918 – checked whether the defeated Turks kept to the execution of the peace treaty’s conditions, sent a letter to Baden-Powell and reported that there were no less than 20 Armenian Scout troops operating in the Turkish capital Constantinople (since 1923 Istanbul and not the capital anymore) and that in 1920 he had counted 750 Armenian Scouts in Constantinople city and 50 Girl Guides or Girl Scouts.

D) Bulgaria and Rumania

Though not known exactly when in the Armenian communities in these countries HO-MEN-ET-MEN troops were also founded.

E) Lebanon

Many orphans, leftovers from the massacre had been concentrated in special homes in this country, which became a French protectorate after 1918. Here HO-MEN-ET-MEN founded the “Orphans’ Troops” as they got to be known. One of their activities was participation in excavations.

F) Switzerland
In a 1928 copy of the British magazine "The Scouter" it is reported that an Armenian intellectual, a university graduate, reduced to earning his living as a gardener in Geneva, had founded an Armenian Scout Troop near that city.

G) The Netherlands

A small colony of Armenians set up residence in various Dutch cities. They opened their churches and there was some Scouting activity, but not for very long.

H) France

A very large number of Armenians, survivors of the 1915 massacre, arrived in France. They settled mainly in the Rhone Valley and in the Paris region. They were penniless and their knowledge of the French language was very limited. Despite their previous education and their former position in Armenian society they had to accept the work they could find in order to earn enough money to keep their families going. This was mainly in factories. But some had special skills particularly as tailors or saddle and boot makers. They sold their products to shopkeepers or in the streets. They had to live in the cheapest possible accommodation such as small hotels or boarding houses and some families lived together in a small apartment. Their living quarters were mostly located in the slums. Every one able to work went to work and the older boys also supported their families that way, their parents simply lacking the money for their further education. The younger children were luckier and were sent to French schools.

In those days French Scouting was in full swing and – no doubt -the poor Armenian boys watched with envy but, for financial reasons could not participate.
A bright young Armenian Kourkène Medzadourian, watched them and their drab existence in the poverty stricken Paris slums. In 1924 he founded the first Armenian Scout troop in Paris. For taking this initiative he certainly deserves great admiration. It may well be that some of the Armenian refugees by than had found a solid footing in society, but no doubt he had to overcome many financial and other difficulties and his perseverance must have been outstanding indeed.
Having founded the troop he presented the boys with a possibility to escape from the drab actuality by taking them out of the small, overcrowded hotels, boarding houses, apartments and the dirty, smelly streets into the forests and the fields surrounding Paris. Weekend camping was on his program. Kourkène Medzadourian found some good assistants. He proved to be a man of great qualities, of great energy and willpower, tenacious and stubborn and until his death (1996) he was a great Scout leader who dedicated his entire life to the good of the Armenian Scouts, as their omnipresent, influential and powerful Chief Scout. In the early years he created a very good relationship with French Scouting, all to the benefit of the Armenian Scouts, though his groups did not join one of the French movements. More groups were founded later and the Armenian movement in France grew rapidly.

In August 1926 Medzadourian took his troop to a general International Peace Camp which was held near Etampes/France. Though it was not a Scout camp, the Armenian boys made many new friends. In 1927 a similar camp was held and again the troop participated. It so happened that this time a British troop had also come, lead by Harry Moore, a London University professor. The latter was much impressed by the Armenian Scouts, their attitude and their technical skills. He made friends with Kourkène Medzadourian and proposed a mutual 1928 summer camp in England. In the spur of the moment Kourkène accepted the invitation, but it may well have been that later he became well aware of the financial consequences of the undertaking. No doubt he had many difficulties to overcome but he did take his troop to Hounslow near London and his boys very much enjoyed the summer camp with the English boys. The camp attracted not only the attention of the Armenian community in England, but also Hubert Martin’s. In daily life he was a high ranking civil servant who, in his leisure time, ran the International Bureau of the WAISM (World Association of the
International Scout Movement now WOSM) in London. He visited the camp, was highly impressed by the boys and their young leaders and invited the troop to take a day trip to London. He showed them the city and took them to the Imperial Headquarters of the British movement in Buckingham Palace Road where they had a meal with him and some other British Scout leaders.

In more than one way the summer camp was an enormous success. It greatly influenced the Armenians. They re-founded their pride of being Armenians and – though they already had contact with French Scouts – they suddenly realized that Scouting was international and a World Movement of which they desired to become members.

THE RIDDLE OF THE MOVEMENTS

Of the events – now following – there are two versions and it is not easy to determine which one is the correct one as the whole matter is all wrapped up in a smoke screen. It may well be that there is some truth in both.

A) HO-MEN-ET-MEN, at the time headquarter in Lebanon, considering the results of the summer camp, attached great importance to the contact made with the International Bureau via Hubert Martin, its director. An opportunity was detected to establish a relationship with the International Bureau and the possibility of thus obtaining recognition and registration as a member of the World Movement. So it was decided to send Kourkène Medzadourian – being one of the few who spoke good English – to London as a delegate to begin negotiations with Baden-Powell and Hubert Martin.

B) Immediately after his return to Paris Kourkène Medzadourian called a meeting of only the Armenian Scout leaders operating in France. It was decided to contact the International Bureau and to request the recogni-
tion and registration of the French/Armenian movement only. Kourkène Medzadourian was to go to London.

A fact is that somewhat later in 1928, Kourkène Medzadourian went to London again and visited the International Bureau. He met Hubert Martin but also Baden-Powell, who lent the young leader a willing ear.

Did Medzadourian, mention that he belonged to and represented the larger movement HO-MEN-ET-HEM? Or did he just mention the Armenian groups in France? Were Baden-Powell and Hubert Martin at all aware of HO-MEN-ET-HEM’s existence and its groups operating in the above mentioned countries? It seems doubtful as Baden-Powell had his doubts and wanted to know whether the small Armenian movement would be able to really continue in a serious way. Would B.P. have questioned the viability of the larger HO-MEN-ET-HEM if he had known of its being? One cannot but come to the conclusion that Kourkène Medzadourian mentioned his groups in France only, the overall organization of which he called HAI-ARI (Armenian Boys) and as the Founder of which he posed.

In the end neither B.P. nor Hubert Martin rejected the idea of HAI-ARI’s recognition and they advised Medzadourian to send a request to the International Committee

THE RECOGNITION OF HAI-ARI AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

The International (now World) Committee convened on April 30th, 1929 and Medzadourian’s request was on the agenda. It was supported by Baden-Powell and Hubert Martin, who were both ex-officio members and had not the right to vote. The 52 National Scout Organizations represented decided in favour of HAI-ARI and instructed the International Bureau to recognize and register HAI-ARI as per April 30th, 1929. Its official name to be “Association des Scouts Ar-
meniens”. It seems very unlikely that the various delegates were aware of HO-MEN-ET-HEM and the fact that it also had several groups in France and Belgium. But some, as special or closed groups, belonged to their N.S.Os and so did not draw special attention.

HAI-ARI made its first international appearance during the 3rd World Jamboree at Arrowe Park near Birkenhead/England in 1929 with a contingent of 40 Scouts and leaders from different regions. Baden-Powell visited their camp several times, as did Hubert Martin and various other high ranking leaders of several nationalities. Kourkène Medzadourian certainly knew how to play the big drum and to attract attention to his growing movement.

Thereafter HAI-ARI was always well represented at all the international Scouting events like Jamborees, Rover Moots and Conferences. Always making a first class impression in every aspect of Scouting and during these occasions the Scouts of the other nationalities became well aware of the existence of the HAI-ARI as the apparent sole representative of Armenia.

During the years thousands of boys of Armenian descent, were members of HAI-ARI in France, Belgium, other East
European and South American countries. One generation after the other. One of the requirements for membership was that they had to be able to speak Armenian but later this rule had to be toned down as some were citizens of their countries of birth and were not always able to speak proper Armenian anymore.

WORLD WAR II AND ITS AFTERMATH

In the countries, occupied by Nazi Germany, Armenian Scouting suffered, as did the National Scout Organizations of those countries. Scouting’s ideals of international brotherhood and the equality of all, was in contrast with the Nazis’ racialism and nationalism and so, beginning in Germany itself, all Scouting was banned, also in the countries they annexed or occupied and suppressed. In those countries that escaped Nazi occupation, HAI-ARI continued though all communications with its – officially closed – Headquarters in Paris were severed. In the occupied countries HAI-ARI also went “underground”, continued its activities – not without risk – illegally and when at last France was liberated in 1944, HAI-ARI, like the French movements re-emerged immediately the day the Allied soldiers marched in.

The Armenians in the Soviet Republic of Armenia had suffered a lot.

They hated the communist regime and craved for real independence and freedom. So as other nations, involuntary made part of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, they were waiting for the opportunity to throw off the chains into which they had been put. So when Nazi Germany invaded the U.S.S.R. in June 1941 some of them thought that this country might bring them the longed for freedom and independence, not aware as they were of the Nazi attitude towards the eastern peoples who were considered as second rate, sometimes inhuman and fit to serve the master race as
slaves only. Many refused to live their lives in the defence of the U.S.S.R. and its system and much preferred to surrender to the Germans. The latter, having lost many soldiers, were gradually in need of more cannon fodder. So, despite their racism they formed special “East Units”. dressed in German uniforms, but with their own badges and their own national flag, the Armenians too were permitted to fight for the Germans. At first they were used to encounter the Red Army. That was for as long as the latter was retreating and seemingly on the brink of being defeated. But when the tide turned and the Red Army attacked and regained lost territory, forcing the Germans to retreat, the Nazis feared that their “East Units” might change sides again. So they sent the Armenians, the Georgians and others to the occupied West European countries such as France, Belgium and the Netherlands. So, in between German units, they were to man the Atlantic Wall the “Festung Europa”, created to deny the Western Allies a foothold on the West European coasts. The Armenians, like the others, had been very willing to fight communism but not the Americans, Brits and Canadians and so when on D-Day, June 5th, 1944, the Western Allies opened the Second Front and actually landed in Normandy, most of the “East Units” surrendered without firing a shot. Some managed to don civilian clothes and go into hiding. They understood that a return to the Soviet Union, let alone Armenia was an impossibility and so they either managed to stay in the West European countries, particularly France, where they augmented the Armenian communities, or they landed in the Displaced Persons’ Camps. Many, however, could not escape and were returned to the Soviet Union later and their doom was sealed. (See Chapter One).

Apparently their numbers in the DP-camps were small. At least no trace has been found of an Armenian DP Scout Movement and none was ever registered by the Displaced Persons’ Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. Whereas Russians in the DP -camps founded a DP-
movement so that in the end there were two Russian Exile Movements, HAI-ARI in France and the other countries absorbed the new refugees. Even then hardly anybody in the Scouting world knew that there was also HO-MEN-ET-HEM which no doubt also got its share of refugees.

TROUBLE

After the Liberation HAI-ARI got into serious trouble and had to defend its existence, which the movement, lead by the unbeatable Kourkène Medzadourian did.

As mentioned in Chapter 1, long after HAI-ARI had been recognized and registered as a member of the World Association of the International Scout Movement, the International Conference decided that National Scout Organizations could be recognized only if they were operating on their own national territory. If they were not, their groups would have to join the National Scout Organizations of their countries of residence.

As mentioned in Chapter 1, exceptions were made for the HAI-ARI and the Russian N.O.R.S.

But in 1945 the International Committee, during its first post-war meeting in London, had to face the problem of the Scouts in the Displaced Persons’ Camps. Reports had been received from Germany and Austria regarding the founding of the DP Scout groups and the fact that the leaders were communicating and forming National Scout Movements in Exile. No doubt they would demand recognition and membership of the World Movement and would refer to the exceptional status of the HAI-ARI and the Russian N.O.R.S., which, after all, had also been founded by refugees and were not operating in their homelands. No one could very well deny this, but it had to be avoided. Reason why it was decided to cancel the membership of the Russian N.O.R.S.
and the HAI-ARI. For more detailed information see Chapter 1.

Resolution 11/45

Association des Scouts Armeniens

On the initiative of General Lafont, the Director had been in correspondence with Scoutisme Francais and Dr. Medzadourian in regard to the status of the Armenian Scout Association.

The Committee decided that as the majority of the Association’s members were domiciled within Metropolitan France and probably now French Citizens, the question of the Association’s continued recognition was one which could best be clarified by discussions between its leaders and the leaders of Scoutisme Francais.

The Director was instructed to inform Dr. Medzadourian, the Chief Scout of the Armenian Scout Association, of their decision and to request him to continue to endeavour to resolve the matter by amicable discussions with Scoutism Francais.

General Lafont undertook to act on behalf of both Scoutisme Francais and the International Committee.

In other words: The International Committee, urged by French Scouting and no doubt by John S. Wilson, had come to the conclusion that the time had come to withdraw the HAI ARI’s official recognition, to advise them to disband the movement and to let their groups merge with French Scouting. It was, however, left to French Scouting and Armenian Scouting to discuss the matter and to solve the problem in the most convenient, swift and, above all “amicable” way possible. This was a mistake.
HAI-ARI, as was to be expected did not accept this and, lead by the militant Kourtêne Medzadourian, fought back and defended itself with vigour, referring to Baden-Powell, to Hubert Martin and the I.C. decision of April 30th, 1929. It had the advantage of being a full member and was consequently represented at all the International Conferences dealing with the matter. Also, other members were not unsympathetic. It came to a prolonged debate between HAI-ARI and the World Movement, which lasted until the Exile problem had more or less been resolved, almost everybody lost interest and nothing changed for HAI-ARI, which kept its status. Much to the dismay of the Russian N.O.R.S. – which had been recognized as early as August 30th, 1922 – but had nevertheless been expelled and was now treated as a DP or Exile Movement. The various new Exile movements did not understand either why HAI-ARI was able to maintain the position which they were denied.

So nothing changed for HAI-ARI, but was it really fair to the others? It became a much discussed item. During the 18th International (thereafter World) Conference at Olivias near Lisbon/ Portugal (1961) the Exile Movements were – unofficially – offered an Associate Membership without a vote. But this proposal was blocked by the Polish ZHP-in-Exile which wanted nothing less than a full membership. The World Committee thereupon took its fatal and dramatic decision to drop the whole matter and to sever all connections with the Exiles.

So HAI-ARI’s position in World Scouting did not change and the movement survived everything and continued as the one and only Association de Scouts Armeniens HAI-ARI. But was it really the only Armenian Scout Movement?
It so seems almost certain that, during Kourkène Medzadourian’s 1928 visit to London, HO-MEN-ET-HEM had not been mentioned. As mentioned before it is doubtful whether the other parties involved in the discussions, e.g. Baden Powell and the International Bureau, were at all aware of HO-MEN-ET HEM’s existence, as in that case – as per April 30th, 1929 – HO-MEN-ET-HEM would have been recognized and not just HAI-ARI.

Another riddle is why HO-MEN-ET-HEM did not protest and did not approach the International Bureau immediately or afterwards. As far as can be judged it kept its silence.

HO-MEN-ET-HEM had its groups in Turkey, in various countries in the Middle East, but also in Greece and some Balkans states. Communications in those days were still in their infancy and so it may well have been that it took the news of HAI-ARI’s recognition a long time to reach HO-MEN-ET-HEM’s leadership. And when at last it did its groups’ positions might have changed considerably.

Lebanon and Syria – detached from Turkey in 1918 – were French protectorates and French Scouting took the Scout groups of the various nationalities and religions operating in the countries under its wings. Palestine and Cyprus got a British administration. There too there were Scout groups of various nationalities and religions and they were provided for by British Scouting. The same applies to Egyptian Scouting which also knew a variety of Scout groups, which, when in 1922 a national Egyptian Scout Movement was founded, became part of that as well. Consequently the HO-MEN-ET-HEM groups were, either via British, French or Egyptian Scouting members of the World Movement. Later it was found that the Armenian Scout groups in Greece, Bulgaria and Australia had also affiliated with the N.S.Os. and
as such automatically belonged to the World Movement. Another reason why the Armenian Scouts did not seek further international recognition may well have been that HO-MEN-ET-HEM was after all a Physical Culture Society with a Scouting section. It had a central leadership and no doubt it had specific demands which its Scout groups had to meet but it may well be that HO-MEN-ET-HEM, knowing that its groups belonged to the N.S.Os in their countries of residence had no need of international recognition as it was not a separate movement. Its groups, in the various countries, were never really Exile groups.

When, after 1945, the Middle East countries Lebanon and Syria, as also the Island of Cyprus, obtained their independence and their Scouts founded an N.S.O., the Armenians’ position did not change as the HO-MEN-ET-HEM groups were automatically members of same.

It may well have been that between 1928 and 1977 the World Movement and in particular the World Committee and the World Bureau paid no attention to HO-MEN-ET-HEM groups as they, sections of their country’s N.S.Os, contrary to the Exile Movements, were never a problem. Gradually the World Scout Bureau may have known they were there, as is revealed in a World Scout Bureau report dated October, 1977, stating that it has been found that:

“Armenian Groups in Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria are affiliated to the National Associations of those countries.”

RECONSIDERATION

The above made the World Committee wonder again whether this affiliation might not also be the right solution for HAI-ARI in France. The report continues:
“In 1975 the World Committee requested the Secretary General (Lazslo Nagy) to make representations to the ‘Scouts Armeniens’ that they should consider their position and become affiliated to Scoutisme Francais.

“While the younger generation of leaders are disposed to accept this arrangement some of their more senior members are most reluctant to do so.”

The Secretary General, Laszlo Nagy, acted accordingly but needless to say that Chief Scout Kourkène Medzadourian, ignoring his younger leaders, refused to even discuss the matter, so once again nothing changed.

Later still it was discovered that HO-MEN-ET-HEM not only had groups in Greece, Egypt, Cyprus and the Middle East but also in Argentine, Australia, Canada, and – of all places – also in France! So it was quite clear that HAI-ARI was not the only and sole representative of Armenian Scouting in the diaspora.

THE WORLD CHANGES UNEXPECTEDLY

When on March 11th, 1985 Michael Gorbatchev took over as Secretary General in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics no one could have known that simple act would lead to the fall of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall (09/11/1989), to the dissolving of the U.S.S.R. (25/12/1991) and would cause a complete change in the world situation as a whole, ending the Cold War between the East and the West.

Neither could anyone know that it would also mean a wonderful revival of Scouting in countries that had belonged to the communist sphere of influence. Countries in which Scouting and Guiding had once existed but had been banned, disbanded and persecuted. But more surprising still the attention of the World Bureaux WOSM and WAGGGS was also drawn by countries in which – before the commu-
nist takeover – there had never been any Scouting or Guiding at all and in which movements had nevertheless been founded. In the U.S.S.R. there were several groups
   a) Those countries who had known a Scout Movement before 1922, such as Russia, Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine.
   b) Others in which Scouting had been able to operate freely until 1940, such as Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.
   c) Others that had never known Scouting at all.

And so after so many years Scouting also revived in the Soviet Republic of Armenia. It so seems that HO-MEN-ET-HEM, after all a Physical Culture Society, had been able to linger on during the communist era, be it without its Scouting section. But as soon as the tide changed in the Soviet Union and Armenia got some freedom of movement, HO-MEN-ET-HEM apparently dug up its Scouting past in its archives and as early as December 1989 Scouting groups were founded again. Then on December 25th, 1991 the Soviet Union ceased to exist and a community of 12 independent states was born, in 5 of these states, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia and Armenia Scouting was already in a position to function, and had built a relationship with the World Scout Bureau WOSM in Geneva. In June 1991, 25 Scout leaders or Scout leaders-to-be from Armenia, Byelorussia, Moldavia, Mongolia, Russia, the Ukraine and the three Baltic States participated in WOSM’s “Introduction to Scouting” Seminar held in Geneva. In its World Scouting News no 05/91 WOSM reported that Scouting existed in Armenia. WAGGGS in London, in its Central and Eastern Europe Report (W.B.2676) covering June – October 1991, mentioned that: “A visit to Armenia has been carried out by a Lebanese Girl Scout Leader” and that “a joint Scout and Guide Association has been formed.”
In the “Information Note on Scouting in the Republics of the Former Soviet Union”, dated 19/12/91, WOSM reports that “Through the good efforts of our Information Centre in Moscow, which coordinates all our work in the former Soviet Union, we are also in direct contact with the Scouts of Moldavia, Armenia and Tadjikistan. relations with the civil authorities as well as the churches of the various republics including those where Scouting does not yet exist, receive particular attention on our part.”

A VISIT FULL OF SURPRISES

In September 1991 WOSM’s Secretary General – Jacques Moreillon – visited Lebanon to meet the Lebanese Scout Federation.

The country, once one of the most blooming, booming and well developed in the Middle East had, for a long time, been a battle field on which various political and religious factions had fought their battles. Its capital Beirut, often called the Paris of the Middle East, had been destroyed.

HO-MEN-ET-HEM IN THE PICTURE AGAIN

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There were also several Scout associations with various religious backgrounds but the amazing thing was that despite all the fighting and during it, there had always been unity among the Scouts who had been very active in community
service, helping everybody in close cooperation with the International Red Cross.

The Secretary General was in for a few surprises.

If – what seems likely and has been mentioned before - during the talks of 1928 between Kourkène Medzadourian and the International Bureau, which led to HAI-ARI’s recognition as a member of the World Movement on April 30th, 1929, HO-MEN-ET-HEM’s existence has been kept from Baden-Powell and Hubert Martin, this may well have been the first time that HO-MEN-ET-HEM officially appeared in the World Bureau’s range of vision.

In his report dated September 17th, 1991, the Secretary General laid down his experiences and findings

“In Lebanon I met “members of an Armenian Scout Movement called HO-MEN-ET-HEM” an Armenian acronym for “Armenian Physical Culture General Association.”

He found that his Armenian interlocutors were well informed regarding the developments in homeland Armenia.

“According to them there are three “real Scouts” movement inside Armenia, each of them having an outside network since many years, plus a “pseudo Scout” Movement, which is only inside Armenia and has recently been created.”

Besides HO-MEN-ET-HEM the other two “real” ones were HO-YET-CHET and HO-MEN-MEN.

And so it was revealed that – for decades – apart from the well known Paris based HAI-ARI (member of WOSM) three more Armenian Scout organizations had been operating in Exile be it that they were mainly affiliate to the N.S.Os of
their countries of residence. As such they were members of the World Movement and for obvious reasons they had consequently never sought recognition nor had they ever drawn the attention of the World Movement. HO-MEN-ET-HEM, headquartered in Lebanon, was by far the largest “out of Armenia” traditional Scout Movement which had kept both Armenian culture (songs, dances, language, religion) and the Scout method (promise, law and traditions) alive in the diaspora. It had its groups all over the Middle East but also in Argentina, the USA, Canada, Australia and France (!). The latter was another surprise, about which more later.

As soon as HO-MEN-ET-HEM’s Scouting in Armenia had been revived in December 1989 instructors from all its branches all over the world, had been sent to help to put the movement in the home country on a firm footing. At the time it claimed about 2500 new members in Armenia.

HO-YET-CHET was said to also be a “real Scout organization also with an international network be it much smaller. It also claimed groups in Armenia.

HO-MEN-MEN was alleged to be a small group, left wing but not political. Little was known about its history, membership and apparently it had no international network nor connections and it seems to have faded away later.

At the time of this visit to Lebanon the Soviet Union had not yet been dissolved and Armenia was still part of it and was led by its communist party. A referendum was held on September 21st, 1991 and as was to be expected the majority of the Armenians voted for independence. In October of the very same year the first free elections were held and thereafter there was a change of government. The communists were out, as had been expected.
But between December 1989 and these elections the communist government had laid a cuckoo’s egg in the Scouting nest by creating a youth section of the HAI-GA-ZOUNK, the National Athletic Association. Some defined its members as “Communist Pioneers posing as Pseudo Scouts”. They were expected to disappear when the communist government would have been wiped out, but according to a report to WOSM written by the Ministry of Education of Armenia, dated 01/01/1993, on that day there were still five Scouting organizations all recognized and registered by the Armenian government, viz: HO-MEN-ET-HEM, HO-YET-CHET, HO-MEN-MEN, HAI-GAZOUNK and HAI-KASOUNI ARIASIRT.

In the same document it was reported that the five movements were discussing a merger in order to create one National Scout Organisation. Later – far from having faded away after the fall of the communist government – the HAI-GAZOUNK would change its name in HO-MEN-AIP-MEN, ARMENIAN SCOUTS. It claimed to have 6000 members in Armenia.

HAI ARI’S POSITION

During the Lebanese visit reference was made to HAI-ARI’s recognition in 1928 and its posing as the one and only Armenian Movement. The HO-MEN-ET-HEM leadership reacted as follows:

“He (Kourkène Medzadourian) used to belong to HO-MEN-ET-HEM. But when there was the possibility of ‘his’ Armenian Scouts becoming legally recognized by WOSM (WAISM at the time) as ‘the’ Armenian Scouts, he preferred to leave us and become the only one in charge.”

Over the years HAI-ARI had also changed. In the eighties and the nineties its members were third if not fourth generation. Those in France were French citizens, completely
integrated in French society. Most of them spoke French at home and were no longer really able to converse in Armenian. So though the original idea was that during HAI-ARI’s activities Armenian would be spoken, that gradually had to be dropped too, as in so many of the other Exile Movements.

One of the best kept secrets was that there were some HO-MEN-ET-HEM groups also operating in the Armenian community in France, Yet some French Scouts knew. One of them, in June 1995, commenting on HAI-ARI’s difficulty to maintain the national language during the Scouting activities, wrote:

“I had a different impression in the 80s when I attended some HO-MEN-ET-HEM events. First of all their meeting place was the Armenian School outside Paris where classes were conducted in Armenian. Most of the leaders had emigrated from Lebanon or Iran where they still spoke Armenian. Besides HO-MEN-ET-HEM being several times stronger than HAI-ARI with groups all over the world (Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Greece, Lebanon, UK and other countries) they could secure more support in manpower and money. The impression was that HO-MEN-ET-HEM was far more democratic with supporter councils than HAI-ARI with an omnipotent Chief Scout around whom the whole association revolved. I cannot confirm that whole groups in Paris transferred from HAI-ARI to HO-HEM-ET-HEM, but the fact remains that in towns, where HO-MEN-ET-HEM and HAI-ARI both operated there has been a trickle effect from the one to the other.”

The events in Eastern Europe had been unexpected and from 1989 Scouting had a number of very enjoyable, pleasant, surprising if not astonishing years during which Scout movements were either revived or newly founded. But they
were hectic years for the World Bureau in Geneva and the European Scout Office in Brussels. Both had a limited budget and a too small staff. The latter had to perform wonders in order to oblige and assist everybody. No wonder that the World Bureau WOSM was pleased with all the assistance it could get. HAI-ARI, a WOSM member, declared itself willing to help and this was the more pleasant as its representatives were able to speak the language.

In WOSM’s Situation Report of December 31st, 1993 Armenia is mentioned as follows:

“At the request of the World Scout Bureau, representatives of the Armenian Scout Association (Paris), WOSM member, undertook a fact-finding mission to the Armenian Republic from July 29th until August 5th 1993. This mission reported that the situation of Scouting in Armenia still needs to develop clearer objectives and structures, and that important but delicate work needs to be carried out in order to explain the fundamental principles and rules of international Scouting to all parties notably to the various authorities concerned. This is all the more important as the creation of a federation of Scout Associations forming a single national Scout organization in Armenia – a culturally and religiously homogeneous country – would be unjustifiable within the terms of WOSM’s constitution.”

Apart from that HAI-ARI also got involved in the development of Scouting in Armenia and not only provided money but also instructors and trainers.

UNITY

The aim being that one day a National Scout Organization of Armenia would be recognized and registered as a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the World Scout Bureau had to coordinate all the efforts made to assist
the newly born movements and to solve all problems that were in the way of Unity. A special seminar “Introduction to Scouting” was organized by the WOSM Russian Office at Yalta in April 1993 and leaders of the several Armenian movements as well as the Republic’s Deputy Minister of Education took part. It was a step in the right direction.

It was soon apparent that the process leading to Armenian’s recognition as a WOSM member was progressing well. But the World Scout Bureau had to tackle one more very important problem, viz HAI-ARI. After all HAI-ARI was the one and only already registered “Association National Armenian”, a full WOSM member. A Scouting historian had meanwhile reconstructed HAI-ARI’s history (The Forgotten Movements and see Chapter One) and so the World Scout Bureau was well aware of how its office, then still the International Bureau, had once tried to revoke HAI-ARI’s recognition with Resolution 11/45 passed during the International Committee’s London meeting of 1945. It also knew how this attempt had failed mainly as a result of HAI-ARI’s fierce resistance under the leadership of its Chief Scout Kourkène Medzadourian. If a new Armenia based movement was to be recognized, HAI-ARI would have to give way. Expelling was a task no one really looked forward too. How would HAI-ARI react this time? Was history to repeat itself once more? But – to everybody’s relief HAI-ARI let it be known that in order to allow Scouting Armenia to become a member of WOSM it would withdraw from WOSM membership.

Letter from HO-MEN-ET-MEN Central Executive Committee, dated Beirut 22/05/1995 to Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General, WOSM, Geneva.

“We are pleased to inform you, that the sixth General Assembly of our Union was held at the hotel ‘Le Crillon’, in one of the Lebanese summer resort localities. 79 Chapters from 17 countries participated, with 62
authorized competent delegates, and yet another 20 consultative advisory guest delegates. Only 5 chapters were absent.

“Concerning the activities of the Motherland/Armenia Chapter, our General Assembly took notice with utmost satisfaction, the realizations and the activity conquests performed by the HO-MEN-ET-MEM in Armenia, and furthermore was ascertained that, the Motherland/Armenia Chapter of our Union, was indeed in a position to pursue its mission in Armenia, supported by its own local capabilities. And we, in our capacity as the Central Executive, and all HO-MEN-ET-MEN chapters all over the world, we shall continue supporting morally and financially, the HO-MEN-ET-MEN organization of Motherland Armenia.

Signed, President M. Arzoumanian, Secretary G. Tutanjian.

ARMENIA’S RECOGNITION

Thanks to the efforts of many, including HO-MEN-ET-HEM in Lebanon, the World Scout Bureau in Geneva, HAI-ARI in Paris and the support of the Boy Scouts of America and many others, Scouting in Armenia went well. HO-YET-CHET and HO-MEN-MEN merged with HO-MEN-ET-HEM. The HAI-GAZOUNK and HAI- KASOUNI ARIASIRT proved to have a more paramilitary than a Scouting tendency and mentality and were no longer seen as candidates for membership.

With the support of HO-MEN-ET-HEM “World Wide” its homeland chapter was reorganized and in 1994 replaced by the HAYASTANI AZGAYIN SCAUTAKAN SHARJUM KAZMAKER-PUTIUN, the Armenian National Scout Movement.
With its Circular letter no 1/97 dated January 17th, 1997, WOSM’s Secretary General informed all WOSM members that as from April 18th, 1997, HAYASTANI AZGAYIN SCAUT-TAKAN SHARJUM KAZMAKERPUTIUN, the Armenian National Scout Movement, would be declared a WOSM member as the National Scout Organization of the Republic of Armenia.

Further was announced that as per April 18th, 1997, HAI-ARI, in a Scout like manner, withdrew from WOSM membership after almost 70 years.

In World Scouting News, a WOSM publication of December 1996 January 1997 no 6 the World Scout Bureau made the following announcement:

“Dr. Kourkène Medzadourian was the founder and Chief Scout of the Armenian Scouts, headquartered in Paris. He kept the flame of Armenian Scouting alive during the many years that it was banned in Armenia. He passed away knowing that Scouting has restarted in Armenia, and in the coming month it will become a recognized member of WOSM.”

A French Scouting historian wrote:

“I called Michel Medzadourian, present Chief Scout of HAI-ARI and eldest son of their founder, he told me they are now seriously thinking about dissolving their Association and maybe reforming something smaller with what remains of their membership in France.”

One cannot but say that HAI-ARI made a Scout like gesture. Throughout the decades it had also kept the Flame of Armenian Scouting alive, dreaming of the moment when at long last Armenia would be a free country again and Scouting could be revived. For that it had defended its existence but when the moment came, it gracefully retired from its WOSM membership to let the revived Armenian Movement take its place.
CHAPTER 10. Albania – Shqiperia country of the Eagle

Albania is a small country squeezed in between Greece, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and the Adriatic. The name Shqiperia, as the Albanians call their homeland, means "Country of Eagles" and one of these is represented in their national flag, their coat of arms and their scout and guide badges. In 1998 the population was around 3 million, 50% of those being children.

It is always difficult to tell where mythology ends and real history begins and where the two are still very much intertwined. Such is very much so where the ages Before the Common Era (BCE) are concerned e.g. in the history of ancient Greece but also in Albania's.

The Albanians claim that they are the descendants of the old Illyrians, contemporaries of the ancient Greeks and Macedonians. Apparently the Illyrians came to the Balkans at the same time as the tribes that were later to be known as the Thracians, the Greeks and the Macedonians. As the northern neighbours of the ancient Greeks and Macedonians, the Illyrians are said to have been inhabiting the region south of the Austrian Alps presently known as former Yugoslavia, present Albania and up to the Bay of Ambrakia in Greece.
The Roman Empire was the first to greatly influence the Illyrians. The Romans' contest with Cartage ended when during the Third Punic War (146 - 144 BCE) the latter was beaten and destroyed and the Romans extended their territory by taking over the Cartage possessions in the Mediterranean including those in Greece and Macedonia. About 201 BCE they also occupied the Dalmatian Coast and it came to clashes with the Illyrians. Later still the Roman Legions penetrated the Balkans making the Danube their Empire's northern border. Like the Greeks and the Macedonians, the Illyrians defended themselves but they too were no match to the Roman Legions. They were overwhelmed and subjected to Roman rule. Illyrian cities and villages were destroyed and thousands were enslaved and sometimes deported. Their territory was annexed and became known as the Roman Province of Illyricum, later to be split into two departments' Dalmatia and Pannonia. Yet during the following ages the situation changed gradually. The Illyrians may not have been Romanized, yet they were influenced and adopted the Roman civilisation, the way of life and the culture. From slaves they became allies and equals. Some Illyrians rose to very high office in the Empire and Illyrian Legions fought side by side with their Roman brothers-in-arms to - at first - enlarge and to - later - defend the vast Empire's long borders.

All went well until the decline of the Roman Empire set in. Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337 ACE) moved the Imperial Throne and the government from Rome to the city of Byzantium on the Bosporus. (1) Byzantium was to be renamed Constantinople in 330. In 395 the Roman Empire was split into the Western and the Eastern Roman Empire.
The latter soon to be known as the Byzantine Empire. The borderline ran more or less straight from the Danube in the north to the Adriatic in the south, thus cutting the Balkans as well as the original Illyrian homeland into two. In the long run the West Roman Empire was no longer able to defend its borders against the attacking Goths. The latter conquered Italy. The city of Rome fell in 476 and soon all of Italy and the northern part of Illyria had been taken over by the Goths who founded the Ostrogothic Kingdom. The Illyrian Legions belonging to the West fought bravely. But meanwhile the Illyrians were driven out of the northern part of their homeland and most of them found refuge behind the border of the East Roman or Byzantium Empire, which they further helped to defend. Around 568 the East Roman Empire had succeeded in taking large parts of Illyria away from the Goths. But the Empire was threatened too, from the north and from the east. The Slavonic tribes, which used to live north of the Danube and had long been kept out of the Eastern Empire, managed to infiltrate the Balkans. Again the Illyrians were pushed back and were driven away. What was left of them concentrated and settled in the areas presently known as Albania, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and parts of Montenegro, with their backs to the Adriatic unable to go any further and making a stand until this very day.

Meanwhile the Byzantium Empire was also threatened from the east. The Turks, originally living in the southern regions of Siberia, were on the move westwards. They took Minor Asia, until then part of the Byzantine Empire, and (1071) founded the Osman Empire. By that time the Byzantine Empire had shrunk considerably. The Slavonic tribes
had settled to the north and the west of it and on its (or rather Illyrian) territory and had founded independent states such as

Bulgaria and Serbia. The latter for some time stretched from the Danube to deep into Greece and included almost all of the Illyrian territory which the Serbs, from that moment onwards, always considered as to always having been theirs. Throughout history many conquerors used to suffer of such a loss of memory.

By 1353 Byzantium was restricted to a small territory in Europe and a small stretch of land on the Asian continent. The Turks had reached the city walls of Constantinople and a long siege began. The city stuck it out for a considerable time. Mainly because it could still be reached and supplied by sea and some reinforcements and some assistance were received from Western Europe. But the prolonged siege did not hamper the Turkish urge to the west. They crossed the waters and landed on the European beaches, moving into the Balkans, overrunning what was left of the East Roman Empire and marching into Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia. Nothing seemed to be able to stop their advance into Europe. The Balkan peoples resisted and many battles were fought. One of these is still famous and is known as "the Battle in the Field of the Black Birds" or "Kosovo Polje". According to the Enciklopedija Jugoslavia, published during the Tito era (1945-1980), the Bosnians, the Serbs, the Bulgarians, the Hungarians and the Illyrians (by then already also known as Albanians) formed an army which was also reinforced by some "Frankish Knights ", that is knights from Western Europe urged by the Pope to come to the defense of the Christian
Religion. One day in June 1389 this allied army met the Turkish forces in the field of Kosovo. Again it is difficult to say how much history is mixed with myth. The battle was fierce, thousands were killed including most of the commanders on both sides and the cruel encounter in reality did not know any victors at all, be it that the Turks soon recovered whereas the other side was dispersed. It certainly did not delay the Turkish advance to the West. Almost all of the Balkans and Hungary fell prey to them.

In 1453 in their hinterland the Turks at long last managed to storm and climb the Constantinople city defences and that was the end of the Byzantine or East Roman Empire. The city was renamed Istanbul and proclaimed to be the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

The Turkish advance westward was stopped in 1529 when their armies reached the city of Vienna the capital of the Austrian Empire. They laid siege to it but despite all their efforts and losses did not succeed in taking it. Vienna was relieved by a Czech army and for the first time the Turks, used to victories only, had to retreat into Hungary.

Decades of armed clashes followed. Many battles were fought but it was not until 1683 that the Turks once again besieged Vienna but were forced to retreat once more, this time to never return again. (2) The Turkish march to the west definitely ended once and for all. They were forced to sign the Peace Treaty of Karlowitz (1699) and had to cede large areas of Hungary to Austria.

And so for hundreds of years the Hungarians, the Slavonic inhabitants of the Balkans and the Illyrians - now also named Albanians - had to endure Turkish domination.
and direct rule by Turkish civil servants and governors. The nations had lost their freedom and that is never very pleasant to say the least.

The Christians of many - mainly West European - nations, colonising the world, sword in the hand, forcing the overseas populations to not only subject themselves to their domination, rule and "civilisation" but also to abandon their original religions and to accept the Christian belief. The Turks, being Islamites, were rather lenient. They seldom forced someone to convert but the young Christians of prominent families which they more or less kidnapped and obliged to join the Janitsjars, a crack regiment. Some of the surviving leaders of the nations now under Turkish rule, aware of the fact that they had lost all leadership and influence, sometimes thought to regain some say in the course of events by voluntary converting to Islam. And indeed it worked and they were reenlisted in the administration and - being leaders - their example was followed by their dependants.(3) In the Balkans, particularly in Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania there came to being Islamic pockets. Those who wished to embrace Islam were permitted to but on the whole the Christians were left alone. The Orthodox Church was able to proceed unhindered and was able to build many churches, cathedrals, monasteries and convents particularly so in the regions presently known as Serbia and Kosova or Kosovo.

After 1699 the situation was rather stable. The suppressed peoples were cut off from Western Europe. But as always every powerful Empire is getting self-complacent, easy going, soft, decadent and perceptibly weaker. Bit by bit Austria took over more Balkan and Hungarian territories
from the Turks. The oppressed often revolted but were mostly surpressed again with an iron fist and often cruel means. The Greeks, with West European assistance, managed to permanently liberate large areas of their country (1821). Russia and Great Britain began to take an interest. They put pressure on Turkey, which lost territories in Ukraine and Crimea, North Africa and the Balkans. In 1875 Bosnia threw off the Turkish yoke but later had to yield to Austria whose province it became. In 1882 the Serbs rose and expelled the Turks whereas in 1887 the Bulgarians regained their freedom. The Illyrians or Albanians - Islamites and Christians alike - rose several times and maintained a guerrilla warfare for years. In 1910-1911 there were so many uprisings and rebellions at the same time in what was left of the Ottoman Empire on European soil that it was like a war. The peoples of the Balkans came to an agreement to unite and to expel all Turks. The First Balkans War began and lasted from October 1912 - May 1913. The united forces succeeded in forcing the Turks to retreat to the very outskirts of Istanbul and the Turks only just managed to hold a grip on the European part of the city which was beleaguered but not taken as a peace treaty was signed only just in time.

The victors divided the spoils and ..... fell foul with each other, the Bulgarians being accused of having appropriated too much. And so the second Balkan war began (June - August 1913).

The Bulgarians had to defend themselves against the Serbs and the Greeks who were joined by the Turks wanting to regain something of their lost European territory. The Bulgarians got the worst of it and had to cede territory when a
new Peace Treaty was signed. The Turks had indeed regained some European territory, be it small in seize. The Albanians were involved in all these conflicts.

After many hundreds of years the Balkan region had been cleared of the Turks. Not meaning that all had gained independence. Croatia was in some sort of a federation with Hungary, Slovenia was part of Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina also remained under Austrian protection and domination.

During the Turkish dominance the former national borders had faded away. The peoples of the various nationalities had been - more or less - free to roam and settle whereever they liked to. Yet they never mixed and contrary to the West Europeans they were never really able to create one nation with one language and sharp national borders. Large areas had mixed populations of Serbs, Bulgarians, Croats, Bosnians, Illyrians or Albanians etc. Particularly so in North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzogewina and Kosova or Kosovo. There were minorities everywhere. Further they were divided in various religious groups, the Orthodox and the Roman Catholics and the Islamites.(3). This led to clashes the one minority suffering this time, the other one the next times. During the two Balkan Wars each nationality had been aiming at taking as much land that was inhabited by their national majority, never mind the minorities. The Serbs were dreaming of uniting all Serbs in one Great Serbia and as a result clashed with the Austrians over Bosnia and Herzogewina in which many Serbs were living. The second Balkan War had only just ended in May 1913 when on 28/06/1914 a fanatic
supporter of a Great Serbia, 20 years old Gravillo Princip, in Serajewo emptied the contents of his revolver into the bodies of the visiting Austrian heir to the Imperial Throne, the Archduke Frans Ferdinand and his wife. Both were killed and this led to a new war which would go down into history as the Great War or World War One (1914-1918).

ALBANIA - SHQIPERIA

From 1800 - 1822 Turkish Albania, Macedonia and Thesalia (now Northern Greece) formed one administrative region which Ali Pasja was governing on behalf of the Ottoman Empire. He was an Islamic Albanian and gradually he acted more and more independently until the Turks decided to send an army to bring him back into harness. Ali's forces where defeated. His regime came to an end and he himself was killed. Pure Turkish rule was restored.

In 1878 a congress was held in Berlin. It was called by the big European powers and was supposed to deal with the Balkans. Most nationalities were represented and the Albanian delegation was present but seldom heard or consulted and its opinions and demands were ignored or neglected. They vehemently protested when large tracts of land, having been inhabited by Albanians and always having belonged to the Illyrian ancestors, were allotted to Serbia (Kosova or Kosovo), Montenegro, Macedonia and Greece. The Albanian Liga, a revolutionary resistance movement, was founded which the Turks and the other nations tried to surpress or ignore. Its
aim was to liberate all the territories inhabited by Albanians and to form one country. Regrettfully these territories all had a mixed population in which the Albanians were either a majority or a minority. Just before the First Balkan War (vide above) the Turks granted the Albanians a far going autonomy. Italy, and Austria/Hungary, seeking to limit the Serbian urge for a Greater Serbia, supported the Albanians and others involved. During the First Balkan War the Albanians also rose and managed to evict the Turks. On November 28th, 1912 in the city of Vlore an All-Albanian congress was held and, under the leadership of Ismael Kemal, Albanian independence was declared. The new soevereign state was to become a Principality and Wilhelm von Wied, a German noble, was invited to mount the throne. Arriving in March 1914 he found an unmanageable, chaotic country, with disputed, far from recognized and fixed national borders. The European Big Powers decided to assist its pacification. A special international gendarmerie was created mainly commanded by Dutch military police officers. (The second in command - Dutch Major L.W.J.K. Thomson - was shot in June 1914.) Prince Wilhelm von Wied departed. When in August 1914 World War One began, Albania more orless faded away. It was at the mercy of the waves of the war that raged on its territory. Austrian forces invaded and fought the Allies being the Greeks that took the south and the Italians and the French that landed troops in several Albanian ports. The country was destroyed and the population suffered.
In 1917 the Austrian forces had to withdraw and once more the Albanians proclaimed their independence. When the war ended in November 1918 and thereafter the peace negotiations began, the Albanians once again tried to obtain some attention, but again mostly in vain.

Serbia belonged to the Allied Victors and had great influence. A group of intellectuals originating from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Serbia had met in England and worked out a plan to unite all South Slaves into one country - South Slavia or Yugoslavia - Jugoslavia. In their enthusiasm they overlooked the fact that during the ages all these regions and nations had been subjected to divers sometimes opposing influences and had all undergone different developments. Further they were separated by religion and sometimes language. All but Serbia and Montenegro had always been subjected to foreign rule. Slovenia had been Austrian, Croatia had been connected with Hungary, Bosnia had been Turkish first and later had come under Austrian influence. Montenegro (= Crna Gora = the Black Mountains) had always remained independent and after the Battle of the Field of the Black Birds in 1389 had also been able to always keep the Turks out (4). Apparently the initiators of Yugoslavia had never investigated whether such a combination of nations with such various backgrounds would really work and would ever be successful. But Serbia, dreaming of a Great Serbia, embraced the idea with enthusiasm and so the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was constructed, with Serbia's capital Belgrade to be the capital of the new country and the Serbian Royal Family to also be Yugoslavia's
Royalty. Others suffered too. Vovodina, being the south eastern province of Hungary with its Hungarian majority was cut off from Hungary and added to Yugoslavia. Kosovo or Kosova with its Albanian majority was given to Serbia and thus included into the new Yugoslavia. There was talk of also including Albania into Yugoslavia and the Albanians protested. Their Illyrian blood, though, during the ages - no doubt - diluted and not as pure anymore, was still there and the Albanians did not consider themselves as belonging to the Slaves. After a lot of bickering the Albanian independence was made official (1921) and the country's borders, as they are now, were fixed and guaranteed. But consequently a large number of Albanians were living outside Albania, in the Yugoslavian provinces of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo/Kosova as well as in Greece.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING, 1918 - 1939

World War One over (1918) and the Albanians free again but their country was in a terrible state of underdevelopment. The war had done a lot of damage and the population was very poor indeed. Everything had to be rebuilt, including administration, education and health care. Outside aid was necessary. The British Red Cross undertook to organize a health service. It sent some special units to Albania. According to a magazine article - dated 1922 - found in the Archives of the British Scout Association - one of the team members was Nurse Marquerite Moseley Williams. In the WAGGGS report on the 9th European Guide Conference, (Luxembourg 02-07/05/1998) she is mentioned as " Marguerite Windram, a Guide from the UK, working for
the Red Cross ". (Perhaps in later years she got married to a Mr Windram.) Anyway she found that Scouting and Guiding were totally unknown in Albania and - blood being thicker than water - in her leisure time - she gathered around her girls and boys and founded a Guide Company as well as a Scout Troop. In the former she acted as the Guider, in the latter as the Scoutmaster, doubtlessly one of the first female ones. She reported to the British Guide Association as well as to the Scout Association and her appeals were not in vain and support was given. British Scout HQ was talked into inviting a number of promising Albanian young adults, selected by Marguerite, to come to Britain - all expenses paid - for a leaders' training. Though no evidence of the kind has been found until yet, it so seems that the Guides Association acted similarly. After their return these new leaders took charge of Albanian Scouting and Guiding and the movement grew in numbers and popularity, and continued doing so even after Marquerite's return to Britain. In the Scouting Magazine GURMUSIA (= Tracking) of March 25, 1927, the districtcommissioner M. Milova paid tribute to Marguerite and to the important work she had done for Albanian Scouting and Guiding. Even now - in revived Albanian Scouting and Guiding - she is still remembered and held in high esteem by all.

The Albanian government recognized the importance of both movements and - as well as the local authorities - supported their growth and development. The Scouts were united in the GJURMUSIS SHQYPTARE - ALBANIAN BOY-SCOUTS.
During the 2nd International Conference in Paris World Scouting was founded (vide Chapter One - "THE UNDAUNTED I") and all countries represented were accepted as members of the new World Movement of which they were considered to be the "Founder Members" and Albania was one of them. In the period 1924 - 1927, Baden-Powell, who always took a great interest in all foreign movements, sent to Albania Sir Arthur Godum and some British leaders to assist the Albanians. The General Director of the Ministry of Education, Mr Sotir Papakristo (1925) translated SCOUTING FOR BOYS and two editions of SKAUTIZMA PAS GJENERALIT ENGLES BADEN-POWELL were soon sold. In 1926 Mr Papakristo moved to the city of Korca, was employed as the director of the local French Lycee and took over as editor of the Scouting magazine GJURMUESI. Prime Minister at first, President later and finally King Zogoe took a great interest in both movements, as did his four glamorous sisters, who, apart from being recognized international beauties, also were leaders in the movements.

After 1918 Albania was initially led by the very competent and popular Prime Minister Achmed Zogoe Bey (08/10/1895 - 09/04/1961). In June 1924 a successful communist coup d'état, led by Bishop Fannoli, forced Zogoe to leave the country. But during winter 1924-1925 he returned and with Yugoslavian assistance removed the communists again. He was elected to be President but in 1928 was elevated to be King. Still grateful for the Yugoslavian assistance but afraid that Yugoslavian (Serbian) influence might grow, Zoe-
goe made overtures to Italy and gradually Albanian got very dependent on this country which was led by the Fascist Dictator Mussolini. The latter had its own plans and in spring 1939 Italian armed forces landed in the Albanian ports and occupied the country which was turned into an Italian province. King Zogoe and his family had to leave the country.

As in Italy, the Fascist banned and disbanded Scouting and Guiding.

It was not in the Albanians' nature to accept another foreign oppressor without resistance and anti-Italians took to the mountains and began a guerilla war. It must be admitted that there were also opportunists and fascists that gladly collaborated with the Italians as was the case in almost all occupied countries. In summer 1940 - Fascist Italy had just chosen Nazi Germany's side in World War Two (1939-1945) - the Duce decided to attack, overrun, defeat and occupy Greece from his basis in Albania. He came away with a flee in his ear. The Greek army not only resisted and stopped the Italians, it also counter attacked and succeeded in conquering 2/5 of the Albanian territory. The Albanians guerillas played their part in the fighting. A total eviction of the Italians might well have been possible had not Adolf Hitler, the Führer of Nazi Germany, come to the Duce's rescue. The German armies moved through Yugoslavia and Bulgaria and attacked Greece as well. This was too much and Greece was beaten and occupied by the Germans and Italians. In order to increase his popularity in Albania, Mussoline, whose forces were also in occupation of parts of
Yugoslavia, decided to enlarge Albania by annexing surrounding territories, such as Kosova/Kosovo and parts of Macedonia, inhabited by Albanians. There was bloodshed and murder and the Serbs were either killed or driven away.

Meanwhile under the influence of the Yugoslavian communists an Albanian communist party under Envor Hoxha was founded including a communist guerilla force which fought not only the Italians and Germans but regretfully also the other Albanians patriots resisting and attacking the foreign occupation. Hoxha was also the one who received the Allied arms droppings.

When first the Italians and later (1944) the Germans were obliged to retreat from Albania, the Hoxha partisans filled the vacuum and took over. Some Albanians called it The Liberation but others considered it to be a new occupation. The Hoxha partisans dealt with those who had collaborated with the enemy, but also with those who had not but had fought the occupation in the non-communist partisans who now opposed the communist take-over. Some opponents were liquidated immediately, others were locked up. In 1946 there were a large number of court cases dealing with those who desired democracy and were accused of being reactionaries or traitors and condemned as such.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING 1944 - 1945

Some scout leaders made an effort to revive scouting but the endeavour was nipped in the bud. In the Albanian communist encyclopedias the word Scouting was explained as "a reactionary bourgeois organization" Al-
banian youth was never to know anything about Scouting and was organized in a political youth organization divided in three age groups: Fatosa (7-10 years old), Pioneers (10-14) and a section for the 18-25 years old. As a uniform they wore the usual white shirt, a red scarf and short trousers, as in most of the communist countries. One had to be a member if one wanted to study and to achieve something. But even then the threat, warning and fear of being expelled hung over their heads like the Sword of Democles.

Mihal Dhima, later to play a leading role in Scouting, studied English at university. Having passed the final exams his fellow students were appointed in ministries in the capital Tirana, and some were sent abroad to be employed at the embassies in foreign countries. To his surprise and disappointment he was allotted a position as a teacher in a small town only. It was not until much later that he found that this was because his wife Dolores came from an ancient aristocratic family and consequently was suspect in the party's eyes. Outcasts they were with hardly a future at all.

THE REALITY

The Albanian communist leader Enver Hoxha was one of Stalin's very loyal disciples. Yet in 1944 - 1948 Albania was more or less a Yugoslavian satellite which even Enver Hoxha did not like. When the Tito-Stalin conflict (Chapter 8) caused a rift between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and Tito went his own way, Hoxha seized the opportunity to eliminate Yugoslavia's influence and he remained loyal to Stalin. But Stalin
died in 1953. In Moscow Nikita Khrushchev took over as the new Party's Secretary General in 1953 and in 1958 was also appointed Prime Minister. In 1960 he set in the destalinisation. But Hoxha remained loyal to the memory of Stalin and he severed all contacts with Moscow. Whereafter he bolted and secured hermetically the borders of his destitute country, totally isolating it. He created his own sort of communism, a Workers' Paradise not to be contaminated by other ideas, not those of the pernicious, decadent capitalist West, not those of the revisionist Tito-Yugoslavia and not those of the Soviet Union's which had so ungratefully, ruthlessly and pitilessly stabbed the Great Father Stalin in the back. Albania was a large prison and escaping from it was almost impossible. Italian TV was a window to the world but the Albanians were not allowed to watch and had to be very careful when doing so as betrayal was always lurking round the corner and the Sipurimi (the secret police) was always active and ready to strike. But even then, what they saw on the screen was in such a stark contrast to the drap, rough Albanian reality that many Albanians considered what was shown as to be an utopian movie with a low percentage of reality.

When a conflict arose between the Peoples' Republic of China and the Soviet Union Hoxa sided with China and the isolation of Albania was complete. It became a very lonely Stalinist Island in the world with no foreign connections at all.

Whereas Yugoslavia had opened its borders and attracted thousands of Western tourists each summer,
Albania kept its borders closed to all foreigners and consequently foreign tourists were unknown. In 1985 the government realised that tourists were spending money and would bring the much needed foreign currency. So small parties of western tourists were allowed in. But conducted coach tours only and led by government selected, reliable guides and interpreters only and to selected places only so that the harsh reality could be hidden. Yet even then the visitors were deeply impressed by the general state of the country, the neglect and the population's poverty. On the other hand the Albanians watched these visitors as if they were aliens from Outer Space.

A CRACK IN THE WALL : SCOUTING TRICKLES IN

To most of the small number of speakers of foreign languages selected to act as guides these conducted tours were total eye-openers. A new world presented itself to them and they learned things they had never heard of before. Sometimes there were not enough trusted party members available to tackle the job and others had to be used. Mihal and Dolores Dhima were such substitutes. In summer 1989, during one of his trips, Mihal met Kristo Goga, a Greek scout leader. He was the first person to ever talk to Mihal about World Scouting, its principles and methods. This new knowledge was quite different from what he was used to and - considering the system - it even frightened him to learn all this. But his world was about to change.
THE TURNING POINT

In the mid-eighties Corbatchev, the leader of the Soviet Union, introduced his Glasnost and Perestrojka and the world changed thereafter. In 1989 very unexpectedly the communist system collapsed. The Iron Curtain which for so long had divided Europe, in fact the World, into two hostile blocks, got holes and the impressive climax was the Tumbling Down of the Berlin Wall on November 9th, 1989. Some Albanians - secretly watching Italian TV - saw it all but the events such as the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia and the execution of the Ceausescus during the Romanian revolution did not sink in and the reality of it all did not seem to seep through. The more so as the Albanian regime, though weakened by Enver Hoxha's death, kept all this from its people, isolated as it was. But Enver Hoxha's successors could not prevent that the news of what was happening in the outside world seeped through and it could no longer be hidden from the population. In autumn 1990 the students held protest meetings demanding the government's abdication and the disbanding of the communist party, freedom and democracy. Such despite the Soqurimi's rough counter actions. At long last in early 1991 the communist regime fell. To be replaced by an other system but the poor Albanians had no idea what democracy was. Chaos in the country, chaos in the people's minds. The country itself one of the poorest and most underdeveloped in Europe. Those of the opposition that had survived the long years of communism all spoke with different tongues, There was intolerance, as
usual fed and caused by religion, and nationalism was at large.

THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF SCOUTING AND GUIDING

The collapse of the communist regime in many countries was unexpected and came as a surprise to the world. The revival of Scouting and Guiding in the former communists countries also came as a surprise to most - but a few - in the Scouting and Guiding worlds. The World Bureaux WOSM and WAGGGS were not prepared either. But they did not hesitate when letters began arriving from the East and Central Europe and it soon dawned upon them that something was really happening. Information on the World Movements was provided. Missions to investigate the situation were sent to many countries.

In November, 1989, January 1990, April 1990 and September 1990 WOSM Geneva issued its "Situation Reports" # 1, 2, 3 and 4. Many former communist countries were being mentioned but regarding Albania in each report, quote: "no news re revival of Scouting in Albania". Not until in the October 1990's "Report on Scouting and Guiding in Central and Eastern Europe" when it said : "We understand that the Albanian Authorities have collected information on Scouting. However we have no information on groups in existence." In WOSM's Situation Report # 5 of January 1991 : "The European Scout Office is looking for ways to establish contact with Scouts in Albania. Please inform the European Scout Office of any contact you might have."
Not that there was nothing happening in Albania. All during the communist years there had been the pre-1939 publications section of the National Library which had been closed to the general public. It contained books etc. that the regime deemed dangerous to the system and that might give readers ideas different from the ones imposed on them. Mihal and Dolores Dhima had a relative working in the secret section of the government's archives and she was able to provide them with a copy of "SCOUTING FOR BOYS" and other pre-1939 scouting publications. During March and April 1991 they read and absorbed the information and they decided to create a Scout Movement.

Their ideas were greatly welcomed and supported by their fellow teachers as well as some former, pre 1939 scouts, though the latter could do little more than supply encouragement and tell them how it once used to be and what they used to do before 1939. The new authorities in charge also got interested and Mihal and Dolores and their fellow workers were told: "This is what Albania needs. Only Scouting can bring together the Albanians. Only Scouting can help our youth to grow up as the future citizens."

But it was still chaotic in the country. Thousands, afraid that the new situation might not last long, tried to leave the country and to escape to Italy.

Early May 1991 Mihal and Dolores managed - one wonders how - to leave their country for the very first time in their lives. Which in itself must have been
quite a flabbergasting experience as they suddenly stood in a world they had never seen before. They went to Greece, intending to visit Kristo Goga of Ioanina, the man Mihal had met three years before. And they did so on May 6th and had long conversations with him. The next day they were taken to Athens. Their first time in a big city of a free, western country. They were totally browbeaten and overwhelmed by all they saw and heard. It was so different from what they had been used to all their lives. "We were impressed by the large buildings, the scout office, the scout shop, the scout uniforms" "There I got to know many scout leaders" "Back in Ioanina we were entertained by three other scoutmasters that I feel happy to write about. They were Mr Haxis, Mr Sasacos and Mr Bazas. I feel greatly indebted for all their help in training our scout leaders in different camps in Ioanina, of course with the help of the master of training Mr. Veruxis. It was in the evening of May 7th, 1991 that Mr Costas Candili called the World Bureau and in our presence he announced that two teachers from Albania intended to start scouting in Albania." "Since that moment the Scout Fire was burning within us."

The experienced Greek leaders gave the advice to tread carefully and to just start with one scout troop only and to later, after one or two years, found troops in other areas. But Mihal and Dolores were very enthusiastic and predicted that they intended "the Scout Flame to be burning all over Albania in six months time." No doubt the experienced Greek scout leaders shook their heads. And however they right they were,
this time they were wrong underestimating the enthusiasm, the willpower and the energy the Albanians were going to display.

Back in their hometown of Sarandë - on May 16th - the day Albania knew its first free elections - Dolores and Mihal called a meeting of fellow teachers and other adults such as representatives of the local government, the various religious institutions, parents and many others. A dedicated team was formed to set up Scouting. On May 18th the first scout troop was founded in Sarandë! The leadership managed to have a first national radio broadcast and published an article in one of the leading newspapers explaining the principles and methods of Scouting. And on June 19th the Albanian Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, assessing the value of Scouting and showing great trust in the initiators, approved and registered the still embryonic movement officially as BESA SİCOUTS ALBANIA. But it lacked many basic necessities without which its progress would be greatly hindered.

From May to mid-August 1991 the initiators despite the difficulties, lack of transport etc. traveled from one town to the other. They met hundreds of people and propagated scouting.

On June 20th they wrote to the World Bureau in Geneva, asking assistance. They received a prompt and encouraging answer and material from the Secretary General, Jacques Moreillon.

"Scouts-to-be have spontaneously addressed the World Scout Bureau by correspondence to inform that they have started Scouting activities in Albania. These letters have been duly answered by the European office. A fact finding mission to Albania is planned for this autumn.

The Greek Scout Association (Soma Hellinon Proskopon) is organizing scouting activities for children of Albanian origin who have moved with their families to certain areas in Greece.

Through these activities the Greek have established contact with people in Albania who have started Scouting there. The Greeks are also providing training for Albanian leaders."

Meanwhile the general situation in the country was still chaotic. But WAGGGS was also paying attention to Albania. In its Central and East European Report of July 1991, covering the period October 1990 - May 1991 it stated: "As soon as the political situation improves we will be able to make contact with a view to establishing Girl Guides/Girl Scouts in Albania."

In the report covering June/October 1991: "Through involvement in humanitarian aid projects, e.g. distribution of food and clothing, the Greek G.G.A. are developing contact here. They will distribute the WAGGGS promotional leaflet in Albania."

Regrettfully further WAGGGS reports were not available but a certain impression is given by the following quote from the Report on The 9th European Guide Conference, Luxembourg 02-07/05/1998.
"Renewed contact with Guiding was in summer 1991 when some Italian rangers and rover groups went to Albania for humanitarian camps. Young people gathered around those "strange foreigners dressed in a very funny way ". That was the beginning. "The cooperation with the Italians continued year after year until 1995 when the young people gathered together and decided to create their own Association. AGESCI (Associazione Guide e Scouts Cattolici Italiani) and GCB (Fédération des Guides Catholique de Belgique) (Belgium) assisted WAGGGS in their project to support the development of Guiding in Albania. "With you we will do great things " is the title of the project, a title chosen by the Albanians themselves. The official start of the project was the celebration of Thinking Day in 1996 followed by the first training camp for leaders in July 1996. An unfortunate break of 10 months took place due to the internal conflict in 1997".

The way chosen was to strengthen the existing groups before moving to the creation of new groups. To have a slow but stable development was seen as the best way to promote the movement. Today the Association is present in several cities from the north to the south of the country with more than 150 people involved and a network of potential leaders has been established, thanks to the good reputation that the young people involved have. The next step will be the founding of a General Assembly, the adoption of the constitution and the election of the national board, which will take place next July. An important step is to achieve status with
the governmental authorities while the religious authorities have already supported and sponsored the project."

Meanwhile Albania was still in a fragile situation but those involved in the rebirth of Scouting and Guiding were showing enthusiasm and great commitment and willingness to promote their work and to enable young people to enjoy Scouting and Guiding and take on their responsibilities. Various training courses were organized with the assistance of the Greek movement.

In October 1991 the European Regional Scout Office received two invitations to come and visit Albania. One from Mihal and Dolores Dhima and one from a person in Korçë, not named, who had also been in correspondence with the European Regional Scout Office.

Despite the country's fragile situation the European Regional Office's Yrjö Gorski accepted and visited Albania from November 11th until 18th, 1991. His findings were laid down in his Mission Report dated 25/11/1991. A quote from it

"Besa Scout Albania. Membership of the association is open to both sexes. It has its HQ, as well as some 300 members in Sarandë. It is also established in the following cities: Tiranë, Elbasan, Kocë, Shkodër, Berat, Fier, Gjirokastër, Krujë, Lezhë, Pogradec, Përmet, Peshkopi, Ersekë, Himar and Tepelenë, each with some 30 to 100 members."

He had meetings with not only the Republic's President but also burgomasters of the various towns he visited, other high ranking civil servants, the highest Muslim
Leader, the Archbishop of the Orthodox Church and the representative of the Roman Catholic Church.

"All the spiritual leaders I met during my visit to Albania welcomed the establishment of the Besa Scout Association as an organization whose aim is to help its members in their search for spiritual values, and they were willing to support the development of Scouting in Albania under a single Scout Association, open to different religious denominations. They were also prepared to help the association with the limited means they have at their disposal."

The government leader also explained that he was very much in favour of Scouting and would assist in its development, realizing "that Scouting has a specific purpose in the education of young people and a method that separates it from other youth organizations, such as the pioneers. It was clear to him - and the regional leaders - that Scouting in Albania needs to grow as an independent grassroots movement, with a democratic and non-political structure"

But there were also meetings at the grass-root level with the "Scouts-to-be" aged between 13 and 25." These meetings confirmed that the members of the association, both young people and adults, have some knowledge and understanding of the Scout Movement's purposes and principles, including the "adherence to spiritual principles" and the Scouting method. This is due to the fact that most of the WOSM documentation mailed to Albania has been translated and copied by the leaders of the association. (No not to be under-
rated, a difficult and time consuming feat !) However there seems to be much room for improvement in the field of youth activities. Basic necessities, such as programme documentation and scarves and shoes and many other things need to be provided for the young people before Scouting can really take off in Albania.

The European Regional Scout Office stated that it would assist BESA SCOUT's development in every possible way. Albanian Scouting was back on the World Map. From the 2nd - 5th of May, 1992 BESA's Chief Scout Mihal Dhima and the National Secretary, on the World Bureau's invitation, visited Geneva. Amongst other things they discussed the BESA's constitution. "Euro Focus" WAGGGS Magazine of Augustus 1992 and WOSM's "World Scout News" of June 1992 reported that Albanian's International Commissioner Dolores Dhima attended the 14th European Scout Conference at Helsinki.

All summer 1992 the focus was on summer and training camps and from August 1st until 15th Mihal and Dolores Dhima were invited to attend the Gilwell Training provided at the International Scout Centre of Les Scouts Catholique de France at Jambeville near Paris and they received their Wood Badges. At the invitation of the British Scout Association they were present at a conference in London from September 20th - 26th, all expenses paid.
WAGGGS' Central and Eastern Europe Report, covering November 1991 -March 1992 mentions Albania saying:
"The Greek G.C.A. is continuing its involvement in humanitarian aid projects. They plan to make a study visit to Tirana to promote the development of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting." Rosie Dunn, the then Travelling Executive for Central and Eastern Europe reports on February 28th, 1992: "Work continues by the Greek Girl Guides in providing humanitarian aid and making contacts which will be followed up as the situation allows. There is a contact with a university teacher in the capital."

Guides and scouts from several countries were involved in the humanitarian work done in Albania, a country not used to seeing foreigners and hence their activities attracted the people's and - in particular - the youngsters' attention. In the C & E Europe Report of January 1993, WAGGGS hits the nail on the head stating:
"The situation in Albania is unique within the Central and Eastern European countries due to the almost total separation from the rest of the world that it experienced. A volatile political situation, harsh economic conditions and the attitudes of the people create immense difficulties for the development of voluntary organization."

And indeed it also led to misunderstandings. The goodwilling people from the West, sent to advise, assist and train the Albanians did not always grasp the fact that they were dealing with people which - for many decades - had been held in total isolation by a regime that sought to prevent - and succeeded in so doing -
its people to get any information regarding the outside world. The Albanians had been kept ignorant, knew nothing and were suddenly put into a world that was totally new to them and, in several respects, frightening too. Such in a time of splendid means of communication such as telephone, fax, e-mail, radio and TV to name but a few. It was unbelievable indeed. The Albanians had to adjust to everything and in Scouting and Guiding it was often forgotten that they were brand new, empty, unwritten pages that had to learn everything. Sometimes the approach was such that the Albanian leadership, doing its upmost and a wonderful job, got the impression that the other party did not come to train and advise but to dictate. An impression which was also wrong but nevertheless sometimes led to unpleasant situations. embarrassing both sides.

There were some problems regarding the BESA's Constitution. The BSA leadership, doing its very best to be well prepared, read the Constitutions of the Movements of Germany, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Hong Kong and the model sent by the World Bureau. Yrjö Gorki had promised to come and help them, but when mentioning their work during above mentioned September Conference in London, they were attacked on being too premature. Which they felt as an unwarranted, undeserved and uncalled for rebuke. One of the difficulties they struggled with was the fact that they found that in most Republics the Head of State, the President mostly, was also the "Honorary President of the Scout Organization". But at that time the Head of State was still a left over from communist times and a represen-
tative of the party, that had done so much harm to the country. So they did not want to involve him in Scouting. So, unaware of the fact that the problem could have been postponed to a later date, also unaware of the fact that many an other scout movement in a lot of other countries do not have such an "Honorary President" they decided to bestow the title on the Minister of Culture. In the interim coalition government he represented the Democratic Party, one of the founders of which he was. This too was not understood by some Westeners lacking general knowledge of the country's political and historical backgrounds.

The BSA's First Constitutional Congress was held from October 22nd - 25th, 1992. More than 400 delegates from all over the country were present as were representatives of the World Bureau WOSM, the European Scout Office, the Italian, Greece, English, and Macedonian Scout Movements.

During 1993 and 1994 in the WOSM or WAGGGS bulletins, magazines and reports there was hardly any news at all re Albania. But plenty of activity in the BSA. There was another National Camp with 300 participants. Leaders attended training camps at home but also in Greece. Italian AGESCI sent 2000 square
metres of cloth for the manufacturing of shirts. The Badgers Challenge, in which most of the West European Scout and Guide items collectors associations were represented, had several badges - free of charge - made for the BSA amongst which a very nice membership badge with Eagle for the BSA as well as for the Guides. 1994 began with a visit of members of the US Eagle Scouts Association. There were discussions with the Italians again and the Youth Program Commissioner went to a Seminar in Sweden concerning the opening of the European Campaign against xenophobia (the resentment of foreigners), nationalism, racism, intolerance and antisemitism. The World Bureau and the European Office invited a BSA delegation to come to a meeting in Athens in June. Local camps as well as a National Camp were held. To the latter, attended by 268 scouts from 23 districts, the national TV dedicated an half hour program. Two patrols of senior scouts -over seventeen - participated in an International Camp in Greece. In October a first attempt was made to found a BSA "Baden-Powell Centre" in Tirana, the capital.

In 1995 BSA is getting more and more international. Representatives participate in the European Scout Conference at Salzburg, Austria. In June Dominque B’nard and Ray Saunders of the European Regional Office accompanied by Nil Williams of the UK Scout Association were paying a visit and again had discussion with government officials and the leaders of the various religions. It was decided that the European Region would finance the rent of the Tirana "Baden-Powell Centre". During the annual National Camp a General Conference
was convened and changes were made in the Executive Committee and the National Board. Mihal Dhima was re-elected as Chief Scout, his wife Dolores appointed as the top leader for the Girls in the movement. She had also written the book "Join Us In Scouting" which was highly praised by Jacques Moreillon, the Secretary General WOSM. Further it was decided that she would be appointed as the Executive Director of the new "Baden-Powell Centre" in Tirana. In September WOSM's Secretary General Dr Jacques Moreillon visited Albania again. He had two meetings with the country's President, discussions with the BSA leadership and he opened the "Baden-Powell Centre" in Tirana.

BSA - with regards to the various ethnic religious groups in the country - decided to start the project "All Different - All Equal" to last from October 1995 until June 1996.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner of Greece paid a visit in May 1996 and a third National Camp was held that summer. It was attended by 30 French Scouts who before had been working for a project in Pogradec.

From the start BESA SCOUT ALBANIA was coeducational so mixed, a real SAGNO or a Scouts and Guides National Organization. Yet - under the influence of the Guides Catholiques de Belgique (Belgium) and the ladies of AGESCI (Italian) - it was deemed necessary to create an additional separate Guide movement. At Bizé, in 1996, the two "link" movements organised a
training camp, coordinated by WAGGGS. 30 potential Guide leaders-to-be participated.

In 1997 disaster hit the still vulnerable and unstable country. In all the countries that shook off the shackles of communism there were those who thought that in the Western Capitalist World the streets were paved with gold and that progress and richness would be coming automatically. They did not know better but when it did not happen they got discontent with the country's development and progress. In Albania some crooks began a series of "pyramide games" in which a lot of Albanians invested the little money they had, hoping it would multiply. Maybe it was unknown to them that these games tend to collapse. In early spring 1997 there was a financial crisis. The people desperate, took to the streets and - in its desperation - caused terrible riots and upheavels. Strange though it may seem to many, some men, particularly so in the Balkans do have, the tendency of thinking that they are not being a complete man unless they have a firearm to brandish or - worse still - to fire. So police stations and army depots were attacked and robbed by some who armed themselves and formed gangs. Thereafter banks, shops, stores and warehouses were robbed. It was complete anarchy. What could not be taken was destroyed and it so seemed that some were totally out of their minds not knowing what they were doing and not realizing how much damage and harm they were doing to their poverty stricken country, their fellow citizens and last but not least to themselves.
Scouting suffered too.

WORLD SCOUTING NEWS WOSM June-July 1997:

Hard Times for Scouting in Albania.

The civil unrest in Albania has badly affected the country's fledgling Scout organization, Besa Scouts Albania. Dolores Dhima, International Commissioner of Albania's Scouts, reports: "As all over Albania, where all institutions, banks, schools, foundations and others have been destroyed and their contents stolen, the same thing has happened to offices, office equipment, tents, blankets, camping equipment, uniforms, books etc. of our Scout Organization. Based on the information received by our district commissioners the losses are great. Our national campsite was completely devastated. The association's office in Sarandë was burned down. Books and office equipment, collected over a six-year period, were stolen."

"Scouts tried their best to give their contribution for the establishment of tolerance and well-wishing in Albania. It was Besa Scouts Albania's initiative to organize many activities in Tirana Square with the slogan "flowers instead of guns". The Baden-Powell Scout Centre in Tirana is a focal-point for the leaders of many non-governmental organizations who come to discuss how to handle the situation..."

"We have declared on radio and television that it is now, more than ever before, that the children need Scouting. It is now that they need a little fun and entertainment. It is now that they need to sing, to
make them forget for a while the fireshots and the bullets. Two more Scout troops have just been formed in Tirana."

"Especially in these tense times, courage must be exhibited and fear overcome. For all our losses and for the future of Scouting in Albania, we very much rely on your help and that of other national Scout organizations."

Despite the fact that suddenly all communication inland as well as with the outside world was impossible during the riots, on April 26th-27th, 1997 the BSA National Board managed to meet and to discuss the unexpected, disastrous situation. The "B-P. Centre" in Tirana acted as a co-ordinator in the organization of activities for Peace and Tolerance and in co-operation with The Women of Albania BSA even organized mobile schools.

When the offenders came back to their senses and the riots died down much damage had been done and the country was back to nil. Scouting too had suffered a lot and had to start from scratch again. The faxes, computers, office and other equipment presented by WOSM, WAGGGS and other friends had either been stolen or destroyed. Communicating with WOSM, WAGGGS and the National Scout and Guide Movements was almost impossible. Yet the Albanians appeal to the other organizations was not in vain and help came. Slowly the Albanans regained their foothold. .
From OUR WORLD NEWS - WAGGGS, March 1998:

WITH YOU WE WILL DO GREAT THINGS.

The name Albania means the "country of eagles". Albania, a country in south-eastern Europe with a mixture of cultures, has chosen a motto for the development of its Guiding which aims, like eagles, to fly very high. "With You We Will Do Great Things". But who are "you" in the motto?

First of all the 1.5 million young Albanians who comprise over half the population. Secondly, their friends the AGESCI (Association of Catholic Guides and Scouts of Italy) and Guides Catholiques de Belgique (Belgium Catholic Guides) who are co-operating in this development project. Thirdly, WAGGGS acting as project co-ordinator.

Another quote from WAGGGS' MAGAZINE EUROFOCUS, April 1999 no 32.:

"On July 20th 1998 the Association of Guides and Scouts of Albania - Shoqata e Guidave dhe Scoutëve në Shqipëri - was officially created. The Association actually believes in and practices co-education and has requested to become member of WAGGGS only."

Shoqata e Guidave dhe Scoutëve në Shqipëri's founding assembly was held in Gjinar (El Basan) on the day as mentioned above. At that time 5 groups were operational.

And indeed it so seemed as if Albanian Guiding and Scouting were on the verge of attaining membership of the World Movements.
From November 22nd - 25th, 1998 Mihal and Dolores were again at WOSM's World Bureau in Geneva discussing with the Secretary General Jacques Moreillon, his Deputy Malec Gabr and the European Regional Director Dominique Bénard the possibilities and the prospects of BSA's recognition and admission to the World Organisation.

And just as it so seems that all is going well disaster is hitting the country and its people once again.

It has been explained previously that the Albanians claimed to be the descendants and the heirs of the ancient Illyrians, a people that in Roman times inhabited the areas to the north of the ancient Greeks and the ancient Macedonians. When the Slavonic tribes moved in from the north, the Illyrians resisted but were gradually pushed to the south east until the sea made further retreat impossible and they made a stand in the regions presently known as Albania, Kosovo/Kosova, parts of Montenegro and today's Macedonia. Kosovo or Kosova mostly had an Albanian speaking majority also when it was allotted to Serbia. When in 1989/1990 the communist regimes and systems collapsed, in some countries they were replaced, regretfully, by nationalist leaders and governments. Some of these leaders were the one day still convinced communists, the next day fanatic nationalist. In order to maintain their precious power they made promises they had never made before and some turned to nationalism, which the system had always condemned and suppressed as being "an enemy of the working classe". After some of the Federal Yugoslavian Republics had
declared their independence, Yugoslavia shrunk and the name Yugoslavia was maintained only by Federated Serbia and Montenegro. Kosovo had been an autonom province in the Yugoslav federation, but Serbia's leader Milosevic, turned nationalist, promised that he would make Kosovo-Metohija (the official Serbian name, the Albanians are using Kosova) once again an undissoluble part of Serbia. The area was declared to have been the cradle of Serbian civilization. Here the Serbs, and they alone - no others involved - had tried to stop the Turks on the Field of the Black Birds, here too the eldest monasteries and churches of the Orthodox religion were build. Seldom it was stated or admitted that all the time Albanians had been living there as well, well before the Serbs ever came.

When their autonomy and rights were taken away, the Kosova Albanians resisted. At first civil disobedience and peaceful protests, but when this did not work, around 1994-1995 also armed resistance and Albanian youngsters formed the UCK - Ushtrija Clirimtare ë Kosoves or the Kosova Liberation Army. On behalf of the Serbs (but not with the approval of all of them) plans were made and executed to "ethnically clean" Kosovo of all Albanians and in 1998/1999 terrible things were happening in the province. Thousands of Albanian speaking were trying to escape and were filling the refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania. The UCK emerged from its hide outs and tried to protect the people and a war began. The situation escalated, in spring 1999 NATO stepped in and bombed not only the Serbian forces in Kosovo but also Serbia. In the end Serbia
had to give in and withdrew its armed forces from Kosovo. A new drama began, thousands of Serbs, living in Kosova, fled to Serbia. Urged by the returning Albanians and the UCK. As in these conflicts there are "Neither Good Guys nor Bad Guys" once again terrible things happened. But one thing was certain, the Mr. Milosevic's planned ethnic cleansing had worked. But it that, contrary to his intention, the area had now been cleansed of Serbs.

Albania was very much effected though it could not permit itself to get involved. But blood being thicker than water it could not just stand aside and simply watch. Albania became the UCK's feedpipe and the safe place for the Kosova refugees. It was too heavy a burden for a country that had not yet recovered from its own recent riots. But with the assistance of other countries it did all it could to help the thousands of refugees that crossed its borders, often chased by the Serb forces.

The Albanian Guides and Scouts also faced the new challenge. Their meagre possessions, such as their tents, were pitched to house the refugees. Until assistance came from elsewhere they in cooperation with the Red Cross/Red Crescent did everything in their power to soften the refugees suffering. Later Guides and Scouts helped the international humanitarian forces improving refugee conditions, serving as translators, setting up refugee lists etc.
etc. and later entertaining the kids. When the NATO forces had intervened and the fighting in Kosova was over the refugees left Albania to return to their destroyed villages and towns and once again the scouts and guides assisted them. Of course all these events distracted both movements from their normal activities and plans and yet it so seems that the development did not come to a standstill. The Guide movement, in autumn 1999, claimed 9 operational groups.

The 35th World Conference WOSM was held at Durban in South Africa from July 26th - 30th 1999. The Organizata Skautiste Shqiptare Besa Skauts Albania's leadership was requested to attend. It was during this Conference that Organizata Skautiste Shqiptare Besa Skauts Albania was - by unanimous vote - admitted to and recognized by WOSM as The National Scout Organization of Albania. To the leaders, who had been working hard to achieve this, standing there and receiving their certificate it must have been a very proud and - maybe - emotional moment. They well deserved it. From scratch, knowing nothing, having nothing, they - with great enthusiasm and a tremendous quantity of will-power - had worked hard, had overcome many difficulties and setbacks and yet created a fine movement to the benefit of

Albanian Youth. Not forgetting those who assisted them, they can be very proud indeed of their hard work and achievements and their names will go down in Guiding's and Scouting's varied, interesting and never boring history.
NOTES.

1) Constantin the Great, Emperor of the Eastern Roman or Byzantium Empire (306 -337 ACE), above all wanted peace and order in his realm. The Mithras religion, which had replaced the ancient Roman and Greek religions, clashed with the new Christian one. The disputes causing an unrest which Constantin did not like. He wanted to end the strives between the two competing religions and desired one official state religion excluding and banning all others. Weighing all the pros and cons this proven opportunist opted for the Christian Church. The Mithras religion was banned and disbanded. It did not bother the Mithras priests and their followers much. They simply changed religion and brought with them many traditions, ceremonies and ceremonial dresses which can still be admired in many of today's Christian Churches. One wonders what today's world and society would have been like if Constantin had Mithras and had banned the Christian religion.

In 1054, long before the Fall of the East Roman or Byzantine Empire, the original Christian Church, accepted by Constantin, split into the western Roman Catholic Church and the eastern Orthodox Church. The latter maintained its influence in Byzantium and so the state line between Byzantium and the rest of Europe also became a religious border which divided Europe and in particular the Balkans. In later years the intolerance was the cause of many wars and and a lot of hatred between the various Balkan inhabitants.

2) The Turkish or rather the Ottoman armies carried red banners displaying the white Waxing Moon or Crescent, (in French Le Croissant) and a five pointed white Star. In 1683, during the second Turkish siege, the Viennese bakers, probably the only ones working at night, heard strange, underground noises, raised the alarm and further investigations brought to light that the Turks were digging a tunnel to undermine the city wall. The Turks were chased off and the bakers had saved the day. When the siege was over the Viennese bakers, to add to the celebrations, baked crescent shaped rolls which later went all over the world as the tasteful Croissants and are wrongly supposed to be of French origin.

3) Johan Kastriota, Prince of Emathia in Albania, was head of a prominent family that - in order to regain some of its lost power - converted to Islam. He was indeed appointed governor of Emathia. He had three sons. To increase his sense of loyalty Sultan Moerad II took them hostage. But one of them - George Kastriota (1406 - 17/01/1467) - in 1422, was also appointed governor of a province. After his Father's
death he demanded the leadership of Emathia. This incurred the Turks' displeasure and George had to save his life by fleeing to the city and fortress of Kroja (1443). He made an appeal to the Albanians to fight for their freedom and raised an army. Favoured by the nature of the mountainous terrain he managed to inflict the attacking Turks many defeats and in 1461 the Turks had to give in to his demands. Yet in 1463 George made war on the Turks again until he died on the battle field on 17/01/1467. The inspired leader gone the resistance died down and soon the Turks were once again in overall control of Albania. The Albanians named their hero Iskander Beg (Prince Alexander) or Skanderbeg. He was always held in high esteem by the people as a national hero, a symbol and an inspiration to all Albanian Guerillas or Partisans that, throughout the ages, fought for their country's liberty.

Skanderbeg was the first one hoisting the Red Flag with the Double-headed Black Eagle, which has since remained the symbol of Albania and the Albanians. Each time during their long history when the Albanian revolted against an oppressor, this flag was raised. During the course of the years many additional symbols have accompanied the Eagle on the flag - a Star of Independence, a Crown of Royalty, the Fasces of the Italian Fascist domination and the Gold-bordered Red Star of Communism. The UCK - Ushtrija During the conflict between the Serbs and the Albanians in Kosova (1998-1999) the UCK - Ushtrija Clmtare ë Kosoves, the Kosova Liberation Army used that banner and badge as well.

4) Crna-Gora = Montenegro or Black Mountains was an inaccessible mountainous region easy to defend. The Turks - during their conquest of the Balkans - time and again tried to penetrate but never really succeeded in subjecting the people to its rule. In 1799 the Turkish government officially and publicly made it known that the people of Crna Gora had never been Turkish subjects. During the above mentioned Berlin Congress (1878) the Big European Powers officially recognized Montenegro as being an independent state. In 1910 Prince Nikita (1860-1918) as King Nikita I mounted the throne. During the Balkan War (1912-1913) the country participated and during World War One (1914-1918) the country was occupied by the Austrians but its partisans managed to be a nuisance to them and to push them out again. Thereafter the parliament chose to become part of the newly created Kingdom of Yugoslavia and King Nikita was dethroned and sent packing.

5) Revived Albanian Scouting did not re-introduce the pre-1939 name - Gjurmusis
Shqyptare - but chose: Organizata Skautiste Shqiptare Besa Skauts Albania = Land of Eagles Scouting Organization Besa Scouts of Albania. A complicated name. Mihal Dhima explained: "In Albanian as in Greek BESA means Word of Honour. But BESA was much more during the long Turkish occupation, it was also the civil and penal code that ruled Albania and the Albanians. If someone gave BESA to someone else death was easier than to break BESA. BESA was so strong that if someone knocked at the door, even in the middle of the night, saying: "I am your BESA" and you answered saying: "BESA BESA" and thereafter opened your gate to find that there stood your enemy, you nevertheless had no right to harm him but had to welcome him too and shelter him in your home. Many ballads, legends and stories relating to BESA are making the Albanian myths and mythology one of the richest in Europe."

6) THE SCOUT AND GUIDE BADGES.

Both movements lacked everything and were not very strong financially. So they were very pleased when they were approached by the Badgers' Challenge.

For as long as there have been Scouting and Guiding there have been Collectors of Scouting and Guiding items, Badges in particular. These Collectors are also known as "Badgers" and in almost every scout or guide movement they are united in Badgers' Clubs. When Scouting and Guiding revived in East and Central Europe and in some Asian and African countries - which had been under communist influence - they received support from the movements all over the world. Some West European Badgers' Clubs decided to unite their efforts and formed a special committee operating under the title of "The Badgers' Challenge". Money was collected from the members and other supporters but it was decided not to transfer the money but to invite the revived movements to design their own badges and to send these to the Committee. It had the badges manufactured and sent them, free of charge, to the revived movements. A quantity of each badge was held back and sold to the Badgers' Clubs members, enabling them to enlarge their collections. The proceeds were reserved and used to have more badges manufactured for other new movements interested.

The BESA Scouts did not re-introduce the pre-1939 badges and emblems but made a new design based upon the WOSM's World Emblem. On a White Field the Arrowhead and the Rope in Orange, the Albanian Coat of Arms the Black Two Headed Eagle on the Red Shield - superimposed on the Arrowhead and the association's name in Black. The Guide Move-
ment designed and obtained a badge with the Black Eagle on a Red Trefoil on a Blue Field, surrounded by a black yellow circle.
CHAPTER 11. Estonia – Eesti

It is easier to understand the birth and growth of Scouting and Guiding if a little is known of the country itself.

The original Estonians are kinsmen of the Finns. Their common ancestors - the Ugrofinns also known as the Finno-Ugric nations - thousands of years ago, came from Asia beyond the Ural Mountains and settled in the Valley of the River Volga. But - much later - they went on the move again and migrated into Europe. During the process, for reasons unknown, they divided into two main groups, one going south settling in what is presently known as Hungary. The other one going north and settling in northern Russia between the Baltic and the Ural, but more in particular in the vast country which is presently called Suomi or Finland, whereas some populated the southern bank of the Gulf of Finland, to the west of Lake Peipus and the river Narva, to the east of the Baltic and the Gulf of Riga, to the north of today's Latvia, the area presently known as Estonia.

All this happened at least a 5 thousand ago years but the Estonian and Finnish languages (which are said to be among the most difficult languages in Europe to learn) have a good deal of similarity between them still, and traces of them are said to be still found in Hungarian.
The Estonians, the Finns and the Hungarians have nothing in common with the Slavs or the Teutons, neither by race nor by language. Yet particularly during the last 2 thousand years the Estonians' destiny was always greatly influenced and dictated by their neighbours and as a result - during that period - the Estonians - as the Finns - have known little independence, freedom and self determination as they were mostly dominated by foreign powers.

The Swedish Vikings were the first to bother the Aesti or Esti. In their Long Ships they crossed the Baltic Sea, and, as was their usual style, raided the villages on the Estonian shores. Later they came as traders and even as settlers and one way or the other some mixed with the Esti and left their traces.

Meanwhile Christianity had spread over southern and central Europe and the Teutons had been converted. So all the others with deviating religions were branded as being pagans and as usual the Christians thought it their duty to convert them, if necessary by force. In today's Germany there were many second and third sons of Knights and other gentry that - knowing that they would never inherit their fathers' property, and that they would have to carve their own living - sought adventure and loot. They united and were known under several names such as the Teutonic Knights, the Knights of the Sword, the German Order or the Fratres Militiae (The Armed Brotherhood). Pretending it to be their main task to spread the Christian civilization and religion by converting the heathens of the east and north, sword in hand, they conquered the so called pagan ter-
ritories. They went on crusade. Taking Prussia, entering today’s Lithuania and Latvia and, in 1184 founding the city of Riga in Latvia. The Danes had meanwhile occupied northern Estonia and the Esti had to fight the Danes as well as the Teutonic Knights. In 1227 they were finally beaten and their country was divided between the Danes and the German Knights. The Estonians had lost their liberty and independence and during the next 7 centuries were ruled by foreign rulers whereas their country was the arena in which these uninvited guests fought their many battles. In 1346 the Danes were defeated by the Knights who took possession of all of Estonia. In 1561 the Teutonic Order disbanded though many Knights, who had, in one way or the other, obtained large estates, remained behind and would always keep a hold and maintain a German influence. Estonia was taken over by the Swedes.

The originally small Principality of Moscow extended and became known as Russia. It came to many wars between Sweden and Russia. During the Great Nordisk War (1700-1721) the Swedes were driven out of Estonia which the Russians officially annexed in 1710. The war ended with the Peace Treaty of Nystad. Sweden kept Finland but had to surrender to the Russians its Baltic provinces, including Estonia. A situation to remain unaltered until 1917.

In August 1914 the Great War, later known as World War One, began. Russia belonged to the Allies, Germany to the Centrals. The German Imperial Armies invaded Russia and occupied large areas. Tsarist Russia was ended by a Revolution in March 1917. The Tsar's
regime was overthrown and replaced by a democratic administration consisting of social-democrats, liberals and technocrats. A new form of government hitherto totally unknown to the Russians and the other subjected peoples. In October 1917 the Bolsheviks or Communists committed a Coup d'État. A civil war began between the Bolshevik Red Army and the Russian White Armies. The latter, divided in their loyalties to either the Tsar or the new democracy, were defeated. Russia's early and still tender democracy was strangled and replaced by the Soviet Union, a tough, stone hard, one-party dictatorship that was to last almost 70 years and finally ceased to be on December 8th, 1991.

The Russian front collapsed, the German armies advanced without meeting much resistance and occupied the Baltic provinces, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. On February 24th, 1918 they marched into the Estonian capital Tallinn, also known as Reval. In Brest-Litowsk on March 3, 1918 the Bolsheviks signed a peace treaty with the German Empire, surrendering the Baltic provinces and Poland to the Germans and recognizing Finland and Ukraine as independent states. It is not known what Imperial Germany's intentions with the Baltic countries were. Would it annex them as part of its Reich or grant them independence under German supervision? No one was ever to find out as Imperial Germany also collapsed and World War One ended with the armistice at 11the hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The German army had to retreat from the Baltic countries. But that did not mean that
the war in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was over, on the contrary.

Their peoples pleased to have gotten rid of the Russians at long last, may not have been so pleased with the German occupation as an alternative, not knowing what the Germans intended. But when the Germans withdrew the Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians smelled freedom. In 1918 the Estonians proclaimed their independence as a democratic republic. At the same time the Red Army attacked, intending to retake the Baltic provinces. But the Estonians had armed themselves and fought. Fierce battles raged but the Red Army was repulsed. In 1920 a peace treaty finally settled the conflict. Soviet Russia recognized Estonian independence. After 207 years of Russian domination Estonia was a free country at last, as were Latvia and Lithuania.

SCOUTING

The first scout troop ever in Estonia was founded in 1912 in the city of Pärnu on the west coast. The city, a sea port and a trade centre, had a very mixed population. The scouts originated from all over the western part of Tsarist Russia, and were Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Russians. The impulse came from the Russia. In 1909 Oleg I. Pantuhoff had founded the first Russian scout troop ever in the city of Pavlovsk to the south of St Petersburg. (see THE UN-DAUNTED I, Russian Chapter.) From there Scouting spread and consequently also reached Estonia. Russkii Skautizm, not a National Scouting Organization but a
Co-operative Society, was founded and the Pärnu troop registered with it as being the first troop in the Tsar's Baltic provinces and it remained the only one of its kind in Estonia for the following 4 years. It flourished and developed well.

When World War One began in 1914 the German armies, on their way to St Petersburg, slowly advanced from East Prussia, through Lithuania and Latvia. In 1915 units of the Imperial Baltic Fleet appeared off the port of Pärnu and shelled the town, causing considerable damage and victims. Further the city was bombed by German Airships, particularly so in 1917 when the German armies were approaching. The Russian authorities in charge decided that all, but the Estonian population, had to be evacuated. And so in the troop the Estonian scouts were the only ones left. During the uncertain period when the Russian army had not yet left, but had lost control and the Germans had not yet occupied the town, the Estonian Scouts carried on and during their opening ceremonies replaced the Russian Tsarist flag by the old national Estonian one, the tricolour of blue, black and white.

In 1916 two All-Estonian scout troops were founded at Tallinn at the initiative of Anton Ounapuu, a teacher of physical education. He had studied in Finland and had acquainted himself with Finnish Scouting. Although his scouting activities were not to last long - in April 1919 he was killed in action during the following War of Independence - the Estonian Scouts always considered him as to be their "Founder Father" and as such he was and is still held in high esteem. At about that
time scouting troops were also founded in various other cities. From Latvia and Lithuania evacuees had arrived and were temporarily housed in Estonian villages and amongst them were enthusiastic students from high schools and universities, scouts in their own areas, who now helped founding troops in their new places or residence. These attracted local Estonian boys. And so, despite the war and the constantly advancing Germans, scouting grew in numbers and popularity. All used the Russian translation of Baden-Powell's SCOUTING FOR BOYS.

Meanwhile the German Forces in pursuit of the retreating Russians advanced, and after the Peace Treaty of Brest Litowsk had been signed (03/03/1918) all of Estonia was officially occupied by the German Imperial Army and put under its military rule. The Estonians having seen the Russian departure, smelled liberty and independence but all demonstrations of such were strictly forbidden by the Germans, as was all nationalism and were all associations promoting nationalism and independence. Scouting was supposed to be such an institution and so the German Command ordered the banning and disbanding of all troops and the cessation of all scouting activities. But as would be proven very often in later years all over the world, the scouting spirit survived and scouts carried on illegally until the Germans had to retreat from the country after 11/11/1918.

The Estonian War of Liberation began and there was a temporary halt in Scouting's development. Most of the leaders and boys of 16 and older joined the Estonian Liberation Forces and fought the attacking Red Army.
In 1920 the Russian Bolshevist regime had to recognize Estonia's independence. Scouting was reactivated immediately. Those who had survived the war rejoined the younger ones who had kept the troops going. It spread all over the country and many more wanted to join. This in itself was a problem as there was a lack of experienced leaders. So many of the leaders' ages desired had fallen during the War of Independence so that there was a real shortage of able men.

Some problems were solved during the 1st Estonian Scout Conference held in Tartu in March, 1921. The Eesti Skautide Litt or Estonian Boy Scout Association was founded under the leadership of Jaan Hünerson as its NHQ chief. In December 1921 Nikolai Kann, headmaster of a Tallinn school, was elected Estonian Peaskaut = Chief Scout. He held his post until his death in exile in a West German Displaced Persons Camp in 1948.

In 1920 the 1st World Jamboree was held in London, England. Ten Estonians participated. The camping was in Richmond Park, the public demonstrations were performed in Olympia, a large hall. Baden-Powell, proclaimed Chief Scout of the World, called a meeting of all leaders present. This meeting was later considered as to be the First International or World Conference. B-P and many of his co-operators in many countries had been much impressed by the bloodshed during WW I and as so many they understood that that war had been caused by overdone nationalism. So in order to contain nationalism and to concoct a better understanding between the nations and their youngsters in par-
ticular, it was proposed the creation of an International Movement under an International Leadership, with the emphasis on International Brotherhood. All leaders present were requested to discuss the plans in their own movement and - having come to a conclusion - to come to the Second International Conference to be held in Paris in 1922.

GUIDING

As in so many other countries the activities of the first Estonian Scouts were also eagerly watched by their sisters. They also wanted to be part of the game and so it happened that some Estonian troops had girl patrols. A co-educational movement. But not for long. During the War of Independence separate girls-troops were formed. 1920 and 1921 saw the creation of the Eesti Gaidide Maleva - Estonian Guide Association - and the first Girl Guide Districts in and around Tallinn and Tartu were founded. In 1921 1720 Girl Guides and Scouts paid a visit to Finland to meet the Finnish Movements. In 1922 as Chief Guide was elected Eleonore Hünerson, (Jaan's sister) a teacher of English. She remained in office until her death in Exile in Great Britain in 1949.
A country which, as representative of her movement, she also visited many times, beginning in 1920 when she attended the 1rst GG International Conference in Oxford.

NATIONALISM

Baden-Powell's achievement to curtail if not ban nationalism in Scouting and to replace it by internationalism was more or less successful in that during the Scouts' 2nd International Conference (1922) in Paris all movements represented accepted the proposals made and the International or World Movement was founded with an International or World Committee leading it and an International or World Bureau administering it. The movements present were admitted as members to the International Movement and since were known as the "Founder Members" and Littmõne Eesti Skautide Litt was one of them.

But nationalism as such was still at large in many countries. This was, maybe, not surprising in countries like Estonia which had only recently obtained their freedom and independence. But regrettably it caused a split in Estonian Scouting. B-P's plans were discussed during the 1st National Conference, December 1921, and it was found that some Estonian Scout leaders considered the internationalism of World Scouting not to be quite compatible with their nationalistic ideas and wanted to keep a more nationalistic outlook in their Scouting. As early as 1920 they left Eesti Skautide Litt and founded a new association more in line with their trend of thought. They chose the name Noorsepad or
*Noored Sepad* = Young Smiths. Initially *Noorsepad* was a great success. Many scouts left their original movement and soon *Noorsepad*’s numbers were so large that a dozen districts could be formed.

**EESTI SKAUTIDE LITT**

Despite this drain the movement, under the strong leadership of its President Jaan Hünerson, survived this crisis. Its membership went down to a fraction of what it had been and in some places the movement disappeared when its troops joined Noorsepad. In 1923 new rules and regulations were introduced, a strict translation of the B-P's British originals, as in so many other countries. He also introduced the Council of Scouters and his initiative also led to the founding of the *Skaudi Sofirade Litt* = Scouts Friends Organization, and adult support group. It had its branches in every district and its task was to support and above all sponsor not only the scout troops but also the guide companies.

After a couple of years purposeful measures began to show effects. A national camp or a Suurlaager (Big Camp) was organized in 1926 which brought together about 500 boys including some foreign scouts. This was the first Suurlaager of a long sequence to follow. In 1932 the second one was held with 1200 participants, including 200 from abroad. From then onwards the movement went upwards again, recovered and prospered.
The Guides held their First National Guiders Conference at Valga in 1924. A Pe-astaap = NHQ was created and a Committee was formed with the task to formulate the association's statutes which were based on those of the Scout movement and were approved and accepted in 1929.

Marcia O. Dunham, a British Guider, visited Estonia and sent her detailed report dated 07/12/1920 to Gladys Bretherton at British GG Imperial Headquarters in London. In it she stated that in Tallinn/Reval she had "inspected" three companies, two of Estonian Girl Guides and one of Russian Girl Guides. In 1925 Miss Bretherton herself came to see and offered a lot of advice. Apart from being involved in British Guiding she was also a leading person in the British and World YWCA and as such an organisation also existed in Estonia. she brought the two together. Ever since YWCA and YMCA, as in most of the Scandinavian countries too, influenced Estonian Scouting and Guiding very much until this very day.

In 1926 another conference was held in Tallinn. The guide uniforms and the badges were standardized. The
membership badge to be a Green Metal Trefoil, which in 1931 was replaced by a beautiful Green Enamel Trefoil. There were Brownies - Hellakesed (motto Saa Paremak = Try to Improve), Guides - Gaidid, Rangers - Venemgaidid and Commissioners = Vanem, all with the motto Ole Valmis = Be Prepared, also used by the Scouts. Next to Promise and Law there were the Iron Commands: A Guide learns diligently - A Guide uses neither alcoholic drink nor tobacco.

In 1928 - during an International Conference in Parad/Hungary - WAGGGS was founded and Eesti Gaidide Maleva was represented and belonged to the "Founder Members". During this founding meeting it was decided that each member movement was to send WAGGGS a Biennial Report regarding the "State of the Movement". Stating names of the leadership, particulars re training and activities etc, the number of members. First report covered the period July 1rst 1928 - June 30th, 1930. Five such Estonian Reports were preserved and are giving the membership as 710, 802, 1271, 1840 and - in the very last report - as per June 30th, 1938 : 2463.

In Southampton, on August 12th, 1933, the Chief Scout and Chief Guide of the World boarded the White Star Line's luxury liner "CALGARIG" for a seventeen days' Baltic Cruise. The Baden-Powell’s were accompanied by 650 British Guiders and Scouters. The ship had several ports of call in the Netherlands, Poland, Latvia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Lithuania and also Estonia, where she moored on August 19th. The B-Ps and the others went ashore in Tallinn and were - as
everywhere else - greeted with great enthusiasm by the local scouts and guides. The happening stopped all traffic, attracted the public's attention and boasted the movements' popularity.

NOORED KOTKAD (YOUNG EAGLES)

More trouble ahead. In 1938 the Boy Scout International Bureau in London received an Estonian report (1) quote:

"Immediately after the Revolution or War of Independence, a voluntary Defence League, or, as it sometimes called, Civil Guard, was formed in order to help to secure the defence of the country and its establishment as an independent unit. This Defence League is still maintained as a voluntary body, under State supervision. It has both men and women members, organised separately but dependent on each other"

"There is now a men's membership of some 150,000."

"Eight years (1931) ago the question of future recruitment to the Defence League was considered and it was decided to establish a Youth Branch consisting of Noored Kotkad = Young Eagles for boys and Kodutõtred = Home Daughters for girls, not in opposition to the existing Scouts and Guides, but complementary to them."

"Speaking in general terms this new movement was not welcomed by the Scouts who resented its introduction. The Chief Scout Dr N. Kann, principal of one of the Estonian Colleges in Tallinn was also in opposition,
partly on political grounds. Some individual Scouters took up work with the Young Eagles, and were unfortunately suspended and removed from the Scout Association for so doing."

The Civil Defence's Youth Branch was founded in May 1930 and the boys' part was operative in November, whereas the girls began in 1933. Sponsored by the government it had a solid and sound financial backing. The leaders were salaried and many scout and guide leaders were lured to its ranks. The new movement soon attained a membership double that of the scouts. It used the scouting method but with additional military training and could thus not be considered as being a scout movement according to the World Movements' rules. As some English Guiders, who were sent to Estonia to help with the original Movement stated in their report to the International Bureau:

One of the principal difficulties is that the Guide Movement has to compete with an official youth movement, which is encouraged and subsidized by the State, whereas the Guides are only tolerated. We found small groups of girls in out-of-the-way places clinging determinedly to the World Guide Association though surrounded with flourishing companies belonging to the National Movement-companies which have paid leaders, whose uniforms are given them, and whose camps are free. But there is an inspiration in the World Movement which seems lacking in the other."

The *Eesti Skautide Litt.* and *Eesti Gaidide Maleva* again lost members to this new movement. A rivalry
developed which had a positive effect on the scout and guide organisations. They improved the quality of their training and activities now that there was more competition. Generally speaking, despite everything, the movements were not doing too badly after all. They held their own and also increased their numbers including an influx of new leaders, that is adults who had been scouts and guides from the beginning and had now reached the age required for leadership. But they also wanted more say in the running of the movements and in *Eesti Gaidide Maleva* a National Guiders Council was created with as its first Chairwoman Aty Jõks.

In 1932 a Guide Shop was opened and the first Guide's Handbook was published. Also for the first time a national Scout and a national Guide magazine were published. The scouts held their 2nd Suurlager or national camp attended by 1200 scouts, including 200 guests from Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Camp Chief was Herbert Michelson who was also to be in charge of the Suurlagers in the following years and whose name will be mentioned again later.

In 1933 the Girl Guides had their Suurlager from July 15th - 25th and British Guiders visited this camp. It was during this camp that the above mentioned National Guiders Council was created. The visit by the Baden-Powell’s and the large a number of British leaders for the Guides proved to also be an important boost of morale and good propaganda in general.

DARKENING SKIES
The great advantage of Scouting and Guiding is that they are open to all, that neither on the national nor the international level do they meddle with party-politics and they do not attach themselves to a political party or ideology. So everybody of every background can be a member. This, as related in other chapters, did not mean that politics did not try to interfere with or even attempt to annex scouting and guiding.

Estonia's geographic situation was not favourable. In the east the adjacent Union of Socialist Soviet Republics was getting stronger all the time and it looked upon the Baltic States with an envious and greedy eye. Reluctantly and under pressure of the circumstances having permitted them to become independent. Its leaders - or rather its leader Joseph Stalin - had still not forgotten that for hundreds of years these now independent territories had until recently been Russian provinces. Further the USSR was intent on spreading the "blessings" of communism to other countries but at the same time it was afraid of being counter attacked by capitalist states, a fear which increased when in January 1933 Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist
German Workers Party (NSDAP) had taken over and turned Germany into a one-party, dictatorial state. The Nazis, as Hitler and his gang were known, were declared enemies of communism, which they promised to destroy. Even though Poland and the Baltic States were buffer-states separating the two arch enemies, both were trying to get - in particular - the Baltic States under their influence. The Nazi-Germans had it easy. Throughout the ages Germans had been living in the Baltic states. There had always been a German minority, mostly a wealthy one, and their influence in every level of society was strong. The Nazi propaganda had a great impact and not only on them. They had the advantage that the populations of the three Baltic countries were much afraid and in fear of the power of the Soviet Union. Above all they wanted to maintain and protect their independence for which they had sacrificed so much in 1920. Yet there were small communist and small Nazi-parties. The Estonian government in its efforts to remain neutral and to maintain independence took harsh steps.

In March 1934 Konstantin Päts installed his dictatorship and promoted strict neutrality.

Everybody of German lineage, living abroad, including those whose ancestors had settled their generations ago - and consequently had the nationality of their country of birth - according to the Nazi ideology was still considered to be a German (Volksdeutsche) whether he or she liked it or not. Some liked it and the Nazi Party and its Hitler Youth, had many units in other European countries and the USA. The German element in
Estonia was rather strong and most, not all, felt very close to Nazi Germany. Obviously their youngsters joined the Hitler Jugend or the Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls). Some other Estonians, attracted by the Nazi ideas, were also permitted to join. In 1936 the Hitler Jugend made approaches to Civil Defence's Noored Kotkad = Young Eagles. In order to avoid and prevent a take-over the government decided to place all Youth Organisations - Scouts, Guides, Young Eagles, Home Daughters and all the others - under State supervision, disbanding and banning some. The Commander-in-Chief, General Laidoner, was named by the President as the Supreme Head of all Youth Movements because he was responsible for the peace and defence of the country and also because he was not a politician. The amalgamation of the Youth Movements was supposed to be concluded on December 31st, 1939.

The Estonian Girl Guides were prepared to cooperate more with the trend of affairs than the Eesti Skautide Malev. The latter feared political influence and was afraid that it might, as a result, lose its World Movement recognition and membership.

The "Camp Chief" (1) was rather pessimistic in a report to Wilson - the Camp Chief of Gilwell Park near London:

"There are at present negotiations in progress about the amalgamation of the Scouts with the Nationals. The Scouts have not yet said their last word, but they will have to do so, otherwise the organisation will be sup-
pressed. The Scouts' chief objection in that the youth organisations are being controlled by the Ministry.

The head of the Youth Organisation is Laidoner.

The name of the organisation will be "Teras-Poisid" (Steel Youth) for the boys and "Kodutütred" (Home Daughters) for the girls. The organisations belong to the Defence Corps and the leaders are paid. The program shall be 100% Hitlerian."

_Eesti Gaidide Maleva's_ Secretary Sigrid Elken 's letter to Dame Katherine Furse of the WAGGGS International Bureau - dated 08/09/1937 - reported:

"Now it is almost a whole year that the Estonian Guides are under the control of the Government's Youth Department. In your last letter you seemed rather anxious about our independence. I may tell you that we ourselves were also very anxious about all the new arrangements, but everything has turned out quite nice in the end.

The National Movement, the "Kodutütred" (Home Daughters) is called the official youth movement and the Guides are considered a private organization but with all the official right and duties the other youth movements in our country have. But of course we are always secondary."

"Our numbers have increased greatly on account of the Russian National Guides who have to co-operate with us as no other nation's youth movement is allowed to exist separately any more in Estonia. The
German Hitler Jugend have changed into School Clubs. The Jews have not yet joined us as far as I am informed."

(2)

"To help each other in training leaders and make close friendship between Guides of the Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the Headquarters of all the three countries have decided to make a Union, the constitution of which will be sanctioned this autumn in October in Tartu. It will be a small conference of the Chief Guides and Secretaries of the three countries. Lithuania and Latvija have had a Union for two years already and the Estonian Guides are very happy to join."

".....the Director of our Youth Department is quite satisfied with us and always and everywhere declares in his speeches that the Guides have the same rights to live as the official youth movement, and the schoolmasters ought to treat the Guides on the same lines as the "Kodutütred", but of course they are the "official" and we are the "private" organization."

But apparently State supervision appeared not to be political indoctrination and Eesti Gaidide Maleva as well as Eesti Skautide Malew were more or less left alone, discriminated but tolerated to carry on. The International Bureaux investigated but saw no reason to expel them from the World Movements' memberships.

In 1937 the 25 Estonians were present in sub camp 6 (blue/white badge) of the 5th World Jamboree at Vogelenzang in the Netherlands.
In 1939 the Noored Kotkad, using the scouting method, and the Eesti Skautide Malev formed the Estonian Boy Scout Union resulting in the former being able to send 3 of its officers to the Gilwell Course in England, to consign observers to the Lithuanian national camp in 1939 and to let some of its members participate in the last pre-war Rover Moot in Scotland in that year.

PRELUDE TO THE SOVIET SYSTEM

Adolf Hitler, leader of the German Nazi Party and "Führer" of the Third Reich, which he intended to be "the Thousand Years' Reich", had made many demands and had had his way for some time detrimental to the countries surrounding Germany. The European democracies desiring to prevent a war, hoped to appease him by giving in to his demands. Hitler considered this attitude as being an expression of weakness and fear and so time and again he increased his demands. Until Poland refused to obey and decided to resist. So September 1st, 1939 at 0445 hours he ordered the German armies to cross the German-Polish border and the conflict had begun. Hitler was convinced that England and France would - maybe - protest but give in again. But to his surprise and disappointment this time the reaction was quite different. On September 3rd at 0900 hours Great Britain presented an ultimatum demanding the immediate withdrawal of all German forces from Poland. If not Great Britain would consider itself at war with Nazi Germany as from 1300 hours. France delivered a similar ultimatum at 1230
hours saying that unless the demands were met, it would be at war as from 1700 hours.

Hitler's Nazi Germany had always declared the communists and the Jews to be its main enemies and the destruction of same to be its main task. Yet, what the Germans and in particular the High Command feared most, was another war with a Western and an Eastern front. So in order to prevent this - to the world's utter surprise - the Nazis changed their tune when on August 23, 1939 their foreign minister Ribbentrop and his Soviet colleague Molotov, in Moscow's Kremlin, under the watchful eye of the great dictator Joseph Stalin, signed a non-aggression pact. What was not told was that there was also a secret agreement dividing Eastern Europe in a Nazi and a soviet sphere of influence. To the former were to belong Western Poland and Lithuania, to the latter Eastern Poland, Rumania's Bessarabia (now Moldova), Finland, Latvia and Estonia. Least of all the inhabitants of these region were to know, but they were soon to find out.

It all began when on September 17th, 1939 the Soviet Red Army suddenly attacked Poland, stabbing in the back the Poles fighting the Germans. A Red Army was concentrated near the Latvian and Estonian borders which put pressure on Estonia. On September 27th, 1939 Estonia and the Soviet Union signed a support or security treaty. Thereupon the Soviets demanded army and navy bases and the Latvians and Estonians had to give in and their frightened and worried populations had to watch the Red Army march in and occupy their country. In June 1940 the Estonian communists
backed up by the Red Army committed a coup d'État overthrowing the legal government and installing a communist one-party administration which requested its masters in Moscow to kindly accept Estonia as a member of its Union of Soviet Republics. Moscow gracefully obliged and from then on Estonia was known as Eesti Noukogude Sotsialistik Vabariik or the Estonian Socialist Soviet Republic. (3) and as such would exist until 1989.

Right away the Soviets began a process of curtailing all opposition. The non-communist officials were removed from office. The Civil Defence League and its youth organizations Noored Kotkad and Kodutütred were disbanded and abolished. Strangely enough the scout and guide movement were permitted to continue their activities though camping was not allowed anymore. Reason why the first Estonian Gilwell Course, which DCC Herbert Morisson (1) had prepared was not held.

In August 1940 the representatives of all bodies sponsoring the scout and guide movements were called to attend a meeting. The pretended purpose was the electing of a new executive for the Federation of Friends of Scouts, which had sponsored and promoted Scouting and Guiding almost from the beginning, and to install a new leadership and a new NHQ staff for the scout and guide movements. But no elections were held. Instead the communist party representatives just dictated the names of the new members, all of them communist party members and most of them had never been scouts or guides. The former leadership was removed from office whereupon the new "leaders"
issued the first order: to liquidate the scout and guide organizations and to surrender all its properties, membership administration and archives to the Komsomols and Pioneers, the communist youth organizations. The motivation (not unlike the Nazis') was that Scouting and Guiding were Anglo-American espionage organizations in disguise serving their capitalist masters. Continuation of all activities thereafter was illegal and would be punished.

The Sovietisation and purges began. Leading Estonians were arrested and deported to camps, sometimes as far away as Siberia. All those suspected of having the abilities to lead a possible resistance were also removed such as professors, teachers, journalists and last but not least scout and guide leaders. Some left home and went into hiding. Their officers having been removed the other ranks of the Estonian army were forced to join the Red Army. An estimated total of 60,000 Estonians was deported, most of them never to come back.

HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY: 1941 – 1944

On Sunday June 22nd, 1941 Nazi Germany dropped its mask of friendship and attacked its ally the Soviet Union. There were several spearheads, one in the south intended to occupy the fertile Ukraine and the oil fields on the banks of the Caspian Sea, the central one aimed at taking Moscow and eliminating the Soviet leadership and the third one heading north to conquer Leningrad, marching through the Baltic States. The German armies did not meet much resistance and sliced through the Soviet defence lines like a hot knife
through butter. The Red Army retreated and those Estonians still at liberty watched and, in the period between the Red Army's retreat and the actual arrival of the Nazi forces, the Estonians rose. Some armed themselves and harassed the retreating Russian units also settling a bill with agents of the secret police and their collaborators who had terrorised the people. The scouts and guides also reappeared and the Estonian flag was hoisted again. The expectation being that liberty and independence would be restored.

But the Germans had other ideas. In the long run the Baltic States were supposed to be annexed by Germany and to become provinces of same. A Nazi administration under the leadership of a Reichskommissar was installed. The Estonians who had armed themselves were disarmed, the national flag was no longer tolerated, the revived movements, including and above all scouting and guiding were banned again. The Estonians were soon to experience that the Red Terror had been replaced by the Brown Terror. No independence but an occupied country and the front lines' hinterland.

The German Wehrmacht reached the outskirts of Leningrad (now St Petersburg) as early as September 6th, 1941. Shortly thereafter the city was surrounded, cut off from the rest of the Soviet Union and a long siege began. The Germans never succeeded in entering the city but it was not until January 18th 1943 that the Red Army broke through though it took until January 14th, 1944 until the Germans really retreated from the city's outskirts.
BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP DARK SEA

And all the time Estonia served as the front's hinterland. On all its fronts Nazi Germany lost millions of soldiers and it was soon forced to recruit other nationals for its "crusade to eliminate communism" as its propaganda called it. The Estonians' position was difficult. By now they fully understood that the Germans were not intent on restoring their independence on the other hand they had every reason to fear the return of the Soviets. The Nazis also changed their tune and Estonian nationalism was used. It was an uncomfortable situation, difficult to make choices. So some fell for the German propaganda, and donned the German uniform. Others were pressed to do so. They were sent to the Waffen-SS. and were suddenly permitted to wear on the German uniform a shield with the Estonian national colours, suggesting they were fighting for a free Estonia.

Though Hitler did not permit it, the slow German retreat in the north actually began in January/February 1944 when the Red Army got on the move. But the rear guard fighting was fierce.

The Estonians understood that one day the Red Army would return and most of them did not fancy that at all. So some decided to flee and to keep ahead of the advancing Red Army. All in all an estimated 66,000 Estonians went on the move. Some took the land route south via the other Baltic states and Poland into Germany going as far west as possible hoping to meet the American, British and Canadian armies advancing. But
most went to the seaside intent on escaping across the Baltic. Everything that floated was used. Small freighters, fishing vessels, rowing boats and canoes even or rafts towed by other craft. Many never made it and perished.

SWEDEN - SVERIGE

In August and September 1944 the first refugees reached the shores of neutral Sweden. They were made welcome, were accommodated in comfortable reception camps and they were taken good care of. It was understood that in particular the kids had to be entertained. Now it so happened that there were large numbers of scouts, guides but also scout and guide leaders amongst the many refugees and the latter soon took the initiative and in several camps scout groups and guide companies were begun. One of the groups met as early as October 22nd, 1944. They received the assistance of the Swedish movements and authorities. It is said that in the camps 17 scout groups were operational and an equal number of guide groups. The refugees did not stay in the camps long but were distributed all over Sweden as soon as work and permanent new residences were available. In particular in the big cities there were fair concentrations of Estonians and as soon as they had got used to the new environment the scouts and guides used to find each other and between 1944 and 1946 various scout and guide groups were founded.

The guides were supported by the Swedish YWCA or KFUK Guides and Eesti Gaidide Maleva was re-
established in very close cooperation with and within the KFUK Guides. In June 1945 the Guiders held their first annual leaders meeting in Stockholm and in July the first summer camp. By 1949, when the first GG Suurlaager was held, the membership was 525 with a total of 12 groups.

The Scouts did not so badly either. Groups were founded in Stockholm, Göteborg (Gothenburg) Uppsala, Malmo”, Boras, Norrkoping, Eskilstuna etc.. These groups belonged to the Sveriges Scoutförbund the overall body in which the various Swedish Scout Organisations were united. Their sub-section was named Eesti Skautlike Noorte Malev. In 1957 the scouts numbered 693 members. But soon the membership of the Scouts and Guides in Sweden decreased as many Estonians found a new home in Canada.

GERMANY - DEUTSCHLAND

The Estonian refugees that took the land route down south soon mixed with Latvians and Lithuanians also preferring not to wait until the Red Army returned. Behind them the retreating German army and the advancing Red Army. Above them, quite often the Soviet Air Force which - without investigation too thoroughly - fired at everything that looked like a military column. Many died during this trip, which began in summer but got worse when a harsh, cold winter set in and the Red Army reached East Prussia. The sad stream of refugees was augmented by Germans also wanting to get as far away from the Soviets as possible. Again hundreds died during the trip across the frozen coastal
waters of East Prussia, sometimes fired at by long distance guns or staffed by low flying Russian fighter planes. Many lost their lives. Family members got separated in the turmoil. Thousands of several nationalities thus arrived in Germany and went through cities destroyed and were subjected to the massive bombardments. But they headed to the west as much as possible until they were in the western part of Germany and could not go any further as they were now approaching the western front. It was difficult to find accommodation. Some were put in camps, others in school buildings, army barracks but most of them had to stay in the open air, day and night and food was a problem. The desperate Nazis, aware of but not admitting that they were losing the war, forced them to dig fortifications or even pressed some to fight for them. Food was difficult to be had. Then the advancing units of the American, British and Canadian forces reached them. The new authorities took over and tried to sort things out. Only when Nazi-Germany had finally accepted defeat and surrendered unconditionally on May 8th, 1945 things gradually took a turn for the better.

Added to the refugees were concentration camp and prison inmates, the labourers who had been forced by the Nazis to work in their war industries and also those who had been serving in the German army or the SS and had, in time, donned civil clothing thus escaping being taken Prisoners of War. All sorts of former German camps, barracks, factories, schools etc. etc. were turned into accommodation for the refugees. At first there was a mixture of various nationalities,
later, when the turmoil died down a bit, nationalities were sorted out and concentrated in several special "national" camps. But the living was still far from pleasant. Food, medical care, clothing etc. etc were missing and had to be provided by the Allies. The later soon experienced that the refugees from Eastern Europe did not desire to return to their homelands "liberated" by the Red Army. From that moment on the refugees became Displaced Persons and as such they were officially registered.

In the drab existence the Scouting Spirit revived. The kids were suffering most and had to be entertained so that there would be a ray of sun shines in their daily lives. Scout and Guide leaders and older scouts and guides collected the boys and girls, formed groups and activities began. This did not go undetected as in the armies of the Western Allies many scouts and guides were serving. In the British occupation zone the Guide International Service and the Scout International Relief Service were active and in some of the camps they were in charge. (5). Their task was not to revive scouting or guiding but, as the scouts and guides amongst the army officers and the other ranks, they were attracted by the activities of the DP Scouts and Guides. They reported their findings to their NHQs and the International Bureaux and soon the DP scouts and guides received assistance.

As early as May 13th, 1945, five days after World War 2 had officially ended in Europe, the first Estonian groups was founded in a refugee camp. Practically all Estonian kids in all the camps joined the scout and
guide groups, whether before they had been members or not or had perhaps belonged to one of the other associations which were not revived in the camps. Thus they were kept occupied and were protected from the deteriorating effects of the poverty and sadness of the empty camp life.

During the following summer when things got a bit easier, with the assistance of scouts and guides serving in the occupation forces, contacts could be made between the Estonian groups in the various camps. A sort of inventory was made of who was there and where and it was found that the Eesti Gaidide Malev's Chief Guide Eleonore Hünerson had survived and was in Germany and so were Eesti Skautide Malev's Chief Scout Nikolai Kann and DCC Herbert Michelson. The former was able to contact the BSIB or Boy Scouts International Bureau in London, the latter the former Gilwell Camp Chief J.S. Wilson, then the BSIB's director, whereas the Chief Guide resumed her communications with the WAGGGS in London. (6)

The above mentioned and some other leaders created the Estonian Central Bureau which was headed by DCC Herbert Michelson. It acted as a kind of a National Headquarters in the beginning covering the British and US Zones of West Germany only but later contacts were also made with the Estonian groups in Sweden. It organised camps and above all training activities. Herbert Michelson was at last able to conduct his first Estonian Gilwell Course which was originally planned for August 1940. Between 1946 and 1949, in close cooperation with BSIB and Gilwell Park in England, he lead
three Wood badge Course in Germany as well as nine other training camps for cub scout, scout and rover leaders.

The Estonians, as the others DP scouts, operated under the protecting wings of the BSIB and were able to participate in the 6th World Jamboree at Moisson/France in 1947 with a fair contingent of scouts from Germany and Sweden. During the 11th International Conference of August 1947 the Displaced Persons' Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau was created. It registered all DP scouts and issued them with an identity card. It also supported all DP Scout activities, such as training and other camps, provided them with uniforms, manuals etc. The DPDoBSIB organized some DP Scout International Patrol Rallies, no 1 in Wellerode Walk near Kassel (19-31/08/1948) and no 2 near Nürnberg-Fischbach (19-29/08/1949) and a 3rd was to have been in 1950. But by then most of the DP scouts had left Germany and so the rally was never to be. Estonian patrols participated.

But the BSIB also informed the DP scouts that, as soon as they would be leaving the camps for their new residences in the countries, that were willing and able to offer the DPs a new existence, they would have to join - as groups or individuals - the NSOs of the countries concerned as no "National Scout Movements on Foreign Soil" could be recognized.(6) These NSOoFSs were tolerated in Germany as there was no official German movement they could have joined. In 1948 the DP Division of BSIB registered 32 Estonian groups with a membership of 1104.
Gradually the Displaced Persons were leaving the terrible camps, conditions of which had, however, changed during the years, but were never pleasant. The Chief Guide Eleonore Hünerson, thanks to WAGGGS' influence, was invited to settle in England (1947) where she died in 1949. But others were going too. In September 1948 1000 Estonian Scouts were left in Germany. In 1950 it was reported that only one Estonian Girl Guide patrol was still active in West Germany and that it had joined a German guide company. By 1952 only 45 Estonian scouts were still resident in Germany (6) who had joined the Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder in 1950 as associated members. But in 1976 there were 60 again, mainly in the rover-ranger (over 18) age group and, despite its small numbers, in 1970, it managed to organise a camp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Estonian Scouting in which participated Estonian scouts from all over the world. (6).

WHERE HAD ALL THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES GONE?

GREAT BRITAIN

Some Estonian refugees had managed to get to Great Britain. Two scout units have been known to have been operating in that country. A Rover Crew was formed in 1948 in Yorkshire and in 1949 a scout group in Corsham, between Bath and Chippenham in Wiltshire. In 1950 the latter had more than ninety members but the next year it did no longer exist, the families having left for Canada.

AUSTRALIA
In November 1947 a ship, carrying a large number of DPs, left a German port and set sail for Australia. The Estonian scouts aboard formed a group and during the long voyage held normal pack, troop and rover meetings, inviting non-members. Having arrived at destination the DPs were received in a comfortable government camp for a period of adjustment. In it the group continued its activities. Thereafter, as the other DPs, the Estonians settled in several places. Their numbers were increased when other contingents arrived and the scouts and guides, once in their permanent residences, rallied again and formed groups. In Sydney, May 1949, the 9th Sydney-Estonian was founded. Considering name and number it had joined the Australian Scout Movement.(7) Sydney was also the city with the first Estonian Guide Company in 1950. In Melbourne and other cities groups were founded too.

CANADA
This country took a large number of Displaced Persons. Estonians from Germany but also Great Britain and Sweden were offered a new existence in this vast country and the first Estonian scout and guide groups were founded soon. The first scouts in Toronto in 1948. In 1952 there were about 400 Estonian scouts and an almost similar number of guides, whose first start was one patrol in 1949 but in 1959 had about 400, most of whom were born in Canada. Throughout the years their numbers remained rather constant always about 600 of each. The relationship with the Canadian NHQ progressed nicely as did those with the Canadian districts. All groups joined the Canadian Scout and Guide Associations, wore Canadian uniforms but were permitted to have on it a special badge indicating them as being Estonians. (7). In cooperation with the Ontario Scouts the Estonians were able to arrange a number of Wood Badge training courses in Estonian led by DCC Jaan Lepp.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The States also took their fair share of Displaced Persons, including Estonians. As early as May 1949 the
first Estonian groups was founded in Seabrook, New Jersey, followed by a rover crew in New York City that very same year. The Boy Scouts of America HQ considered the matter and in autumn 1949 gave its official consent and recognition. Several other groups came to being and by 1952 there were 13 Estonian scout groups most of them in the Eastern States where most Estonians had settled. The first Guide companies were founded in 1949.

ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL

Some Estonians landed in South America, very far away from their home country, but they were mostly widely scattered, which was a handicap when it came to organizing scout and guide groups. Yet, encouraged and sponsored by the Estonian community, groups were founded in Buenos Aires in 1951 and they remained active ever since.

The number of Estonians that had chosen Brazil for settlement was very small. Estonian scouting began in Sao Paulo, in 1968, one patrol of three boys and three girls. In 1969 there were seven and they participated in an Estonian camp organized by the Argentinian Estonians.

But in 1976 it was all over in Brazil.

THE HOMELAND

Those who had not attempted to escape or had not succeeded in so doing and were unlucky to have to stay behind saw the German military forces retreat and
their country once again reoccupied by the Red Army. In its wake returned the KGB - Secret Police - and the Estonian communists. Basing themselves on the assumption that all who had had to live under the Nazi occupation also had collaborated with the latter, which some had and others had not, they took revenge and reinstated the terror. Between 1945 and 1949 an estimated number of more than 500,000 Estonians were arrested and deported to faraway places, prisons or concentration camps. Many were killed whereas others, in the long run, perished. After Stalin's death in 1953, when the regime showed more leniency, only 25% of the deportees managed to return to the home country. The Sovietisation was continued and thousands of Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians were - compulsory or voluntary - sent to Estonia to take the empty places and to live and work. In later years, when these imported citizens had been living there for decades, they were to become a minority problem. Though in name the Eesti Noukogude Sotsialistlik Vabariik was supposed to be a sovereign state, the instructions came directly from Moscow and had to be obeyed. All expressions of nationalism were forbidden and persecuted, the national flag was banned and replaced by a "national Soviet" one. Such was the terror and the fear of it that scouts and guides, as all the others had to be very careful in everything they did and said and they could only talk to and vent their real feelings to a few trusted friends or relatives and even than! But small numbers used to meet
on a regular basis and it is known that several met on Thinking Day or St George's Day to repeat the Promise once made. Scouting and Guiding were not forgotten. But since they could not be practised they were remembered only and the survivors concentrated on the idealistic side, the Promise and Law. Whereas at first Estonia was totally isolated from the outside world in later years communication by means of correspondence was possible be it that there was a censorship and relatives in exile were able to carefully be in touch with their kinship in the home country. Information regarding the harsh situation filtered through the Iron Curtain.

During the period known as the "Cold War" there was an arms race between the communist block and the so-called Free Western World lead by the USA. On both sides millions were spent on the arms race. This caused the economic situation in the Soviet Union to deteriorate but neither its inhabitants nor the outside world was to know. On March 11th, 1985 Gorbachev was appointed secretary general of the Russian communist party, the most powerful position in the USSR. Slowly but gradually he introduced changes. The remaining die-hards of the old regime were being removed from office. Glasnost - Openness and Perestroika - Renewal or Renovation were being introduced. At first undetected by the outside world, changes set in. There was unrest in various communist satellite countries such as Poland and Hungary and the latter's regime was the first to open the Iron Curtain (11/09/1989) permitting its citizens and East Germans
to travel freely to the Free West. British and American radio stations, broadcasting in almost all the languages spoken in the Soviet Union, spread the news. But the peoples of the Baltic States were also getting restless. The new wind that blew in Moscow gave the Estonians new hope for a better future and it electrified them. They demanded economic independence. In winter 1988/1989 they tested how far the regime would permit them to go. In January 1989 someone had the courage to hoist the old Estonian national flag (Blue-Black-White) and since nothing much happened it soon proudly flew everywhere. In July 1989 they were given economic independence.

But the population wanted more. One protest after the other and on August 23rd, 1989 a human chain was created by the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, right from the north to the south, one thin line of human beings. On October 23rd, 1989 the populations of the Baltic States organized a large protest demonstration. This very day, 50 years ago, Nazi-Germany and the Soviet Union signed the infamous Ribbentrop-Molotov treaty with the secret additional putting Lithuania in the Nazi and Latvia and Estonia in the Soviet sphere of influence with as a result the occupation and the annexation of the two states by the Soviet Union. The ball started rolling. On November 9th, 1989 the Berlin Wall came tumbling down and the Iron Curtain was opened. Meanwhile the Western press had free access to the Soviet Union and all these occurrences were seen on Western TV. In December 1989, Gorbachev, visiting the Baltic States, promised the possibil-
ity for them to secede from the Soviet Union and to regain independence. On 18/03/1990 the first free elections were held and the opposition entered parliament whereupon the Estonian communist party broke away from Moscow and on 29/03/1990 the oppositional Estonian Nationalist People's front (which had been permitted) proposed to declare independence which was accepted by a majority in parliament on the very next day.

But in Moscow Gorbachev had to deal with a strong opposition which wanted to keep the situation as it used to be and so developments were slow and certain fractions, such as the army, tried to halt them, also in the Baltic States. It was a period of high tension and even fighting, when communists, backed by Soviet special forces were trying to regain power and turn the clock back. On March 1st, 1991 a referendum was held and 80% of the Estonian population voted for independence. But the troubles were not over yet. On August 19th, 1991 the world was shocked and held its breath when the news reached it that a communist coup d'état in Moscow had removed Gorbachev from office. Three uncertain days, during which, on August 20th, at 2310 hours, the Estonian Parliament declared its country's total national independence as from that very moment. An independence which - a few days later - was recognized by most of the West European countries and the United Nations. Estonia was a free country again after 51 years!

SCOUTING AND GUIDING' S REVIVAL
Quotes from a report dated November 29th, 1991 written by Jaan Lepp of the Estonian groups in Canada and sent to the World Bureau WOSM in Geneva.

"The years of depression after World War 2 instilled fear in the Estonians and helps us to understand their reluctance to initiate the reorganisation of scouting.

However, even during these years, the scout and guide leaders maintained social contacts and retained their scouting identity."

"The first independent youth groupings evolved from the nationally thinking youth, who wanted to express their independence and anti communist/USSR feelings. They called themselves "scouts". It is evident, that they were not scouts as we know them, but they adopted scouting's name to underline their independence from the ruling authorities. These first groupings formed in summer 1988 showed that under the new political thaw independent youth organizations such as former banned scouting would be tolerated."

"The formal rebirth of the scouting movement is traced back to a meeting in March of 1989, when a group of leaders met with former scoutmasters in Nõmme (near Tallinn) for the specific purpose to re-establish the former Estonian Scouting. This meeting was attended by 8 Scoutmasters, 5 Guiders and 13 new leaders. At the meeting an action committee was elected to develop and prepare documentation for the formal re-registration of the Estonian Scout Association (Eesti Skautide Ma-lev)."
The documentation was completed within a few weeks in March and presented for acceptance and approval to the Ministry of Education. The charter received formal governmental registration on 22. June, 1989."

"Where possible former scouting documents were consulted. But as can be expected, most of the documentation was derived and developed on common logic and extensively based on memory. As ownership of scouting materials during the preceding years was interpreted as antigovernmental action, there were very few scouting documents from 50 years back."

Of course the Ministry referred to above was belonging to the communist government, still in power, but understanding that Gorbachev's actions were to be taken seriously and had to be followed, it showed some leniency. Yet these authorities expected or hoped that they would be able to remain in office - and so in order to remain in control of the situation - they took some steps to keep their influence in all renewals. This was made quite clear in another letter by Jaan Lepp which the World Bureau in Geneva received on March 17th, 1989.

"As the scouting movement in Estonia is independent, it has not been welcomed by the government. While not formally prohibited, nor are they encouraged, but rather tolerated. In order to overshadow the scouting, the government has formed a parallel organization, which first was called "Estonian Youth Organization" (Eesti Laste Organisatioon) and which changed its name to Estonian Boys Federation (Eesti Poiste Liit). The latter has adopted as its symbol the scout emblem, with
a minor difference from the scouting one. In the centre, the Estonian Crest has been replaced with the Estonian National colours - blue, black and white. To the best of our information, this organization does not follow scouting principles nor does it use any religious teachings in its activities. As we understand it, this organisation was formed with one purpose - to overshadow the scouting movement. To this extent, they have also received governmental support for their activities. We also understand, that their leader Leho Männiksoo, has been a governmental employee for many years, with the specific task to organize youth movements that reflect the Communist Part ideology.

The Eesti Poiste Liit 's constituent meeting was held in the White Hall of the city of Tallin on December 10th, 1988. According to a report dated Helsinki 20/12/1988 it members were to be called Eetserit = "activists moving forward" and its objective was to be a centre organization for all youth clubs, a way to maintain government control. The name "activists" was also a bit suspicious, having a Soviet ring. No wonder some - e.g. the Exiles - looked at it with certain misgivings and doubts.

Meanwhile others were busy re-establishing the real scout and guide movements and communicated with the World Bureaus in Geneva and London.

Patrick McLaughlin, the director of the European Scout Office WOSM in Geneva, in Helsinki/Finland on 16/01/1990 had a meeting with the representatives of Estonian guiding and scouting movements in the foun-
dation process. As he reported to the combined WAGGGS/WOSM meeting on Scouting Revival in Eastern Europe (02-04/02/1990) at Geneva:

"Two Scout and two Guide movements exist. One Scout and one Guide association operate a bit like IFOFSAG (8) members, being largely composed of people who had been in Scouting and Guiding before and during the Second World War. They believe that they are the continuity of Scouting and that no new Scouts can be created without their involvement."

During the meeting the Finnish International commissioner gave a detailed presentation on the cooperation between the Fins and the Estonians, which had sprung up.

Meanwhile the World Bureaux WAGGGS and WOSM, apart from replying to a load of letters from Estonia, also provided all sorts of information on the rules to be met to be recognized as members of the world organisations.

From January 22nd - 27th, 1991 Yrjö Gorski, a Finnish professional member of staff of the World Bureau WOSM in Geneva, went on a fact-finding mission to the three Baltic Republics. His findings regarding Estonia were that there were several movements united in ESOKL, the Cooperation Union of Estonian Scouting Organizations. On January 22nd and 23rd he met the representatives of the following movements being:

1) *Eesti Skautide Maleva*, ESM which considering itself as being the revival of the movement of the same name, in 1922 Founder Member of the World Movement, and
banned in 1940. It held its first informal meeting in 1988 and organized its first summer camp in that year. The re-establishment meeting was held on March 18th, 1989 and official recognition was granted on June 22nd, 1989 by the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

2) Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus. EEü. Gorski was told that this movement had been originally established under the government’s auspices of the as the Eesti Laste Organisatioon (Estonian Youth Organization). In December 1988 had changed its name into Eesti Poiste Liit (Estonian Boys Federation). To later rename it again as Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus.

3) Eesti Gaidide ühendus -EGü, originally the EPL’s girl section and closely cooperating with EEü.

4) Eesti Skautlik Antoni Kesk Gild - ESAKG an association of former Scouts, saying that they sought recognition by IFOFSAG but for the moment were reviewing the situation in ESOKL.

5) Noored Kotkad/Kodututred, also revived. Gorski was supposed to meet their representatives at the meeting, but they never came.
6) *Eesti Gaidide Maleva*, EGM. claiming to be the continuation of the original WAGGGS member of that name, as banned in 1940.

A second WOSM mission was in Estonia on the 2nd and 3rd of September 1991. Yrjö Gorski discovered that the *ESKOL* had been but a name during his the 1st visit and had - in reality - been founded after the first mission's visit, viz on March 10th, 1991. and was now said to be representing:

1) Eesti Skautide Malev - ESM (900 members/boys.)

2) Eesti Gaidide Maleva - EGM (200 members/girls.)

3) Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus - EEü (400 boys and girls.)

4) Eesti Gaidide ühendus -EGü. (700 members/girls.)

5) Estonian Union of Noorkotkad and Kodutytred. (300 members/boys and girls)

6) Estonian Ukrainian Guide Group. (numbers unknown.)

7) Eesti Skautlik Antoni Kesk Gild. (former scouts and guides.)

A few days before this meeting, on August 20th, 1991, Estonia had declared its independence but no one was at all certain whether this was a bold move that would be severely punished or that it would really work. Well it worked when the various West European countries recognized Estonia as an independent state.
A little later WOSM was informed that the ESM and the EEü intended to merge and to create one single association: The Estonian Scouts. The General Assembly to take place on November 9th, 1991. (WOSM's Situation Report no 6, 01/10/1991). The merger had already been broadcast by the Estonian radio on 07/09/1991.

Of course at the time neither Yrjö Gorski nor the World Bureaux WOSM and WAGGGS may have been aware of the character and the origin Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus. EEü. And Eesti Gaidide ühendus -EGü. though warnings were being received from the Swedish movements and the Estonian Exiles, as mentioned earlier. It, however, struck Gorski that the Eesti Gauide Maleva EGM "s representatives stressed in particular that the movement was not an ESKOL member and they were at the meeting as observers only.

After the declaration of independence the country's situation changed. The original fear, impressed upon the nation by the Soviet Secret Police for so long gave way, people tended to speak their mind again as free people ought to. The Eesti Skautide Malev - ESM, sent an extensive letter (17/10/1991) on EGü and EEü to WOSM and WAGGGS, These, however, were willing
to give the EEü and the EGü the benefit of the doubt and requested them to merge with ESM and EGM as, for recognition of a National Movement, one organisation would be required.

Yet it was all very confusing - no wonder under the circumstances prevailing.

A quote from WOSM's Situation Report no 7, March 1992, adds to the confusion. Under the heading ESTONIA the following is said:

"In addition to being a link with WOSM, the Cooperation Union of Estonian Scouting Organisations - ESKOL -, the umbrella structure founded in March 1991, has helped the two Estonian Scout associations - Eesti Eetterskautide ühendus (EEü) and Eesti Skautide Malev (ESM)) - to examine whether they should merge and create a single Scout Association or establish a federation. The same discussion have been taking place between the two Guide Associations - Eesti Gaidide ühendus (EGü) and Eesti Gaidide Maleva (EGM). The other associations, such as the Estonian Union of Noorkotkad and Kodutytreed and the Estonian Ukrainian Guide Group, have incorporated in the above mentioned associations."

"In a meeting held between the associations on 11th of January 1992, the decision was taken to structure the Cooperation Union into a dormant body."

which meant the final collapse of ESOKL. Unity was not yet to be.
The EEÜ met on 12/11/1991 and again on 23/11/1991 and 4 leaders were appointed to negotiate. More and more meetings between the two movements in November 1991 and January 1992 and in February one in the presence of Yrjö Gorski, who being a Finn, thanks to Finnish having a similarity to Estonian, had the great benefit of not needing an interpreter. No agreement was reached however.

WAGGGS was also very active in Estonia. In its Central and Eastern Europe Report -November 1991 - March 1992, its Executive for that region - Rosie Dunn - revealed that she had been visiting Estonia from February 20th - 25th, 1992, also participating in the Thinking Day and Independence Day celebrations (22nd and 24th of February). Quote:

" the Estonian Associations, Eesti Gaidide Maleva - EGM - and Eesti Gaidide ühendus -EGü, created a joint union on the 25th of January 1992 and are now working to develop the cooperation. Their combined membership is 1300 girls and they have groups in most parts of Estonia."

In her report to the WAGGGS Constitutions Committee dated 28/02/1992:

" The 2 Guide Associations have now formally agreed to cooperate to apply for membership of WAGGGS."

"This cooperation will begin as a Federation but with the aim of becoming one organization as a natural consequence of working together. After extensive meet-
ings with both associations it was agreed on a federation structure and ways work. The Constitution will be forwarded to the World Bureau as soon as possible."

It so seemed as if the ladies were making more progress than the men. As Rosie Dunn reported in her "Update on the Situation in the Countries" of Central and Eastern Europe of May 1993:

"Following the collapse of ESOKL at the end of 1991, the two Guide Associations developed a stronger relationship and formed a Federation in February 1992. The 2 Associations have developed from different traditions: Eesti Gaidide ühendus -EGü, has worked closely with Finland while Eesti Gaidide Maleva - EGM, has had strong links with the Exile Associations particularly in Canada and Sweden."

As had Eesti Skautide Malev - ESM - and it had its effects.

THE EXILES

The collapse of the communist regime and the declaration of total independence had caused the Estonians-in-Exile, all over the world, great joy and satisfaction. Some older ones, belonging to the original 1940-1944 refugees, having prospered in their new countries of residence, actually returned to their homeland as pensioners, and settled there once again after so many years of Exile. Experiencing, however, that during their prolonged absence the general situation and the mentality of those that had stayed in the homeland had been strongly influenced by the circumstances and had changed a lot more than they had expected.
That nothing was the same anymore as in 1940 or 1944 when they left. That, also, the clock could not be turned back. Consequently they were sometimes feeling as being strangers in their own homeland. Of course they themselves having lived in other countries for so long had also changed without sensing it, influenced and moulded as they had been by their long domicile elsewhere.

But there is no doubt that the Exiles considered the liberation of the homeland to be their finest hour and the Exile Movement immediately took action to support reviving *Eesti Skautide Malev* - ESM and *Eesti Gaidide Maleva* - EGM in the material as well as the financial way. Considering their own backgrounds the Exiles were not so much in favour of *Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus* - EEü and *Eesti Gaidide ühendus* - Egü which, because of their roots. They too considered to be a communist cuckoo egg laid in the wrong nest. (The WOSM and WAGGGS recognized Finnish Movement, supporting and cooperating with them, did not seem to object.) Even before the restored independence ESM and EGM leaders were invited to come to Canada and Sweden - all expenses paid by the Exiles - for training courses at the Exile Movement's own training centres. Thereafter the experienced Exile Movement training teams went to Estonia and ran instruction courses for not the leaders only but also to for the boys and the girls. But most of them could not stay, having jobs in their countries of residence in which most of them had been born and bred. Further badges, manuals and other handbooks - or their printing plates - as used by
the Exile Movement were sent to Estonia in large quantities. A strong relationship was also established between the Exiles and the Eesti Skautlik Antoni Kesk Gild, in which had united most of the pre 1940 scouts, guides and some surviving leaders of those days. Mostly these Seniors were the ESM's and EGM's revivers. Remembering their own happy scouting and guiding days, they offered their experience and assistance. Although the ESM's Chief Scout was 30, the other leaders were sometimes fairly aged, as were the Guild members.

But in most of the Exile movements, Scouting and Guiding in the free world had changed considerably between 1940 and 1989. Their power of survival had been that they had constantly adjusted to the possibilities of the modern world and the demands of the modern youngsters. In many aspects an improvement, in others not so much as many valuable traditions had also been thrown overboard. The Exile Movements - and not the Estonian one only - had stuck to the old game and the old traditions and with pride, had always kept the Flame of Estonian Scouting burning on Foreign Soil. Though most of the groups, particularly in Canada, the USA and Sweden had been members, with a special status, of their country of residence's NSOs they had fostered and nourished pre-1940 Estonian Scouting and Guiding and so the Guild members and the Exiles were well suited to each other. Under their combined influence and training ESM and EGM very much took the shape of the pre-1940 movements. Hence the ESM and the EGM stroke the Westerners,
including the WOSM, WAGGGS staff members and the representatives of the several NSOs involved, as being rather old-fashioned. But the younger Estonians scouts and guides, and the younger leaders got the same idea. They met Swedish, Finnish and Canadian/Estonian scouts and leaders of their own age groups and detected a different, more modern scouting style than they were being taught.

Modernisation and adjustment to the Scouting and Guiding as they had developed in the Free West, was necessary but this was not always understood and accepted by the seniors and some of the Exiles. who - during all those long and dark years, when Estonia was not a free country - had in their hearts kept alive the Scouting and Guiding as they had known it in better days. This again was not understood by the younger Westerners representing WOSM, WAGGGS and the NSOs that offered assistance. They had never known war, had been bred and born in free countries, never had they experienced oppression, foreign occupation, loss of freedom and the fear, above all the everlasting fear. So how would they have been able to understand. Whereas in turn the Seniors and Exiles could not understand them and thought that Western Scouting had drifted away from B.P., the Founder. They were living on different planets. And not in Estonia only, it was a problem in so many reviving movements. A conflict between older and younger generations - tradition versus modernity - endangered the further development as there might be a split into rival fractions.
Meanwhile Yrjö Gorski having found other employment in his home country Finland, had left the WOSM World Bureau and his place was taken by Jacqueline Collier, a former French International Commissioner and Dominique Bénard, also a former French IC, who had succeeded Patrick McLaughlin as head of the European Scout Region.

Situation Report no 8 of May 1993 was published by the European Scout Office. It revealed that the two had been in Estonia in March 1993.

They spoke to Eesti Skautide Malev - ESM and to Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus - Eeü. There being no religious differences between the two and hence no need for a Federation, the visitors insisted on a merger and the creation of one single Scout Association. There were some obstacles to the unification. Its constitution, historical continuity and the name of the future association. The latter two could be solved by WOSM making a statement that the new association would be recognized as being the legal successor to the association established in 1920 and the 1922 Founder Member. The Estonian Union of Noorkotkad and Kodutytred (Young Eagles and Home Daughters), had also revived, though - as before 1940 - bearing some similarities with Scouting and Guiding, were again strongly linked to the Ministry of Defence and refused to join a new association to be created and vanished from the scene.

Another problem was that of the minorities. As related earlier, during the Soviet period - in order to take the
places of the thousands of Estonian deportees, and in order to Russify Estonia, Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians - under pressure or voluntary - had been settling in Estonia. At the time Estonia regained its independence some of their youngsters were second or third generation, considering Estonia as their home. But the Estonians had always thought of them as being intruders, uninvited and unwelcome guests. And these minorities also formed scout and guide groups. And now the question was were they to be permitted to join the revived Estonian movements?

Further as in most of the countries which had re-emerged from under the communist pressure, nationalism was very much alive. Now one cannot blame a people - having had to live under foreign denomination and a system they found difficult to accept - for having fostered nationalistic feelings and, when freedom returned at last, to fully surrender to such feelings., Which had its repercussions with regards to "those foreigners living amongst us." The slogan "Russian Go Home" was often heard. But where could they go?

In Western Europe the approach towards nationalism and patriotism had changed. The West Europeans in particular - including the scouts and guides - were flabbergasted and shocked when they were confronted by this nationalism. An - in their eyes - old fashioned phenomena which they considered as belonging to the past. (10) On the other hand they knew so little of what had happened in the revived countries, between 1940 and 1989, that it was all difficult for them to
understand and so there were misunderstandings on both sides and sometimes conflicts.

How to achieve unity and create one National Scout and one National Guide Association?

There were endless discussions and there was a split between the older generations and the younger ones.

Whilst these were going on at the root levels were enjoying their freedom and their scouting and guiding. Training camps were held for leaders but also for scouts and guides and often Exile instructors or instructors from other countries came to assist. Suurlagers were held too and enjoyed by all. Often foreign scouts and guides came to participate in these camps and the Estonians got to know these foreigners, their attitudes and their scouting and guiding and often admired and accepted the more modernized style. Estonian scouts were enabled to go to the 17th World Jamboree at Mount Sorak National Park in South Korea in 1991 and later (1995) to the 18th at Dronten/Flevoland in the Netherlands. Generally speaking the kids enjoyed it all and were not so much bothered by the discussions going on at higher levels. But younger leaders too attended all sorts of WOSM and WAGGGS meetings and conferences and got to know things better and from a different angle.

Whilst the bickering went on in the Scouting world, as is often the case, the ladies of the two guides associations were more easy going, less fanatic, and tackled the differences in a more lightly way. The *Eesti Gaidide ühendus* -EGü. and the *Eesti Gaidide Maleva* -
EGM founded a Federation *Eesti Gaidide Maleva Ja Eesti Gaidide ühenduse Kkostooliit* with a joint Executive Committee and a Federation Congress which was to meet once a year. The general idea was that the Federation would - one day - develop into one National Guide Association. This was acceptable to WAGGGS. During its 28th World Conference (01-09/07/1993 at Nyborg/Denmark) WAGGGS admitted the Federation as an "associate member". So after 53 years the Estonian Guides were back home again where they belonged.

In the Scouts' world things did not go so smoothly. The World Committee, the World Bureau WOSM, the European Scout Office and the supporting NSOs did what they could under the motto: "The target is to feed the fire, not to guard the ashes". But there was a conflict of generations and the generation gap only widened. Regretfully it came to a split between those who wanted to stick to the old and those who wanted to progress and be recognized. Following a period of endless talks and negotiations during which Scouting split into various factions most of the young leaders and the youth members of *Eesti Skautide Malev* - ESM and *Eesti Eetserskautide ühendus* - EEü got very much fed up with the situation, stuck their heads together, united and founded
the *Eesti Skautide ühing* - ESü. An act strongly supported by the Finnish NSO, the KFUM Spejderne Danmark (11) and the Estonian groups of the Canadian NSO and applauded by WOSM. The ESü stated that it would be open to all young people in Estonia without distinction of race, origin, creed or sex and its groups are well-established in about all parts of the country. It pledged to unify scouting and to try and persuade the remaining parts of ESM and EEü to also join. The Russian and Ukrainian speaking groups operating in Estonia were invited too to enrol.

The ESü sent an application for membership to WOSM. The World Scout Committee considered same during its meeting of September 23rd - 24th, 1995. On October 16th, 1995 WOSM issued its Circular 23/95 stating that ESü had been accepted as a WOSM member as per January 17th, 1996.

As Dr Jacques Moreillon, WOSM's Secretary General put it in his Report on his visit to the Baltic States 26/06 - 02/07/1999.: "This did not take place without a few problems. Scouts from the country who had lived in exile and returned home -. as well as those who had stopped practising Scouting in 1939 while staying under Soviet, then Nazi, then again Soviet rule - tended to reintroduce a form of Scouting which had aged considerably and which had partially lost its original purpose of personality and citizenship building to become essentially an organization for culture-preservation. However, young people born locally, whilst ready to keep the flame of
tradition, were not interested in its ashes. They wanted to belong to a forward-looking movement, not to one only focused on the past. Yet many of the older generation saw themselves as holders a holy grail that had to be handed over intact: theirs was the only true form of Scouting and they found it hard to accept that this was contested. One can well imagine the tensions which this type of situation created over a period of transition lasting many years. However, that period is now nearing its end and the scout leadership is young and most of the older generation has accepted that Scouting is indeed a movement of young people and not only for young people."

Regretfully some were not involved and are now not able to enjoy the benefits of the membership of the World Wide Scout Movement. They chose to be outsiders. The Eesti Skautlik Antoni Kesk Gild, not willing to recognise ESü could not join the International Fellowship of Scouts and Guides as the latter can accept only organizations of "formers" that have been recognized by the WOSM and WAGGGS' recognized NSOs.(8) Some individual members, however, registered with IFSG's General Branch (8).

But it is hoped that one day all will see the light and that unity will be restored to the benefit Estonian’s youth.

FOOTNOTES

1) Quotes from a "Report on the Scout Union in Estonia" to the Boy Scout International Bureau in London, dated July 25th, 1938, signed "Camp Chief". This may have been Herbert Michelson as - at the time - he was the only Estonian DCC and consequently the only one that could sign
that way. He had been to Gilwell Park in England and returned, not only as a Gilwellian but also as a Deputy Camp Chief (DCC) thus entitled to run Estonian Gilwell training courses. He collected a Gilwell training staff and prepared the first Estonian Gilwell Course, the practical part of which was to have been in July 1940. In June 1940, however, the Estonian communists committed a coup d’état and camping was forbidden, including the Gilwell training camp.

2) During the Tsar’s Empire Russian was the one and only official language but there were so many different nationalities in the vast realm that more than 100 languages were spoken. Also the various nationalities were mixed. Some were simply deported and thus forced to settle elsewhere, whereas others did so voluntarily. This is the reason why - this very day - some, presently independent countries do have minorities. Estonia, during its short spell of independence harboured its original, ancient German and Swedish minorities but in addition there were Latvians, Lithuanians, Poles, Jews and Russians. During the Russian Civil (1917-1922) more White Russians had found refuge in the Baltic States. Apart from the Russian National Guides - mentioned in this report - the other minorities also had their own Scout and Guide movements which must, however, have been small, one or two groups mainly. The government measures forced them either to disband and cease to be or to join the other movements officially permitted to exist.

Some of the German minorities all over the world were so enticed by Adolf Hitler’s unbelievable radiation that they were hypnotized. Hence the fact that in Estonia and many other countries (e.g. the USA) branches of the Nazi party including the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth or HJ) and the Bund Deutscher Mädel (League German Girls or BDM) were founded and operating.

3) Estonian Socialist Soviet Republic. Soviet in Russian characters is written as CoBeT and translated is : Council. During their coup d’état of 1917 the Russian communists, in the areas they conquered removed the authorities and initially put CoBeT’s of intellectuals and workers in their place. But in later years, when a dictatorship was introduced, these councils were just bodies that only had to do what they were told. They became just a cover like also the word Socialist was misused as the system had nothing to do with real democratic socialism.

4) a) NSDAP = National Socialist German Workers Party - not founded but led by Adolf Hitler.
b) POLICE. Germany, before the Nazi take-over in January 1933, had a normal police force - Die Polizei - divided in the Ordnungspolizei (= Order Police) doing street duties, directing traffic and maintaining law and order - dressed in green uniforms they were also known as the Grüne Polizei or Green Police - and the Kriminalpolizei or Kripo, the normal criminal investigation department. Added were:

the Sicherheitspolizei or Sipo (= Security Police) in charge of the state’s security.
the Geheime Staats Poilizei or Gestapo (Secret State Police) controlling the people.

PARTY. HJ = Hitler Jugend or Hitler Youth. Founded 1926. Units Deutsche Jungvolk : 10-14 years, HJ: 14 - 18.
BDM = Bund Deutsche Mädel - German Girls League, Deutsche Jungmädel : 10-14 years and BDM : 14-18.
SA = Sturmabteilung (storming unit). Dressed in brown uniforms. Used to protect the Nazi leaders during their propaganda meetings before 1933. Like the communists the Nazis misused and word "socialist". Some, having joined the NSDAP, expecting it would introduce real socialism, got disappointed soon after the Nazis had take over in Germany. There was unrest and discontent in the ranks and the SA was considered not to be trustworthy anymore. (The Night of the Long Knives!) Consequently was created the

SS = Schutz Staffel (Protection Unite) dressed in black uniforms and at first a small unit to take over the protection of the Nazi leaders from the SA. Later known as the Allgemeine SS (General SS) from which recruits were attracted for the Waffen-SS and the SS-Totenkopf-Verbände (SS-Skull-Units). The former the well trained, tough army which fought side by side with the Wehrmacht, the regular army. The latter the Concentration Camp guards.

GESTAPO, the Geheime Staatspolizei (Secret State Police). Originally a unit belonging to the Nazi Party and meant to detect unwanted elements in the Party and to register those opposing the Party. After 1933 to arrest all those Germans opposing the Nazi regime. When Adolf Hitler and his party had attained power in Germany the police forces was Nazified. In 1936 the Gestapo was united with the Kripo and the Sipo and was known as the Sicherheits Dienst or SD though they mostly operated under their original names: Gestapo, Kripo or Sipo. The SD was part of the SS and led by Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler.

5) The GIS = Guide International Service and the IRS = the Scout International Relief Service were part of British COBSRA = Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad. COBSRA’s task was to operate behind the front lines in the just liberated parts of Western, South Eastern Europe,
the Middle East and the Far East bringing relief to the civilian population. The British government provided the means such as lorries, canteen trucks, motorbikes and the food. The members were provided with military uniforms but with Scout or Guide insignia. The money to pay for the operations was provided by the movements. Some of these units were later in charge of some of the Displaced Persons Camp in West Germany. Wheresoever GIS or SIRS teams - their vehicles showing either the Trefoil or the Arrowhead - arrived they attracted the attention of the just liberated scouts and guides of the remerging movements, but it was not GIS or SIRS's tasks to assist them, nor was it to assist the Displaced Persons' Scouts and Guides in the camps. But blood being thicker than water, they paid attention to them. See the special chapter on these services.

6) For more specific and detailed information see Chapter 1

7) The Boy Scouts International Committee, through the Boy Scouts International Bureau informed all "DP National Scout Associations" founded in the camps in occupied West Germany that their members - not the associations - would be protected and sponsored by the Displaced Persons Division of the BSIB for only as long as the members would be in the camps. As soon as they would be moving to their new countries of residence they would be losing their special status within the International movement and if they desired to remain scouts, they would have to join the National Scout Organizations of their new countries or cease to be scouts. Under no condition would the "DP National Scout Organizations" be recognized as members of the International Movement as membership of same was open only to those movements operating within the boundaries of their homelands. "National Scout Organisations on Foreign Soil" would not be tolerated.

Whereas many of the Movements in Exile did not take this seriously, such as the Poles, Ukrainians etc. etc. the Estonians apparently did.

During their stay in the DP Camps the Estonian leadership created the Central Bureau of Estonian Boy Scouts in Germany which, in close cooperation with the DP Division of the BSIB, lead the Estonian DP groups, at first in Germany later also in Sweden. In August 1949 representatives of the groups in Germany, Britain and Sweden met in London and signed the Charter of "The Estonian Boy Scouts in Exile". In later years Estonians in Australia, Canada and the USA joined. In 1954 the institute was renamed "Eesti Skautide Liit" or Estonian Boy Scouts Federation. The "Estonian Girl Guides in Exile's Central Organization established in 1949 was later also renamed "Eesti Gaidide Liit" or Estonian Girl Guides World
Federation. Wheresoever's they were the Estonians also revived their "Federation of Friends of Scouting" as a sponsoring and supporting body for both movements.

But unlike other Scouts and Guides in Exile these bodies never pretended to be NHQ of an Estonian National Movement in Exile. In Australia, Canada and the USA the groups founded joined the National Scout or Guide Organisation. They were given a special status permitting them to use their own language during meetings, and to hoist the Estonian flag next to the National Flag. They wore the uniform of the NSO of their country of residence, permitted, however, to wear a special badge indicating them as being of Estonian origin. Further the "Eesti Skautide Liit" or Estonian Boy Scouts Federation, the "Eesti Gaidide Liit" or Estonian Girl Guides World Federation and the "Federation of Friends of Scouting" were permitted to freely finance, sponsor and promote them, which they did in generously but never acting as or even pretending to be the NHQs of a National Exile Organisation on Foreign Soil.

These institutes arranged special trainings courses, also the Suurlaagers which Estonian Scouts or Guides from all over the world attended and to which others were invited. As special units of the NSOs they belonged to, Estonian scouts participated in all World Jamborees and they could use all the services the World Organizations had on offer.

The Estonians were often held up as an example to other Scouts-in-Exile and it is unbelievable that the others would not accept. Particularly the Poles-in-Exile desired nothing but recognition as a full member of the World Movement, which was impossible.

8) IFOFSAG

The International Fellowship of Former Scout and Guides founded during international conference at Lucerne/Switzerland 25/10/1953 by 18 National Organisations of Old or Former Scouts and Guides.

During its 21rst World Conference - 30/06-06/07/1996- in Montegrotto Terme/Italy IFOFSAG was renamed International Scout and Guide Fellowship (an organisation for adults) - ISGF. In 1999 there were 35 such national organizations registered. A disappointing small number considering that the fact that there are an estimated 250 millions of former scouts and a 150 millions of former guides all over the world.

As per agreement with WAGGGS and WOSM the ISGF can accept as members only those national associations that in turn have been recog-
nised by their National Scout and Guide Organisations registered with WOSM and/or WAGGGS. As the Estonian Eesti Skautlike Antoni Kesk Gild refused to agree with the founding of the ESü, the latter when recognized by WOSM, could automatically not sanction the Gild's joining of ISGF.

9) The vast Empire of the Tsars as well as the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics was inhabited by more than one hundred different nations all with a language and culture of their own. Both regimes were afraid of outbursts of nationalism leading to revolts of even civil war. Hence Russian was introduced as the overall language and was also used to promote the Russification of all citizens. But sometimes even more drastic means were used and whole nations or parts of nations were simply deported to other, sometime very distant parts of the extensive country.

When in 1940 the deportation of Estonians began and was continued again in 1944/1945, whereas thousands had fled the country before the Red Army returned in 1944, there was a shortage of labour and to meet this and, at the same time boost the Russification process, Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians were - forced or voluntary - transferred to Estonia. Some of these were so convinced that the situation would never change that they simply never bothered to learn the Estonian language. The Estonians considered them as to be intruders, uninvited and unwelcome guests, instruments of the system that repressed them. In the vast Union the Estonians were a minority but as soon as Estonia was a free country again the Russians and the others were minorities in Estonia with all the consequences of same. They were not considered to be Estonians by the Estonians.

Now one cannot blame a people - for decades having had to live under foreign rule and a system they found difficult to accept - for having fostered nationalistic and patriotic feelings and, when freedom returned at last, to fully surrender to such feelings. Which had its repercussions with regards to "those foreigners living amongst us". The slogan "Russian Go Home" was often heard. But where could they go? Some were bred and born in Estonia and had lived and worked their all their lives. (Proving once again that nationalism is one of humanity's worst enemies.)

10) The communist dictatorships - hiding behind the mask of "Democratic and Socialist People's Republics" - made great efforts to keep their peoples well isolated from the outside world which was presented as being hostile and oppressing its peoples. Those able to listen to foreign radio stations - which was not always permitted - used to pick up some smatterings of news from the Free World but they were mostly not aware
that there had been a change in the mentality of most of the westerners, particularly the younger ones, as far as their attitude towards patriotism and nationalism were concerned.

1.1. Patriotism = a natural affection and/or liking for the city, the region and/or the country one is born and bred in but with an understanding for and a friendly approach to the peoples of other neighbouring countries or their minorities living in one's country.

1.2. Nationalism = a strong, mostly overdone predilection for one's own people, country and culture, all foreign nations, peoples, countries and cultures considered to be inferior. Some extreme nationalist feelings need "an enemy" as without one's own national group cannot exist.

2.1. Nationalism, often mistaken for patriotism, it cannot be denied, was one of the causes of World War One (1914-1918). Hardly had it begun when the citizens of the countries concerned lined the streets to cheer the young men, who cheerfully singing patriotic songs, marched to the battle fields to - as they did not know at the time - be sacrificed on the altar of nationalism. War was considered to be a feast, a splendid adventure.

2.2. The senseless slaughter on the blood drenched battle fields soon opened the eyes of many. Baden- Powell, despite his military background, was also much impressed and shocked by all the bloodshed and apparently also learned to understand the true meaning and dangers of nationalism and the disasters it caused.

2.3. Against the expectations of many, Scouting managed to survive the conflict. B-P. and his associates gradually began adding a new element to the principles of Scouting viz Scouting for Peace and International Understanding and Brotherhood. Teaching all members that all human beings were considered to be equal, despite their various nationalities, languages, religions, the colours of their skins.

2.4. Gradually Baden-Powell and his men made Scouting drift away from nationalism to internationalism. He proposed a structure of international leadership (1921) and during the 2nd International Conference in Paris (1922) the foundation of the World Brotherhood of Scouting was definitely laid. The International (now World) Conference was created (1922) in addition to the International (now World) Bureau (1921).

2.5. It was a gradual process of evaluation which met resistance in some of the movement causing some nationalists/patriots to cede from the World Movement and found truly real nationalist movements. The various peoples
- still drenched in nationalism, mistaken for patriotism opposed the revolutionary idea and became enemies of scouting.

2.6. These were still early days when nationalism and patriotism were still confused and some fanatic nationalists filled with hatred for the surrounding countries, created fascism and national socialism - the latter being the worst miscarriage of nationalism - rejecting all internationalism and equality of the human race. Wherever they gained power Scouting (and Guiding) were disbanded, banned an persecuted.

2.7. National Socialism, (abusing the word socialism and what it stood for as the communists also did all the time) fostered a revengeful nationalism which led to World War II (1939-1945), racism, the holocaust and the preaching of a doctrine declaring all races, other than the Teutonic one, to be inferior and their peoples to be just fit enough to serve the master race as slaves. Not only the Jews were exterminated, so were the gipsies and millions belonging to the Slavonic peoples such as the Poles, the Ukrainians, the Russians etc. were treated very badly, deported and very often killed starved to death in Nazi camps.

WESTERN EUROPE

5.1. In Western Europe, the peoples of the Nazi occupied countries and in particular the younger ones - involved or not involved in the resistance - were taught the lesson that nationalism was a danger and one of the enemies of the human race. It, throughout history, not only having caused many wars but also having given birth to national-socialism and fascism. So during those dark years the understanding grew gradually that nationalism was no longer to be tolerated after the war and that it should be abandoned in order to prevent that the European nations from ever going to war again.

5.2. WW II over and done with in the West European countries was founded the European Federalists Movement, aiming at the creation of a Federal or United Europe in which wars between the nations would never be possible again and nationalists would never be given the chance again to mislead the people and lead them to slaughter and disaster once more.

5.3. The Federalists European flag and symbol was the Green Capital E on a white field. Around this Flag rallied thousands of West European youngsters and others, including Germans, who - despite what had happened during
the Nazi-era - were made welcome and were accepted as equal partners, and more important, also as victims of overdone nationalism.

5.4. Scouting, being a world movement and non-political was not involved in this new Federalism but thousands of scouts and guides were - privately - also members of the Federalist Movement, whose ideals - such as the equality and brotherhood of men and all peoples being equal, were very much the same as what the World Brotherhoods of Guiding and Scouting taught.

5.5. The 6th World Jamboree, Jamboree de la Paix - Jamboree of Peace, at Moisson in France in summer 1947 became a great incentive for the World Brotherhood and the aversion to nationalism. Many West European scouts, on their shirts, next to their national flag badge, also wore the European E strip badge. Hands across the borders for a better understanding, the prevention of nationalism and war.

5.6. European institutions were founded, viz the . The European Federalist movement grew larger and larger in all West European countries. European Economic Community, the Coal and Steel Community. Nationalism either disappeared, faded away, lost importance and was replaced a longing for Peace and an United Europe. Patriotism meaning affection, love and liking for ones place of birth was at last separated from nationalism. National frontiers faded away too and though many, many difficulties had to be overcome in the end, after many years, it lead to the European Union and the introduction of the Euro.

5.7. The European Union is still not perfect, far from it and much will still to have to be done. It certainly is not what the original European Federalists had in mind. But hopefully in another 50 years the men and women won't know any better and will be puzzled how it was possible that in the previous century nationalism and racism held humanity in such a terrible and disastrous grip.

11) The YMCA (Young Men Christian Association) and the YWCA (Young Women Christian Association) of British origin both embraced scouting and guiding and within its system many groups were founded. In some countries these groups joined immediately the NSOs, whereas in other countries they - at first had separate movements which later joined the NSOs and thus WAGGGS and/or WOSM. In particular in the Scandinavian and the Baltic countries the YMCA and the YWCA were very active in scouting and guiding.
CHAPTER 12. Lithuania – Lietuva

In the beginning the area presently known as Lithuania was inhabited by three Indo-European tribes: the Zje-maïtes, the Jutvings and the Auksjitats. The terrain consisting of marshes, rivers and covered by large, dense forests protected them well against all intruders and they managed to keep them out. Yet the Vikings, in their famous longboats, were a different threat. They raided the coastlines, attacked the settlements and forced the tribes to unite to fend them off. Attacks by the Mongols and the Tartars were also repulsed and the tribes were not so much influenced by the various migrations of nations from the east. Yet it was not until much later that the Lithuanian nation came to being when the region was threatened by some new enemies: the Teutonic Knights, also known as the German Order, the Fratres Militae (Armed Brotherhood) or - more enlightening - the Knights of the Sword. The members were mainly the second or third sons or the bastards of German Knights and other gentry. They were well aware that if their fathers died they would not inherit anything. Sometimes their dads just gave them a horse, an armour and a sword and sent them packing to carve their own way in life and to riches. These "knight errants", as they were called, sought and found adventure.
At long last found an excuse to cover their Activities when they had embraced Christianity. They united, formed armed units and they decided to bring Christianity to pagan Eastern Europe. Sword in the hand so as to be more convincing. To bring their blessings they first moved north eastwards into the region presently known as the Baltic States. The above tribes were lucky again and protected as they also were by the difficult terrain. It came, however, to many battles with the knights but they managed to keep them out. Once more the tribes united and a leader was chosen, known as Vitenes (1296-1315). He consolidated his territory but his brother and successor Gediminas (1316-1341) even managed to enlarge the country, conquering a fair part of West and South Russia.

For political reasons the Lithuanian leaders stuck to their own Gods. Converting to Roman Catholicism would estrange their Orthodox Russian subjects whereas converting to the Russian Orthodox Church would certainly not end the Teutonic Knights' Crusades. In 1320 Gediminas founded a new capital Vilnjes or Vilnius. Meanwhile Moskovia, after annexations and conquests of surrounding areas, known as Russia, grew stronger and stronger, and the Lithuanians had to defend themselves on two fronts to fend off the Russians and the Teutonic Knights. Jogaila or Jagello (1377-1434) found a solution. He married Princess Jadwiga, heir to the Polish throne, converted to Roman Catholicism and brought Lithuania under the Polish Crown. As Polish and Lithuanian King he extended his realm until it stretched from the Baltic mto
the Black Sea covering most of Poland, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania.

In later years the Poles got the overhand and the inhabitants of original Lithuania demanded more independence. A treaty of Lublin (1557) was signed which granted them limited self-determination.

In the centuries thereafter the Polish and Lithuanian neighbours got greedier and greedier. Prussia, Austria and Russia divided Poland three times and in 1795 Poland and Lithuania were wiped of the maps and did no longer exist as independent countries. A small part of Lithuania was taken by the Prussians but the rest by the Russians. A situation to last until 1918.

During these 120 years of foreign oppression there were several uprisings, e.g. in 1812 when self-made Emperor Napoleon I of France's armies not only marched to Moscow but - through the Baltic provinces - were also on their way to St Petersburg. During the battle of Riga to be stopped and forced to retreat by "King Winter", and the Russian Army, supported the British Royal Navy. There were further uprisings in 1831, 1863 and 1905. But all were put down by the Russians. Each time - as a punishment - thousands were deported to a certain death in far away Siberia.

"Come What May, Lithuania will never perish" was an old saying and the Lithuanians were nurturing the dream of their freedom and independence which one day they expected to regain.
During the first week of August 1914 the Great War, later known as World War I, began. The German Imperial High Command intended to crush France in a quick attack through Belgium before Great Britain would be able to deploy its forces on the Continent. Dedicating their potential and energy to this plan - which failed in 1914 but succeeded in 1940 - the Germans more or less neglected their Eastern Front with Russia. The Russian Armies initially scored some successes and penetrated East Prussia and the German zone of Poland. But a little later the Germans took the initiative. The Russians were forced to withdraw and large parts of Russian Poland and Russia were taken by German and Austrian forces. Lithuania, the nearest to East Prussia, was occupied by the Germans. But before they actually arrived the Russian military had deemed it necessary to evacuate a part of the civil population to the Russian hinterland and a fair portion of them had to settle in the city of Woronez, about which more later.

The war did not go well for the Russians and amongst others their Baltic provinces, Lithuania Latvia and Estonia were lost to the German Empire. So after more than 120 years of Russian regime the population had to adjust to the new German occupation authorities, which of course was a difference though it was doubtful whether it was also an improvement. Had Imperial Germany won the war, it no doubt would have annexed the Baltic states and would not have granted them independence. But we are never to know.
On February 27th, 1917 the Russian revolution began. The centuries' old Empire of the Czars came to an end and was replaced by a democratic republic led by Kerenski, a social democrat.

But the Russians and the other peoples belonging to the vast empire and for ages having lived under a dictatorship, never got a real change of getting to know or used to real democracy - a system they had never known. In autumn 1917 a Bolshevik coup d'état ended the promising and hopeful beginning. This coup d'état - which was later dished up as the "Glorious October Revolution which led the working classes to the Workers' Paradise" - nipped democracy and liberty in the bud, when the Soviets seized power and took over government. A civil war began between the Red Army and the White Armies. The latter were divided in those fighting for the Czar's restoration to the throne and those defending the New Democratic Republic.

The war between Russia and Germany ended with Peace negotiations between the communists and the Germans at Brest Litovsk. The German demands were so harsh that the Bolsheviks at first refused to accept them (February 1918) whereupon the German armies advanced and occupied most of Western Russia. Which caused the Bolshevists to sign the treaty in March. To the German victors they had to give up Russian Poland, the Ukraine, various other regions and the Baltic provinces. But when on November 11th, at its 11th hours, 1918 the Germans in turn had to surrender to the Western Allies and the war ended, this Brest Litovsk treaty was annulled.
The situation changed drastically. Was rather chaotic. The German soldiers in occupation of the Baltic provinces were fed up with the war, glad that it was over, and most of them wanted to go home. So the retreat began and the Bolshevik Red Army, which was strongest in the north, made ready to advance and re-occupy the territory the Germans withdrew from. But the populations of the Baltic provinces had different ideas. They considered this to be a nice opportunity to at long last regain their freedom and independence. They armed themselves and were reinforced by some, small German military units (Freikorps) which did not accept the German surrender, stayed put and carried on fighting the Russians.

In the old Lithuanian capital Vilnius/Vilnjoes a National Council (Taryba) met and chaired by Antonas Smetona took charge of the uprising. On February 16th, 1918 proclaiming the restoration of Lithuanian Independence and on November 11th, 1918 (the Day the Great War or World War One ended) the first cabinet of the independent Republic of Lithuania was installed. Lithuania was free again after 122 long years of foreign oppression.

Independent but not yet really free and still at war. The new Bolshevik regime did not intend to permit the Baltic States to secede. A bitter armed struggle followed during which thousands gave their lives for their country's new freedom. At last, July 12th, 1920, a treaty was signed. The Soviet Union recognised the sovereignty of the free and independent Baltic States including Lithuania. So at last Lithuania had obtained its freedom and independence.
But there were also other outside influences. The Victorious Allies changed the map of Europe and Lithuania lost its old capital Vilnjoes/Vilnius to the new Polish Republic. As a result of the developments in the previous centuries, the city's population was mixed, Poles and Lithuanians. On the other hand the new League of Nations based in Geneva (the predecessor of the United Nations founded 1944) took under its supervision the area between German East Prussia and Lithuania, (in German: the Memelgebiet, in Lithuanian: Kalypedu) and placed it under Lithuanian sovereignty.

The people, having paid a high price but free at last, under its first President Antonas Smetona faced a new future, which turned out to be rather varied.

In the new Lithuania scouting was to prosper.

**SCOUTING**

In the years during which Lithania and Poland had been one country and later when East Poland and Lithuania belonged to the Russian Empire it so happened that the populations mixed and lived together peacefully in towns and villages. Many Lithuanians studied at universities in the Russian zone of divided Poland.

Scouting came to occupied Poland as early as 1911 and in the Russian zone was founded the Polska Organizacja Skautowa. (1) Lithuanian students of the Polish universities joined the first Polish groups but no such units were founded in Lithuania at the time.
When World War One had begun and part of the Lithuanian population had been evacuated to the Russian hinterland - as mentioned - many settled in the city of Woronezh. Schools were opened, one of them having as its head teacher Petras Jurgela. He founded the first Lithuanian Scout Troop ever, be it not on Lithuanian soil. But meanwhile scouting was also brought to the German occupied part of Lithuania and troops sprung up.

But never officially as the German occupation banned and suppressed all manifestations of Lithuanian nationalism, and the scout troops were considered as such. Hence these new troops operated illegally.

But when the War of Independence had begun the scouts - boys and girls - donned their uniforms and came out in the open. Despite the war scouting flourished. There were boys only and girls only troops but also some mixed ones. On November 1st, 1918 the existing troops united in the LSS - Lietuviu Skautu Sąjunga or the Lithuanian Scouting Association which was founded that very day. As in most countries, the Scout Law and Promise as well as the rules were strict translations of those laid down by Baden-Powell. The new movement spread all over Lithuania and became very popular. During the War of Independence the scouts rendered their services but many of the older ones, leader's age, served in the Liberation Forces. The War over and the country independent scouting was able to develop properly.
It was remarkable that in Lithuania - as in many other East European countries - very high standards were reached in scouting, so much so that the foreign visitors, mainly British guide and scout leaders, were very impressed indeed. On the other hand there were few countries where the scout and guide organizations suffered so many victims for the cause of scouting, as history will reveal.

Sea scouting began in 1922 and in their small boats the Lithuanians used to sail all over the Baltic calling at ports in Finland, Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and even Denmark and until 1933 also Germany. When - first in Britain - cub scouting and rover scouting were introduced, the Lithuanians did the same and later still they were one of the first countries to introduce air scouting.

The LSS grew and soon was the largest and most popular youth organization in Lithuania fully supported by the government.

When in Paris (1922) the 2nd International (now World) Conference was held and the International (now World) Movement was founded, the movements represented were all registered and recognized as members, and were since considered to belong to the "Founder Members". For reasons unknown the LSS was not pre-
sent at the conference and consequently did not belong to the "Founder Members". Yet it was registered as a member by the Boy Scouts International Bureau on June 1st, 1924. A recognition which enabled 20 Lithuanian scouts (boys and girls), under the leadership of Scoutmaster V. Senbergas, to participate in the 2nd World Jamboree at Ermelunden near Copenhagen (1924).

In Scouting's early days it was not uncommon that in various countries Heads-of-State, be they Kings or Queens or Presidents, took a great interest in scouting and guiding - which they deemed very important for the development of youth. Some even consented in they themselves - or other members of the family - becoming patrons or patronesses of the national movements. (2) But on April 23rd, 1925 (St George's Day) the Lithuanian President was installed as LSS's Chief Scout, which was exceptional.

In 1927 - to commemorate LSS's 10th anniversary a First National Camp (Stovykla) was held near Panemun, on the banks of the river Nrmunas. As from that year onwards the national broadcasting system permitted LLS to put on the air a daily half hour radio program which was very popular and lasted until the communist takeover in 1940. National and international scouting and guiding news was given and reports concerning such international scouting events as the 3rd World Jamboree (1929) at Arrowepark near Birkenhead in England, the 4th (1933) at Gödöllö in Hungary and the 5th (1937) at Vogelenzang in the Netherlands. To the latter travelled 25 Lithuanian scouts who pitched their tents in Sub camp 7.
In 1937 in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the country's Independence and the LSS the latter once again organized a National Camp at the favourite site of Panemun,

GUIDING

As mentioned earlier the Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga was originally a mixed organization with boys and girls only groups but also mixed ones. Under the influence of the Girl Guides International Bureau in London the situation changed. The mixed groups disappeared when after mutual agreement the Girl Scouts separated from the LSS, and continued as an independent movement named Lietuviu Skausiu Skyrius or - Lithuanian Girl Scouts Sisterhood.

The G.G. International Bureau used to organize several International Conference, the 5th one of which was held at Parad/Hungary in May 1928. The Lietuviu Skausiu Skyrius was invited to attend. As one of the 26 participating Guide Movements,(3) thus belonging to the "Founder Members" of the WAGGGS - the World Association of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

During this conference is was also decided that from that conference onwards each recognized and registered, associated or full member movement would have to send a Biennial Report to the WAGGGS International
Bureau. In their first report - covering July 1st, 1928 - June 30th, 1930 the Lithuanian leadership reported a total membership of 1334 (4),

and:

"This year we have reached the point when the girls have begun to work alone instead of with the Boy Scouts. We have done much work looking for Guiders and so we prepared courses for them in each region, and we also had a training camp for the Guiders which lasted fourteen days."

The 2nd report ending June 30th, 1932 mentions a total membership of 3552, whereas the 3rd report, ending June 30th 1933 indicates that the movement's name has been changed into Lietuvos Skauciu Seserija which is however also translated as Lithuania's Girl Scouts Sisterhood. Its membership is said to be 4010, an increase of no less than 458. (4). But this report, written in German, also paid a tribute to the great event, the highlight of the year, the visit by the World Chief Scout, the World Chief Guide, their family and the more than 600 British Guide leaders and Scout leaders. In summer 1933, the two British cruise ships, used for this Baltic tour, also called at the Lithuanian port. The British guests visited the National Camp (Stovykla) at Palanga where Baden-Powell signed a huge 4 to 5 tons stone (5) with his initials, together with Chief Scout and President Antanas Smetona. This British invasion drew the attention and greatly enlarged the two movements' popularity. Radio and press dedicated much time and space.
From the Fourth Biennial Report  July 1st, 1934 - June 30th, 1936. Total membership 6608. (4)

"The years 1934 and 1935 were years of considerable development. The organization gained about 3000 new members (total 6608) and great strides were made in the training of leaders. A permanent training school for leaders was established in 1934. Cooperation began with the close neighbours, the Latvian Girl Guides in 1933. The results have been most satisfactory and resulted in very friendly relations. In summer 1934 a joint camp for Guiders of both movements was held in Lithuania and in 1935 in Latvia. Both were very successful and the Guiders even studied each other languages.

In 1935 the LLS changed its constitution giving the Girl Scouts the complete independence they had long been striving for and a National Guide Council was created which formulated a constitution which came into force on March 1st, 1936."

In its 5th Biennial Report - covering July 1st, 1936 - June 30th, 1938, Lietuvus Skaucia Seserijas told WAGGGS in London that its membership was now 6920 and

"In April 1937 a new branch was added - the Girl Sea Scouts - which proved very successful.

The relationship with the Sister Scouts in Latvia became even more cordial and in 1937 closer relationship with the Estonian Guide Association was also established. In October 1937 the Baltic Guides' Association was formed and a constitution adopted.
In 1936 12 scouts went to the Danish Jubilee Jambo-ree, 10 to Latvia, three to the Estonian National Camp. In 1937 one to Camp Andrée in the USA. One Guider attended the Ranger Conference at Adelboden en two attended the courses for leaders at Foxlease.

In July, 1938 a large national camp was organized to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Lithuanian independence and of Scouting. Sisters movement were invited to send participants."

Apparently there was never a Sixth Biennial Report which ought to have been sent after June 30th, 1940. The general political situation in Europe had changed so much and the tensions were so high that it may never have been written.

TENSIONS

Lithuania, as the other Baltic States, lived between hammer and anvil. There was always the mighty Soviet Union which never forgot that Lithuania had once been one of Russia's Baltic Provinces which it had been compelled to give independence but which it would rather have kept so as to control the Baltic coasts. This desire grew when in 1933 Germany fell in the hands of Hitler's Nazi regime which made no secret of it that it had two main enemies: the Jews and the Bolsheviks or Communists, that is the Soviet Union. On the other hand there was a small Lithuanian communist party which aimed at Lithuania becoming a part of the Soviet Union. But the fascists and the Nazi’s also had their Lithuanian followers (The Iron Wolf Movement) and in particular the latter's influence grew in Ger-
man speaking minority. Some of them, though Lithuanian citizens, considered themselves as being Germans, an opinion shared and propagated by Nazi Germany. So after 1933 Lithuania was in between the Nazi Hammer and the Soviet Anvil. Which made life very uncertain, exciting but also stressful.

Adolf Hitler managed to manipulate his direct neighbours and the West European Democracies. He had it his way when he was dealing with Austria and Czechoslovakia. Then his greedy eye fell upon Poland. Though he never expected France and England to go to war over Poland, he nevertheless wanted to cover his back and so - to the world's utter surprise - he made his move towards the Soviet Union. From State and Humanity's Enemy Number One, the Soviet Union was suddenly declared to be a friend and a pact in that respect was signed on August 23rd, 1939 added to which was the infamous top secret Ribbentrop/Molotov Protocol dividing Eastern Europe in a Nazi and a Soviet sphere of influence. The Baltic States were allotted to the Soviet Union be it that in 1939 Lithuania had to hand over Klaipeda/Kalýpedu or the Memel, bordering on East Preussia, with its mixed German/Lithuanian population to Nazi Germany. The first to be expelled were the Jews.

When World War Two had begun with the Nazi attack on Poland in September 1939 the Baltic States detected a concentration of the Red Army near their borders. The countries were put under enormous pressure. On May 10th, 1940 Nazi-Germany began its offensive in Western Europe overrunning the Netherlands and Bel-
gium, forcing France to its knees and compelling the British to retreat from Dunkirk.

On June 14th, 1940 the Lithuanian government received another Soviet ultimatum demanding garrisons and naval basis for the Soviet Forces. Even before the ultimatum's deadline had expired the Red Army marched in and 300,000 Soviet soldiers occupied the country. The democratically chosen government was pressed to resign, the Lithuanian communists formed a new one which humbly requested Moscow to kindly incorporate Lithuania in the USSR. Of course this request was not denied and on August 3rd 1940 the country was renamed Lietuvos Sotsialisticheskika Respublik. As a kind of a "welcome home" present the city of Vilnius/Vilnjoes and the surrounding region was taken away from Poland and restored to Lithuania to be its capital once more. Whether the Lithuanians - under the circumstances - were very pleased with this gift is not known.

But this was the end of independent Lithuania. From now on a puppet government had to follow and execute Moscow's strict orders. The sun had set for another 55 years.

THE REDS – THE BROWNS – THE REDS

Some had seen it coming and were trying to go abroad. Antonus Smetona, the country's president but also the LSS' Chief Scout, was one of those who made it and he found refuge in the USA. He remained active for the liberation of his country, had only just settled in Cleveland/Ohio when on January 8th, 1944
he was assassinated. A mysterious crime that was never solved by the otherwise very efficient American police and the FBI, but Moscow's arm was a long one.

The Red Terror began immediately. All those belonging to the opposition and in particular those having leaders' capacities were arrested as they were deemed a danger to the new regime. Scouting and Guiding also had the bill presented and most of the scout and guide leaders were put in jail.

Yet is was not until the 9th of October, 1940 that in the newspaper TARYBU was published an official government announcement stating that the LSS - "a dangerous instrument in the hands of the capitalist enemies of the working classes" and "misleading youth" - was disbanded. All further scouting and guiding activities were banned and offenders would be severely punished. All possessions were confiscated and placed at the disposal of the communist State Youth (the Komosols and the Pioneers) units of which were formed at every school and membership of which was to be compulsory. The terror hit hard and put fear in the hearts.

No one was to be trusted anymore. Despite all this scouts and guides, mainly in isolated patrols, still met but a large number of arrests were made as traitors never sleep.

The Nazi-Soviet friendship did not last long. On June 22nd, 1941, the Nazis launched their Operation Barbarossa, attacking the Soviet Union. Its leadership had ignored the warnings received from the British Prime Minister and War Leader Winston Churchill and was not at all prepared
when the German offensive began. German tanks sliced through the defences like a hot knife through butter.

There were three important German spearheads. One in the south aimed at taking the fertile Ukraine, one in the centre aimed at taking Moscow and eliminating the Soviet leadership and one heading north from East Prussia, through the Baltic States in order to conquer Leningrad (now St Petersburg again.). It was the latter spearhead that the Lithuanians got to see. The Germans crossing into the country from East Prussia and Memel met little Soviet resistance. The Red Army had had too little time to organize the defences. Also they were harassed by the Lithuanians who had risen and armed themselves. Almost everywhere the old Lithuanian national colours (horizontal: Yellow-Green-Red) were hoisted again and the people rejoiced. It is typical that almost all regimes, based upon terror, more or less pay less attention to their defences than they do to their victims. Despite the massive difficulties the retreating Red Army had to deal with, the terror regime found means to evacuate the prisons and concentration camps. The inmates were forced to walk for days and miles to other prisons. Little rest and little food to maintain their strength and health. Scouts and guides and their leaders had been mainly concentrated in the Kaunas prison. When the Germans approached the inmates were marched off to the Russian hinterland. They had to walk from Kaunus via Minsk to Smolensk, a long distance without sufficient food and drink and little rest or decent shelter. After so many months in prison their general condition was far from
perfect and many collapsed and died or, when no longer able to stand on their feet, were executed on the spot. Chief Scout Sarauskus was one of them. He was an elderly man and on the 3rd day he collapsed. Other, younger scout leaders dragged him along and by the end of the day they reached the Corvene prison. The march came to a halt, the prisoners were given some food and some drink and were allowed to rest. Suddenly the guards separated some female and male leaders, including Sarauskus, from the main group. They were led into the surrounding woods and were executed. Their bodies were then crushed by tanks and mixed with the mud. Other prominent or less prominent scout and guide leaders were executed by means of hanging.

But not only those who were prisoners were killed. In Rainiai 18 guides and scouts, aged 17 - 35, were murdered. And such things happened everywhere and thousands of Lithuanians were liquidated on the spot or deported.

No wonder that when they were able to obtain arms they turned on the retreating Red Army soldiers and killed as many as they could. No wonder that in the period between the Red Army's retreat and the Germans' arrival the Lithuanians took charge and hunted traitors and Soviet agents that had not been able to get away.

No wonder too that the Lithuanians greeted the Germans as liberators expecting them to restore the country's independence.
No wonder that most of them were very disappointed when they found that this was not a liberation. The only difference was the colour of the occupation, Nazi Brown in exchange for Soviet Red.

The Lithuanians who had armed themselves and attacked the Red Army on retreat, where disarmed by the Nazis and arrested. The provisional government that had taken over from the Soviet one, was disbanded by the Nazis on August 5th, 1941 and all leading personalities were taken into custody and deported to Germany to be locked up in a contraction camp. The Nazis, like the Soviets, had no need for independently thinking people. The old Lithuanian national flag, yellow-green-red, that had been hoisted again, had to be removed once more. The left-overs of the LSS, mainly young boys and girls, that had re-emerged, were told to stop all activities and to remove their uniforms. The Nazis did not at all want a liberated and revived Lithuania. A Nazi administration took over in the Baltic States which became a Reichskommissariat led by a Nazi Reichskommissar. The intention being that, when the war would have been won, the countries would become part of the Great Thousand Years' Reich.

Some of the armed Lithuanians managed to escape and to hide in the dense forests. They formed partisan units which tried to keep the Nazis away from them. There were armed clashes which led to German reprisals and the Nazis committed many war-crimes. The Lithuanians were caught between two evil systems. Yet each system knew its Lithuanian collaborators. Some, despite everything, joined the Nazis with enthusiasm. When the war lasted longer than the Nazi leaders had expected and millions of
Germans had fallen on the different fronts, new recruits were needed and sought elsewhere in the occupied territories. The cunning Nazis declared their war on the Soviet Union as to be in reality a Crusade against inhuman communism in order to save the western civilisation and Christianity. All over Europe devote Raman Catholic boys, who had always been told how bad communism was, fell for it and joined the SS. In the Baltic States, blinded by their hatred for the Soviets and not understanding the game the Nazis were playing, many joined up, willing to fight on the fronts but also to assist in the oppression of their own compatriots. Dressed in SS uniforms they were also involved in the extermination of their Lithuanian Jewish fellow citizens and many of other nationalities.

When the Bolsheviks had taken over and disbanded the Lithuanian Defence Force, removing and killing the officers, the other ranks had been forced to join the Red Army. It is understandable that, if they had a choice, they did not want to fight and certainly not to die for what they considered to be their oppressors. So if the possibility was there, they surrendered to the Germans. But it was no change for the better. With thousands of other Soviet soldiers they were put into German extermination camps to starve to death.

Until the Nazis discovered their potential and started recruiting them. Given the choice between slow starvation and hard labour in a German camp or donning the German uniform some did so, be it mostly half heartedly. To their alarm and fright it was an SS one. As for the nationalism, that they wanted to keep down, the Nazis also
changed their tune and permitted the Lithuanians SS men to have on their sleeves a badge in the national colours: Yellow-Green-Red. As if they were fighting for a free Lithuania!

Pro or anti the Nazi occupation, collaborating or resisting, all Lithuanians feared the Red Army’s return. And the tide had certainly turned. Nazi Germany "Victorious On All Fronts" was harassed on all fronts and retreated. The Red Army had recovered from the blows and had been reinforced and reequipped by its own industry behind the Ural mountains and by the Western Allies.

In August/September 1944 the Germans were slowly forced out of Lithuania by the advancing Red Army. It was a slow process but unstoppable. Thousands of Lithuanians, whether pro or anti Nazis did not wish to stay and wait until the Red Army would return. A new switch of masters, and as experience taught, there was hardly a difference between them. Some went to the coast and tried to get on board anything that would float and take them to Sweden. Others managed to get on board German vessels and disembarked in some German port unless they were torpedoed by a Russian submarine. But most took the roads down south and went the long and hard way via East Prussia and Poland into Germany. Two enemies hit them, the advancing Red Army and King Winter. Mixing with the Germans escaping from East Prussia, thousands tracked along the frozen coastal waters and many perished when being strafed and bombed by Russian fighter planes. Those who made it got involved in the bom-
barricades on the German cities. Trying to keep ahead of the Red Army they went as far west as possible until they met the advancing Western Allies.

Those who stayed put saw the Soviets returning and were subjected to the new terror when the communists took over again. Almost everybody was considered to have been collaborating with the Nazis and thousands were arrested and deported to faraway places. Only a very small percentage of those survived and was able to return home when in 1953, after Stalin's death, the regime went more lenient. The deportees places were filled by Russian and Ukrainians who were forced to settle in Lithuania to keep the economy going.

The above mentioned partisans in the forests, first harassed the retreating Germans and later the advancing Red Army and their activities lasted until well into 1952. News concerning their prolonged, unequal struggle scarcely reached the Free West and if so but was seldom given any attention.

Lithuania disappeared behind the Iron Curtain and was not heard off for a very long time.

The madness and bloodshed of World War Two ended on May 8th, 1945 at 0800 hours. A point of time. In the Armies of the Western Allies officially known as "Zero Hour" and in German history as "Die Stunned Null". It came as a relief to all, the victors, the vanquished and the victims of it all.
THE DISPLACED PERSONS

Destroyed Germany was a chaotic mess. Thousands from Western Europe having been deported by the Nazis for forced labour in their war industry were free again and wanted to go home and consequently hit the roads to do so. But these roads, as were the railways, were destroyed. But the refugees from the East did not fancy to return home. So they had to stay where they were and had to live in terrible conditions in former army and labour force camps whereas others, less lucky were put in partly destroyed old factories and other buildings. Almost everything was lacking including food and medical treatment. Life was hell. The future uncertain. The kids were suffering most of all. (Also see Chapter 1)

At first the population of most of the Displaced Persons' Camps was a mixture of several nationalities. Yet in almost every camp there were scouts and guides. They got together and, from scrap, they founded groups. Groups of mixed nationalities providing the kids with some activities that, for some hours, made them forget the circumstances they were living in.

These scouting and guiding activities did not go unnoticed and were detected by the many scouts and guides serving in the American, British, Canadian and Polish armies that were in occupation of West Germany, and were not only willing to lend a helping hand, but also reported their findings to their own National Headquarters who in turn informed the International Bureaus of both World Movements. The DP scouts and guides too
made efforts to contact the IBs and many a leader that, in better times, had been working in the international field tried to reach his former friends. The occupation authorities saw the value of scouting and guiding in the camps and did everything to help.

When things settled down the occupation authorities tried to bring some order in the camps and as much as possible the various nationalities were concentrated in various "national camps". And that is how the first "national groups" were founded. West Germany had been divided in a US, a British and a French zone and travelling from the one to the other was hardly possible, permits to do so were hard to obtain. Also the railways were destroyed and there was hardly any other transport available. At first the postal services did not work either and so it was difficult to find out who had survived and where everybody was.

In the beginning of 1946 the Lithuanian Chief Guide Dr Ksavera Zilinkiene, who was in Stuttgart/South Germany, US Zone, with the assistance of the Allied administration, had restored the communications with most of the Lithuanian groups in West Germany but not yet with the ones in Austria, which also knew 4 occupation zones. (It was known that the last Chief Scout Juczas Sarauskas had been murdered.) She called a meeting inviting the guide and scout leaders to come to Stuttgart. Which was easier said than done. Scouting-friendly occupation authorities often granted permits but even then, the travelling was difficult. Some had to stand for hours in slow moving, crowded trains, others had to sit on top of the railway carriages and all of
them lacked food and drink. The more fortunate ones were given lifts in army trucks and were also fed.

During this meeting the LSS - uniting *Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga*, and *Lietuvus Skaucia*

*Seserijas* - was reactivated on April 28th, 1946. The World Bureaus were informed and spread their protecting wings. In 1947 the *Displaced Persons Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau* was founded which assisted, supported and protected all DP scouts and gave them identity cards. The WAGGGS acted similarly. In a letter dated Schweinfurt DP- Camp, April 13th, 1948 and signed by Juoze Augustaityte - Vaiciuniene, Chief of Lithuanian Girl Guides, the Lietuvus Skaucia Seserijas Vadija informed WAGGGS quote:

"It was destined that in the American Zone there is living a greater part of the girl scouts than in the other zones. The Centre of the girl scouts is here too. Therefore the activity is better developed here. In the American zone there are 18 girl scout units. In the French zone there are 2 girl scout units and in the British Zone there are 6 girl scout units. Besides the isolated girl scout units there are some mixed units, that means boys and girls together, in all Zones. In Austria there is only one mixed unit."

"The structure of the organisation, the distribution of the places of the girl scouts and the addresses we will send to the World Bureau, although the dwellings are very inconstant; for camps have often to move from one place to another."
"This year (1948) is one of jubilee in our scouting activity. There are thirty years since the foundation of the Lithuanian girl-boy scouts organisation. Therefore in this year we arrange exhibitions, meetings and camp courses to strengthen and deepen concourse of scouts works."

September 1948 the DP Division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau had registered 2000 Lithuanian DP scouts spread over the US, the British and the French zones. In 1947, despite visa and money problems - which the UNRRA (6) and the DP Division BSIB solved - some were able to attend the 6th World Jamboree in Moisson/France.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Lithuanian Scouting and the country's Independence, due to travel permits between the US and the British Occupation Zones not easily obtainable, two STOVYKLA or National Camps had to be held, one in the British and one in the American Zone.

Meanwhile it had become quite clear that a return to the homeland was impossible and certainly not imminent. Several countries offered accommodation and a new future and so gradually the DPs of the various nationalities spread all over the world. (7) Wheresoever they went the Lithuanians, as all other DPs, still hoping that a return home would be possible in a not too far off future, stuck together as much as possible, keeping alive their culture and customs and their scouting and guiding. (7). Petras Jurgela, mentioned before as the Founder of the first Lithuanian troop ever, had
also survived the war and was living in the USA where he founded a Lithuanian Group. He was also appointed as LSS-in-Exile Chief Scout. Up to well in the late eighties he performed this task. It is unknown whether he may have lived long enough to have seen the revival of the LSS in the old homeland.

Soon there were more than 2000 LSS scouts in the USA, 160 in Canada, 140 in Australia, 40 in Brazil. Girl Scouts, smaller in numbers, were also active in these countries. Only 60 scouts and guides stayed behind in Germany for reasons explained in Chapter 1.

At the 8th World Jamboree, Bad Ischl/Austria, 1951 21 LSS scouts were present. Eleven scouts, 2 scout leaders and 8 rover scout represented LSS at the 9th World Jamboree/Indaba/Rover Moot, the Jubilee Jamboree of 1957 at Sutton Goldfield/England. In 1958 the Lithuanians celebrated three to them important events: LSS' 40the anniversary and remembrance of how 40 years earlier before their country had gained its independence and the 500th birthday of St Casimir, the Lithuanian's Patron Saint. A STOVYKLA was held near Milford/Michigan/USA and the participants were flown in from all over the world. Foreign guests participated, such as Hungarian, Latvian, Estonian, Ukrainian and Polish Exile Scouts, but also a large number of American and Canadian Scouts.

The 18th World Conference of Olivaris, near Lisbon/Portugal (20-24/09/1961) will always be considered by all Exile movements as a black day in World Scouting's history. The offer of an associate member-
ship stranded on the unwillingness of the Poles and consequently the Exiles could no longer consider themselves as being members of the World Movement unless they would join the NSOs of their new countries of residence. It can very well be understood that to all the Exile Scouts this was a hard blow. (7)

In Exile the LSS knew three sub-units viz Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga, Skautu Brolija, the Boys' Division, Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga, Skauciu Seserija, the Girls' Division, and Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga, Akademinis Skauta Sajudis, the Students Division.

The Lithuanians belonged to the founder members of the CSAiE or "Council of Scout Associations in Exile". When in 1976, the Guides-in-Exile merged with the CSAiE, this institute was renamed AISGO or "Associated International Scout and Guide Organisations".

The LSS, originally named as participating, soon withdrew and cancelled its membership for reasons unknown and - regretfully - not traced.

Every 10 years, 1968, 1978 and 1988, far from the homeland, that some - having been born in Exile - had never even seen, the LSS scouts and guides celebrated their movement's and country's anniversaries. Excited they must have been during the 1988 STOVYKLA as they must have been aware that - thanks to Gorbachev's Glasnost and Perestroika - things were slowly but gradually changing in the Communist Block and that there was a glimmering of hope for better times.
Mikhail Gorbachev’s unexpected Perestroika (Renewal) and Glasnost (Openness) in the USSR and its satellite countries created a atmosphere of tense hope and unrest. The authorities were showing a certain leniency and relaxation but the population remained careful. But at least there was a glimmering of hope. Perhaps things might change for the better at last.

There were changes in Poland. On 11/09/1989 Hungary opened the Iron Curtain and began removing it. Things were happening in the other satellite states. In the DDR (East Germany), the most loyal of all Moscow satellites, there were anti communist and anti government demonstrations even on the 7th of October 1989 when the DDR was officially celebrating its 40th anniversary. A climax was that unforgettable evening of November 9th, 1989 when unexpectedly - and yet for the whole world to watch on TV - the Berlin Wall came tumbling down and the people of East and West Berlin was able to meet, mix and celebrate after decades of separation. These things did not go unnoticed and greatly influenced other nations. Including Lithuania.

But whereas the satellite countries had some freedom of movement, the situation in Lithuania and the other Baltic States was different. They were no satellites,
they were part of the Soviet Union, very much a one-party Soviet State, with governments that had to follow the strict orders that came from Moscow and without official opposition. But those opposing the system and desiring independence founded Sajudis, not a political party but a movement supporting certain political tendencies which had emerged gradually.

Some tried out to see how far one could go without being arrested and punished. In winter 1988/1989 in the Baltic Soviet States some dared to hoist their old national flags, the possession of which - let alone the displaying and flying of which - was strictly forbidden. Some flew over the cities and ..... nothing happened. So more flags were being raised.


Fifty years earlier Nazi German and the Soviet Union had signed the treaty which led to the Baltic States losing their freedom and independence in 1940. The peoples of the three Baltic States, hand in hand, formed an unbroken human chain from the north of Estonia to the south of Lithuania, demanding the restoration of their liberty. This impressed. Thereafter the Lithuanians more and more stuck their necks out so much so that in December 1989 Gorbachev came to visit and to appease. He promised a law permitting states belonging to the USSR to secede. But promises were not enough and the Lithuanian communist government was put under such a pressure that it had to condone free elections, meaning that contrary to the past, when
there was only a choice out of communist candidates only, this time Sajudis candidates could be elected as well.

24/02/1990.

Of the 90 seats available in Parliament 72 were going to Sajudis sponsored and supported candidates, 9 to a new Lithuanian national communist party that had broken away from the USSR CP, and 9 to the, very disappointed, official communist party.

10-11/03/1990.

The new Parliament in office - with all votes in favour and 4 abstentions only - ratified again the Declaration of Independence of 1918. For the moment that was as far as they could go.

15/03/1990.

Tension rose when the Moscow Congress of People's Deputies- with an overwhelming 1463 votes and only 94 against - condemned Lithuanian's Declaration of Independence as being premature and illegal. An ultimatum was sent to Vilnius/Vilnius demanding the Declaration's immediate cancelation. Newly elected President Landsbergis made a statement informing the world that the decision had been taken democratically and that Lithuania did not feel obliged to conform with the decisions taken by a foreign power and that as such the USSR was now considered to be.
16/03/1990.
The newly created Lithuanian Defence Corps comes out in the open and takes over the border control, hoisting the Lithuanian National Tricolour (Yellow Green Red).

24/03/1990.
The Red Army demonstrated that it was still there, parading through the streets of Vilnius/Vilnijoes to impress and frighten the people.

26/03/1990.
A crucial day. The Black Berets, the special forces of the USSR's Ministry of the Interior, struck. Important buildings including hospitals, but not the Parliament, were occupied. More Soviet pressure was added when Moscow declared an economic boycott. Oil, natural gas and food were no longer supplied. More than 300,000 demonstrated. The other Baltic States declared their solidarity and West European countries and the USA protested. In May 1990 there is hardly any petrol left, public transport came to a standstill and various industries were closed for lack of natural gas and oil. But Russia's president Boris Jeltsin stated that the new Russian Federation would cooperate with Lithuania.

29/06/1990
The Lithuanian government decided to put the Declaration of Independence in the deep-freeze. President Landsbergis accepted but did not agree. The very next day the USSR ended her boycott and oil, petrol, natu-
ral gas as well as food were being delivered once again.

A period of discussions and meetings followed but neither the USSR nor Lithuania were willing to give in.

The three Baltic States were very much afraid of the Red Army still encamped in their countries' garrisons and a further invasion of more Red Army units. Governments and peoples were preparing for underground resistance. But many were also leaving the country and went into Exile.

09/01/1991.

The Black Berets, hit again surrounding but not yet entering main buildings. Unarmed Lithuanians stood between the soldiers and their targets. Gorbatchev, in a worldwide statement, denied all responsibility for this unwarranted action and also denied that he was behind or desired a possible communist coup d'état in Lithuania.

10-14/01/1991.

A dramatic situation developed. The Black Berets acted again. This time simultaneously in Estonia and Latvia. Opening fire whilst storming and taking several public buildings, the TV tower and TV studios, printing shops etc. 13 civilians were killed. The radio was still on the air when President Landsbergis said :" I promise that I'll remain loyal to my country and I think that we are prepared to die for Lithuania." Just before the radio station was forced to close down the following dramatic message was put on the air :
"This is Radio Lithuania. We inform you that the normal programs of Radio Lithuania are being disrupted by brute military force. We will remain stand fast. Our silence or strange voices using these wavelength do not mean that we are beaten. It is possible by sheer force to silence us, but that does not mean that they can force us to refrain from our struggle for Freedom and Independence."

Again Gorbatchev denied having given the orders and in Moscow thousands of Russian were demonstrating in favour of the Baltic States.

But meanwhile the Baltic communists founded National Rescue Committees, intending to remove the elected governments from office and to replace them in order to restore law, order and the communist regime. The United States and other countries added pressure on the USSR.

30/01/1991.

It so seemed that Gorbatchev got the overhand. Black Beret units, including 45 tanks, unexpectedly withdrew from the Lithuanian capital. The Kremlin informed Washington that it would be prepared to resume the negotiations with the Baltic States.

09/02/1991.

A new referendum. 85% of the population voted. 90% of them in favour of total independence. The Central Soviet Government in Moscow declared the referendum
to be totally illegal. The Red army began a 10 days' manoeuvres in the three Baltic States.

01/03/1991

Denmark was the first country to recognize Lithuanian independence.

31/03/1991.

The Lithuanian Parliament demanded the total withdrawal of all Black Beret units.

03/06/1991

Red Army units entered the country and occupied strategic positions in Vilnjes/Vilnius. But at midnight they suddenly departed again.


In Moscow US President George Bush had talks with Gorbachev.


The Soviet Union disintegrates. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and some other states declare their full independence.
The Scandinavian and some West European countries recognized the Lithuania's independence.

The foreign ministers of the European Union countries recognized the independence of the Baltic States. Their peoples celebrated the return of their liberty.

The USA recognized the Baltic independence. Huge celebrations in the countries concerned.

In Moscow the Congress of Representatives of the USSR voted in favour of the independence of the Baltic States. More rejoicing. Free again after 51 years !!!

08/12/1991.
After almost 70 years the Soviet Union disbanded and partly replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States. A considerable number of the former Soviet States got their independence, broke away from Moscow and were free to go their own way.

SCOUTING’S REVIVAL

In the revival or reactivating of Lithuanian's Scouting/Guiding one can make a distinction of three groups that had a great influence:
a) THE SURVIVORS

Despite the well organized arrests and deportations in 1940/1941 and again in 1944/1953 when thousands of leading and opposing Lithuanians, including scout- and guide leaders, even scouts, guides, Rover Scouts and Rangers were removed, there were always a few who managed to escape the attention and remained free. There is no doubt that, particularly so after 1953, the former leaders and elder members sought contact again. They could meet socially, now and then, and some managed to congregate on Thinking Day and St George's Day and reaffirmed their Promises. But they had to be very careful indeed as there were always traitors and informers around. And indeed, some were caught, arrested and send to camps.

Of course normal scouting and guiding were impossible. Yet many a leader or scout and guide, used to play scout or guide games with their children and instructed them in the various scouting proficiencies. But bared from active scouting and guiding the idealistic and ceremonial aspects of the movements which before 1940 - all over the world were much stronger represented than presently - came forward more and more, became the centre part of their thinking and remembering and were fostered in nostalgia.

So to say the Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga members, still at liberty, put their active scouting in the deep freeze and since they were totally isolated from the outside world, they never were aware of the fact that after 1945 and in particular during the mid-sixties, scouting
and guiding - movements (in the Free World) - had constantly adjusted to the demands and the possibilities of the times. Changes, some to the better, some less so. Consequently, when they revived scouting they reactivated it as they had known it before 1940 and that was a very long time ago (8).

b) THE EXILES

It cannot have but been that during their Exile they must also have undergone the modern influences, also in scouting, but on the whole particularly the original generation of Exiles remained loyal to their country and to their Scouting, its rules and traditions as they had known them in the Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga at home. They passed it on to the next generations. But new generations were born in Exile and it sometimes so happened that - though raised as Lithuanians - these kids were so much assimilated in the new countries that they felt more like citizens of those countries - whose nationalities they had - and some did not even speak, read or write the language of their grandparents or parents anymore. Some Exile groups had to use the language of residence and some of their magazines had to be printed in it. Yet even they were filled with feelings for the old country.
c) THE YOUNGSTERS

That is those generations born in Soviet Lithuania after 1945. Their official school education had been communist, but at home they were influenced differently. Of course they had never known *Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga* but they may have heard stories and had some inkling of Scouting. They were the ones who, as soon as the Lithuanian National colours were hoisted again in winter 1988/1989, sent letters to the various National Headquarters of the West European and American Movements, asking for information on scouting and guiding. Some were simply addressed to: "HQ British Scout Movement, England" and were duly delivered at the right address. Some had somehow obtained the addresses of WOSM in Geneva and WAGGGS in London.

THE SURVIVORS AND THE EXILES

Since 1953 correspondence between relatives at home and in Exile had been possible and no doubt the scouts and guides at home had been able to communicate with those in Exile. And this now blossomed. The Exiles were ever so pleased with the changes in the old home country. This was the moment they had been waiting for so long and they were ready for it too. Ready to help and assist in the financial as well as the material way to revive the movements in the "old country". In mentality and opinions these two fractions were closest.

And so as early as in 1988 the first scouting groups were reactivated in Vilnius, Kaunas, Kapsukas and Klaipeda. On the 30th of April, 1989, a general
meeting was held and LSS - *Lietuvių Skautų Sąjunga*, banned 1940, was revived in accordance with the statutes and rules valid before 1940. A 22 member National Council was set up and a 7 member executive council appointed. As Chairman was chosen Feliksas Sakalys. Six districts were created. Shortly thereafter official recognition was granted by the Lithuanian Council of Ministers of the - still - Soviet Republic of Lithuania. The news was sent to the Free West and to the *Lietuvių Skautų Sąjung-in Exile*. The latter reacted immediately. Since 1945 they had been waiting and preparing for this great moment and enormous financial and material assistance was given immediately and as early as possible the first Exile-leaders came to see what they could do further.

In 1990 Dr Jacques Moreillon, WOSM's Secretary General, had been to the Soviet Union and during his official meetings in Moscow had met Mr Evgeni D. Katulski, Vice President of the USSR State Committee for Labour and Social Affairs. The latter had not only authorized but also requested a WOSM visit to the Baltic States, which, at the time, Moscow still considered to be loyal Soviet republics.

As little was actually known -apart from some letters received saying that there was scouting again - the opportunity to investigate the situation on the spot was taken and so, just after the above mentioned, dramatic events of mid-January 1991, Yrjö Gorski, a Finnish member of the WOSM's European Region staff, paid a visit to the Baltic States and on the 26th and 27th of January met the leadership of the revived LSS
- Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga. (WOSM Fact Finding Mission's Report dated 15/02/1990.) He found that the LSS had things well in hand. Training courses for leaders and patrol leaders were held - led by some pre-1940 leaders, instructors sent by the LSS-in-Exile, the Swedish and the Danish movements. Systematic support was given to all new groups. Membership was said to be nearly 1000. A magazine "SKAUTU AIDAS" with a circulation of 20,000 copies was published. The large circulation was explained by the fact that it was also used as propaganda material aimed at non-Scouts. LSS had been approached by the strict Roman Catholic - non-WOSM - organisation "Scouts d' Europe" but LSS preferred to join WOSM instead of a splinter organisation. There were links with Caritas, (a Roman catholic charitable organization) and the social organization Sajudis.

WAGGGS World Bureau Circular, the Central and Eastern Europe Report - covering October 1990 - May 1991 - revealed that WAGGGS too had restored contact with the Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga, Skauciu Seserija. (Girls' Division.) which for the time being for financial, material and logistic reasons cooperated with the boys but - as soon circumstances would permit - hoped to operate independently.

WAGGGS had also discovered a second girl scouts movement, set up by youngsters who had never had any ties with pre-1940 LSS, but had based their organisation solely on materials received in answer to their letters written to various foreign guide movements.
In September 1991 (see above) Lithuania at long last was a free and independent country again and the scouts and guides participated in all the festivities.

According to WOSM Situation Report no 6 (September 1991) Yrjö Gorski had been in Lithuania again in September. The LSS had now 1400 members. Lithuanian scouts had participated in National Camps in Estonian and Latvia but had also been visiting Denmark, France and Malta. Two leaders had been to WOSM Geneva for an introduction meeting, one attended the International Commissioners' Forum in Greece and one scout - thanks to a special Western Fund - had been able to go the 17th World Jamboree 1991 at Mount Sorak National Park in South Korea.

During a special WOSM meeting at Geneva (03-04/10/1991) it was disclosed that a number of non-WOSM-recognized movements, such as Fédération des Scouts d'Europe, FEE-France and ZHR-Poland were promoting their own form of Scouting in Russia and Lithuania. Their influence was said to be very limited though the ZHR had some success amongst the Polish minority in and around Vilnjes/Vilnius in particular.

LSS was invited to send a delegation to the World Bureau and the European Regional Office in Geneva and discussions with the 3 representatives were held on December 12 and 14th, 1991. Several items were discussed, e.g. the policy of and the procedure for recognition as a WOSM member.
A REGRETFUL DEVELOPMENT

Inger Christensen, WAGGGS' Danish Link Member, made an official trip to Lithuania in March 1992. She found that the LSS was based on its original pre-1940 programme and the programme of the groups in Exile. She also had a meeting with the popular President Landsbergis who expressed great interest in the developments and his hope that Lithuanian's scouts and guides would soon be re-admitted to the World Movements.

But meanwhile there had been a regrettable development in the LSS. As mentioned earlier there were the Survivors who, with the full assistance of the Exiles had set LSS upon its feet again and had done a wonderful job. They cannot be blamed for having recreated LSS as they had known it before 1940 and had kept it in their hearts during the dark and wasted years 1940-1988. So the reactivated movement was very much similar to the old LSS. Repeat: for which no one can be blamed, they all did their best.

Baden-Powell intended Scouting to be a Movement with the emphasis on MOVE. And Scouting had always been on the move and had always adjusted to all the possibilities, progress, technical developments and even fashion were offering. This flexibility was one of the reasons why scouting managed to remain in existence, whereas other youth movements - political or non-political and often copies of scouting - which had come to being later, disappeared soon after a longer or shorter period of initial success.
During the Cold War so much had changed in the Free West and also in the scout and guide movements belonging to that part of the world. It is true some changes were very good, others might perhaps not have happened, but scouting and guiding were still going strong. Having lived behind the Iron Curtain for so long and having been cut off from the international scouting and guiding world for so long, these changes had not come to the attention of the Survivors who expected that Scouting and Guiding 1989 would still be the same as in 1940. But as soon as LSS had been reactivated and the national borders been opened, its younger members and its young leaders got into contact with not only the LSS-in-Exile but also with the Western Movements. They met them in camps in their own Lithuania or in foreign countries and they recognized that LSS' scouting was slightly different, less advanced. They opted for the more relaxed approach of western scouting as they saw it and they demanded more say and democracy in the LSS organization. In it they were supported by some of the younger Exiles and some of the instructors that the LSS-in-Exile sent from other countries. Regrettfully a generation gap came to being and it came to a serious conflict, mainly between the elderly pre-1940 scout leaders (also named Former Scouts) and the younger ones. The older ones stuck to their old scouting which the younger ones considered as being old-fashioned, undemocratic and stagnant. Efforts to make the two points of view meet, including Danish intervention, failed. Regrettably in LSS there were two fractions opposing each other.
Whilst the internal negotiations went on the LSS' leadership, ignoring the problem and not informing WOSM, applied for WOSM recognition. In accordance with the requirements of the World Constitution the World Scout Committee considered the application and the LSS' constitution and recommended that LSS be accepted. As usual the World Bureau sent to all recognized movements its Circular Letter (no 26/1992, dated 15/10/1992), informing them and asking them whether they agreed or objected. But apparently WOSM was not aware of the fact that there were now two Lithuanian movements, not including the Polish Zemaitijos Skautu Organizacija - ZSO which had its members in the Polish minority living in Lithuania.

It was the Faellesradet for Danmarks Drengespejdere (The Danish Scout Council) which alarmed the World Bureau with its letter of December 21st, 1992 saying:

“The Danish Scout Council has considered the recommendation that Lietuvos Skautu Sajunga be accepted as member organization of the World Organization.

The Danish Scout Associations have taken a great interest in the Baltic countries and especially in Lithuania. We have a link person as arranged by the European Scout Committee, and one of the associations - KFUM Spejderne i Danmark - (9) has, following an appeal from Dominique Bénard (10), assisted the Scout in Lithuania in preparing their national camp next year.

But we are aware of the fact that there are now two associations in Lithuania open to boys and girls and that only one of them is applying for membership. We
are also aware that the management and planning seminar run by the European Scout Office has not taken place and that an evaluation tour by Dominique Bénard (ESO) and Rosie Dunn (WAGGGS) is planned for February next year. (11)

The Danish Scout Council is therefore opposing the acceptance of the application from Lietuvos Skautų Sąjunga at this stage. We recommend that the present situation with the two Scout Associations in Lithuania be investigated further in order to find a way of uniting the two Associations before an application for membership is accepted."

So despite all the hard work done and all the achievements by many, everybody was back at square one. Circular 26/1992 was withdrawn and the World Bureau as well as the European Regional Office opened its investigations. It was detected that even the younger ones who had stayed put in *Lietuvų Skautų Sąjunga* disagreed with the old generation of survivors. From 1992 to 1995 attempts were made to bring all parties back together and to ensure the introduction of a democratic decision-making process with more simplified structures. But as it was there were no results. The split was permanent. A regrettable and sad situation for all.

In spring 1995 a meeting was held, called by a majority of young leaders. They were backed by key members of the LSS' National Council and progressive members of the LSS-in-Exile. Leaders of other organizations were also invited. Regretting that no progress had been made it was decided to found a new move-
ment, modern style and structure, named *Lietuvos Skautija*. (Lithuanian Scouting) The organisation was duly registered by the Ministry of Justice in September 1995.

The next step was that *Lietuvos Skautija* called a General Assembly in Kaunas from November 23-24th, 1996. It was open to all active leaders registered by one of the - now several - scout associations existing in the country. So not only members of the *Lietuvos Skautija*, but also the *Lietuviu Skautu Sajunga*, the independent Sea Scout Association and the *Lietuvos Lenku Skautu Sajunga* (the Polish Scout Association in Lithuania) attended. All these representatives voted for unity and were involved in the drafting of a new constitution, conform to WOSM's requirements. It was confirmed by this General Assembly that the name of the organizations would henceforth be: *Lietuvos Skautija*.

*Lietuvos Skautija* thereupon applied for membership of the World Organization. In accordance with the Constitution of the World Organization the World Scout Committee considered the application at its meeting of November 9th and 10th, 1996 and recommended that it be accepted.

And so the World Bureau was able to issue Circular no 06/97, dated April 24th, 1997, addressed to all recognized movements, informing them that, unless the recommendation was opposed, the *Lietuvos Skautija* would be declared to be the National Scout Organization of the Republic of Lithuania and a Member of the
World Organization of the Scout Movement as from July 25th, 1997.

This time no one objected and so, after 57 years the Lithuania Scouts were back home at last.

FOOTNOTES

1) For further details see Chapter 4

2) A Republic's President being Chief Scout was exceptional. Many heads of state - e.g. the Presidents of the United States - and members of many Royal Families, used to be Patrons and Protectors of Scouting and Guiding or still act as such.

But some actually also did take an active part in Scouting and Guiding, working their way up from the bottom, that is beginning as cub scouts or brownies.

SWEDEN

In the thirties and forties Gustaf Adolf, Crown Prince of Sweden, was very popular in national and international scouting. He worked his way up. Was a scout, a scout leader running his own troop and got his wood badges. At Gilwell near London. When the Swedish Scout Council was formed he was the very first President. He was never happier than when under canvas with the scouts and he never missed opportunity of joining the scouts in camp or at Jamborees. He was leader of the Swedish contingent to the 5th Jamboree at Vogelenzang/The Netherlands in 1937 and to the World Rover Moot in Scotland in 1939. He was very much looking forward to the 6th World Jamboree, Moisson/France, 1947 and was involved in its preparations when, on his way to a scouting meet in London, he met a tragic death on January 26th, 1947. He travelled from Stockholm to London in a Dutch KLM plane. There was a short stopover in Copenhagen. During takeoff the planes crashed and all occupants were killed. Gustaf Adolf's death came as a great shock to the Scouting world, because he was very popular indeed.

In May 1937, at the unanimous request of the members of the International (now World) Committee, he accepted the position of its first Honorary President. A task which, though honorary, he took very seriously indeed, seeing to it that he was present at every meeting, helping with his counsel and advice. When Baden-Powell, the Founder and Chief Scout
of the World, had passed on in 1941, some members of the International Committee thought that there ought to be a second Chief Scout of the World and Gustaf Adolf was sounded out about his taking this title. He refused saying that he could never stand in B-P’s shoes and that it would be better if there would not be a second Chief Scout of the World.

His son, the present King Carl XVI Gustaf, had been born in 1946, never to really know his father. He also worked his way up through the ranks, as had his father. Presently he is the very popular Honorary President of the World Scout Foundation. It may be Honorary but it means that he is working hard for it, collecting funds for scouting as do all the members of the Baden-Powell Fellowship. At all important meetings and camps he is present, sleeps in tents and wears uniform.

Folke Count Bernadotte of Wisborg (02/01/1895-17/09/1948), also belonging to the Swedish Royal Family was another one who played an important role in Swedish and international Scouting. He was involved in Scouting from its introduction to Sweden. He was also very active in the Swedish and International Red Cross and got well-known in spring 1945 during the final collapse of Nazi Germany. Whereas the Nazis, in order to cover up their war crimes, intended to kill all concentration camp inmates, he went to Germany and negotiated the release of - at first - the Norwegian and Danish captives, and later those of other nationalities. White painted Swedish Red Cross coaches carried them via occupied Denmark to Sweden. Heinrich Himmler, the Reichsführer SS, that is the man in charge of the SS, wanting to save his skin, negotiated with him and even, via him, tried to obtain a separate peace with the Western Allies. Later, during the troubles in Palestine just before the founding of the State of Israel, the United Nations asked the Count to negotiate between the Arabs and the Jews. During his work he was assassinated in Jerusalem by a Jewish terrorist and died instantly on 17/09/1948. A second serious loss to the Swedish and World Movements in so short a time.

DENMARK

Queen Ingrid of Denmark has been a brownie and guide and like her mother, former Queen, later Princess Benedikte, is still very much involved in the WAGGGS and the Olave Baden-Powell Society.

BELGIUM

The former King of Belgium, Bauduin/Boudewijn, was a scout and so was his brother, the present King of the Belgians, Albert II.
GREAT BRITAIN

Queen Elizabeth II and her sister Princess Margaret have been brownies and guides and both their father King George VI and mother Queen Elizabeth (the popular Queen-Mum) were involved. The Duke of Kent is President of the Scout Association and the previous Princess Royal was active in the Guide Movement.

ROMANIA

King Carol II (1930-1940) when still Crown Prince, was Chief Scout. When he mounted the throne he handed this post to his son Michael, who had been active in scouting from an early age. The latter was to be the Romanian contingent leader to the 5th World Jamboree, 1937 at Vogelenzang in the Netherlands. But just before the departure, King Carol II - under pressure of nationalists and the fascist Iron Guard - was forced to accept the creation of a fascistoide National Youth Movement and to order the disbandment of the Romanian Scout Movement.

THE NETHERLANDS

Prince Hendrik (19/04/1878 - 03/07/1934) Queen Wilhelmina's spouse, right from the beginning took a great interest in Dutch scouting which came to being in 1910 when two movements were founded. One which stuck to B-P and one with nationalistic tendencies. In 1915 the prince was instrument in the merger of the two into one National Scout Organisation which fully accepted Baden-Powell's rules and policies. He was its first Royal Commissioner and as such very active until his death.

In 1937 he was succeeded as such by Prince Bernhard who had married the Crown Princess Juliana. He was Royal Commissioner of the "open" and the RC movements and chaired the National Scout Council until 1973. Queen Juliana, who had never been a guide but under the influence of her father always had an interest, joined the Dutch guide movement after World War II. Her guiding name was MOVAVEDO = MOeder - mother, VAN = of, VEle - many, DOchters = Daughters. Juliana, since her abdication a Princess again, and her husband Prince Bernhard were two of the three Dutch members of the Baden-Powell Fellowship. (The third one being the late Frits Philips of the famous, worldwide Philips works.)

Present Queen Beatrix and her sisters Irene, Margriet and Christina have been brownies and guides in a local guide company. Queen Beatrix' husband, Prince Claus, was the Patron of Scouting Nederland.
3) See Chapter 5.

4) The population at the time being about 2,5 millions,(80% Lithuanians, 9,5% Russians and 8% Poles). These figures are not bad. When banned in 1940 there were more than 10.000 scouts and guides. t

5) The Stone of Palange.

Dr Jacques Moreillon, the WOSM Secretary General, paid an official visit to the Baltic States and was the guest of the Lithuanians from June 26th until 28th, 1999. From his report, quote:

"On the Sunday we went to Klaipeda to meet the local governor and to proceed to Palanga, where B-P had signed, in 1933, a huge 4 to 5 tons stone with his initials, together with those of the great Lithuanian president Antanas Smetona. In 1939, the huge rock had been hidden (in a pond !) from the occupying Soviets and was taken out by those who had hidden it when the country regained its independence in the early nineties ! I was asked to "ensure continuity by signing another stone" which demonstrated - if at all necessary - that Lithuanians have a strong sense of history and identity!" "I regretted that Piet Kroonenberg could not be with us."

6) UNRRA - United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. It took over the running of the Displaced Persons Camps from the military.

7) See Chapter 1.

8) See also Chapter 5.

9) KFUM the name used in the Scandinavian countries for the YMCA (Young Men Christian Association) which, as the Young Women Christian Association, always played an important part in Scandinavian Scouting and Guiding. As for Europe YMCA is having groups in Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway. Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine. In most countries these YMCA groups belong to the NSOs. In some of the East and Central European countries they may not yet do so but the overall body, the European Alliance of YMCAs (EAY) is seeing to it that all of its groups will soon belong to WOSM/WAGGGS recognized national organizations.

10) From 1975 - 1990 British Patric A. McLaughlin ran the WOSM European Regional Office from Geneva. He had to deal with 14 countries in which scouting was active. Due to Scouting's revival in East and Central
Europe, his successor Dominique Bénard, (French) who stayed in office until 2000, had a constantly increasing number on his hands.

11) It was always customary to have these first before an application for membership could be sent to the World Bureau. For some unknown reason in this case it did not happen apparently.
CHAPTER 13. Vietnam

The history of Vietnam is very complicated. The ancestors of the Vietnamese used to live in South China but they were forced to go south and settled in the middle part of what is presently known as Vietnam. They created a country named Annam (= Pacified South). There were many wars with neighbouring nations and around 1697 they enlarged their territory by annexing the land of the Malaysian Cham in the south, including the Mekong Delta. In the 16th and 17th century Portuguese missionaries established missions in the coastal areas but they were later replaced by French priests. European traders came too. The Portuguese, Britons and Dutchmen found a country full of unrest and war and so, initially, they stuck to trading in the coastal areas, later they set up some trading posts without making an attempt to colonize. Yet - as in many other places - the population did not always accept the converters telling them that their ancient religions and beliefs were worthless and no good and that they had to abandon them and to embrace the white man’s. During one such a conflict, when tempers were lost, some French missionaries were killed and in order to protect the survivors. France landed some military forces in the port of Saigon (1859) and slowly conquered the southern part of the country which in 1862 they annexed and declared to be French territory. Thereafter the French went north and also took North Vietnam which in 1885 was united with the south and
thus all of Vietnam had become a French colony. Cambodia and Laos also came under French influence. The French - who later always claimed that they never had colonies like the other European nations but Overseas Departments only - in 1893 united the three countries in the Union of Indochina. The peoples objected and the French had to experience that, however well trained and equipped, even a well organized Western army finds it difficult to cope with Jungle Warfare combined with guerrilla activities. So much so that until 1887 the French were more or less restricted to the cities and it took them until 1897 before the whole area was more or less pacified and in their grip.

Indochina consisted of 5 departments (or protectorates) led by governors and residents and the overall administration was headed by a Governor-General. French was the official language in administration and education and many Vietnamese studied at French universities and felt well at home in France. (1)

SCOUTING

Scouting came to France in 1910. Very soon there were several organizations : Les Eclaireurs de France (open to all), Les Eclaireurs Unionistes de France (mainly protestant), Les Scouts de France (roman catholic) and Les Eclaireurs Israelites de France (Jewish). They were united in Scoutisme Francais, a Federation. In 1922 French Scouting belonged to the "Founder Members" that is to those NSOs that during the 2nd International Conference (Paris 1922) founded the World Movement. (See Chapter 1.)
Like all European countries with possessions in other parts of the world, France also sent to her Overseas Departments civil servants, medical personnel, teachers etc. who often brought their families. Amongst the adults there were Scout and Guide leaders and amongst the kids guides and scouts. The first French Scout Units, exclusively for the French children, made their appearance in Vietnam in the 1920s, and were registered with either *the Eclaireurs de France* or the *Scouts de France*. In a similar way scouting began in the colonies of many other European countries and always the scouting activities of the "whites" attracted the attention of the local youngsters who wanted to join in the fun Scouting was offering. Some were able to enter a French group but soon Vietnamese-only-groups were also founded. The first Vietnamese group was created in Hanoi in 1930 by Tran Van Khac - a name to remember. Very soon more groups were founded in Hanoi e.g. one belonging to a school and apparently lead by a Mr Imbert, the school's director. Another founder was Hoang Dao Thuy who introduced Vietnamese Cub Scouting. The groups united in the *Hoi Huong Dao Bac Ky* or Tonkinese Scout Association with Tran Van Khac as its Commissioner General. Hoang Dao Thuy succeeded him as such when in 1932 Tran Van Khac moved to the southern part of Vietnam, at the time also known as Cochin china. He introduced and stimulated Scouting in that part of the country. The Cochinchinese Scout Association or *Hoi Huong Dao Nam Ky* was founded in 1932 followed by the Annamese Scout Association or *Hoi Huong Dao Trung Ky* in Central Vietnam (also known as Annam) in
1934. Apparently Tran Van Khac was the motor of all these activities which he did not restrict to Vietnam only as he also went to Cambodia and prepared the introduction of scouting in that country.

The three Vietnamese associations registered with the *Eclaireurs de France* in Paris.

In 1936 *Scoutisme Français*, the French Federation sent one of its top leaders André Lefèbvre, a leader of the Eclaireurs de France, to Vietnam in order to investigate on the situation of Scouting in Indochina (= Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) and to submit proposals for establishing official relationships with the French Movements. He ended his visit giving a training course for Vietnamese leaders at the Dalat training centre.

Back home André Lefèbvre, in the official magazine of the Eclaireurs de France, published article describing his visit to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He reported that initially Scouting was very much restricted to the cities and the larger towns such as Saigon, Hanoi etc. etc. but was now spreading. Further that he was pleased to have found that Vietnamese Scouting had grown considerably in numbers and popularity. There were 54 groups. But, with the exception of the capital Saigon, most of the regional and district commissioners were still found to be Frenchmen. The movement received the support of important, leading and influential locals such as King Bao-Dai, the last Emperor of Vietnam (abdicated in 1945) and His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Monireth of Cambodia. The latter had taken such an interest in the movement that he made
the Scout Promise during a ceremony arranged by Tran Van Khac and accepted the appointment of Federal Commissioner thus greatly influencing and promoting the further development and popularity of scouting in Cambodia. The Emperor Bao-Dai offered the Scout Association of Annam Hoi Huong Dao Trung Ky a large plot of land in the Bach-Ma mountains near Hu, for the construction of the first scouting training centre.

Having studied André Lefèbvre's report the Federation Scouting Français decided to send to Vietnam Raymond Schlemmer. He, a former French Naval Officer, was in charge of the Le Breuil Training Centre of the Scouts de France in France. One of his assignments was to create unity in Indochinese Scouting. The many religions and nationalities had resulted in there being groups of various denominations and nationalities. He convinced the Vietnamese leaders to unite and form one organisation. So Tokinese Hoi Huong Dao Bac Ky, Cochinchinese Hoi Huong Dao Nam Ky and Annamese Hoi Huong Dao Trung Ky joined forces and created an overall organisation known as the Fédération Cochinchoise des Associations de Scoutisme and the Federation became an associate member of Scouting Français, also meaning membership of the World Movement.

Tran Van Khac and Hoang Dao Thuy, as mentioned above, were destined to become the top leaders. The former as the Federation's President, the latter as its Chief Scout from 1932-1945. Hoang Dao Thuy was a very pleasant, likeable man and a moderate, a popular person, liked by all. He was nicknamed "Ho
Sut" or "The Tiger with a Broken Tooth" as one of his front teeth was broken, but also indicating that he was a strong man who had an aversion to quarrels and was very much in favour of compromises.

An important part in the development of Vietnamese Scouting was played by a Rover Crew named "Lam-Son". Most of its Rovers were students some of whom went to French Universities. Later they were prominent and influential people not only in Vietnamese Scouting but - in post war times - in the country's two governments as well. (2)

All the time promising young Vietnamese leaders had been invited to come to France for a thorough scout training and one of them Ta Quang Buu, Hoang Dao Thuy's son-in-law, went to Gilwell Park, England, to return not only as a Gilwellian but also as a Deputy Camp Chief (DCC) and consequently entitled to organize and lead Gilwell Courses in Vietnam. In 1937 a Gilwell Training Centre was opened and Ta Quang Buu was put in charge. In 1939 there were 17 groups in the city of Hanoi in the north, 10 in Annam in the central part and 29 in the rest of the country, including Saigon.

As members of the French Contingent to the 5th World Jamboree (1937) in Vogelenzang in the Netherlands some Vietnamese scouts and scout leaders participated but they were mainly studying in France where some all-Vietnamese groups were operating.

In September 1939 Nazi-Germany attacked Poland when it refused to give in to Hitler's demands and shortly thereafter England and France were also at war.
with Nazi Germany, World War II (1939 – 1945) had begun. Poland having been beaten by Nazi-Germany and stabbed in the back by the Soviet Union, there set in a period or relative quiet on the western front, a period known as "the Phoney War". On their bank of the River Rhine the Germans had created their impene-trable Siegfried Line and the French had build their also impenetrable - mainly underground - fortifications named the Maginot Line. During autumn 1939 and winter 1939/1940 some shots were fired across the river and there were some exchanges of artillery fire, but for the rest it was all quiet on the Western Front.

But on May 10th, 1940 the German Blitz Krieg offensive began. Nazi armies violated the borders of neutral Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands thus out-flanking the Maginot Line and entering France from the north. Such was the surprise that neither the French Army nor the British Expeditionary Force was able to stop the German advance. Paris was taken, the British forces - almost encircled - had to withdraw from the Dunkirk beaches and France had to sign an armistice on June 21st, 1940. The victorious Nazis divided France in an occupied territory under German Army control, and an un-occupied part that became known as "unoccupied or independent Vichy France". Its capital the city of Vichy. A tiny bit of south eastern France the Nazis threw to Fascist Italy as a reward for the fact that - when the Germans had almost finished the work - Mussolini, the Duce, on June 11th, had stabbed France in the back, had attacked and had been driven back!
This situation caused a split. Some Frenchmen could not accept the German victory over France. They intended to continue the war until France would be liberated again and they united in the "Free French", led from London by General Charles De Gaulle. Soon Free French Forces were formed in England and Free French naval units were operating from British ports. Some of the Overseas Departments sided with the Free French but others remained loyal to the Vichy Government and neutral in the further conflict. Indochina, of which Vietnam was a part, belonged to the latter and stood with Vichy. But Vichy was weak and could do little for its loyal Overseas Departments.

When in September 1939 the Second World War in Europe had begun everything was still very quiet and normal in Vietnam. In 1940 Vietnamese Scouting celebrated its 10th anniversary with a camp at Rung Sat. When France had been occupied by the Germans, communicating with Scouting Français became impossible and it was decided to create the Huong Dao Viet Nam, the HDVN or National Vietnamese Scouting Organisation. Its NHQ was established in Hanoi.

Originally an overseas section of the French Movement in 1940/1941 Vietnamese Scouting made itself independent and took the name HDVN Huong Dao Viet Nam or National Vietnamese Scouting Organization. It introduced this Far Eastern style Arrowhead/ FDL as its emblem. Used until the Fall of Saigon in May 1975 when the Communists took over and Scouting was banned.
In December 1941 Japan entered the war with its surprise attack on the US Naval Base Pearl Harbour (Hawaii). At the same time its invasion fleets were landing troops on the coasts of Malaysia, the Philippines and a little later the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). But even before its attacks, Japan from its occupied parts of China - with which it had been at war many years - had already infiltrated into French Indochina and the Vichy government was powerless and could not stop them and neither could the Frenchmen on the spot. When the Far East War had begun nothing restrained the Japanese from landing more troops and occupying the country. But whereas elsewhere, on the Philippines, in Malaysia, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies, all the Europeans were interned in camps, the French in Vietnam and the other parts of Indochina were not. That is until March 1944 when the Japanese took over and the Frenchmen were also removed from the scene and also detained in camps. The reason why was that Vichy France was co-operating or rather collaborating with Japan's ally Nazi-Germany. Initially the Japanese did not consider Vietnam as being enemy territory. The French administrative machinery was permitted to carry on, be it under Japanese supervision. This situation, Whites being controlled by Asians, was hitherto unknown and something brand new, and did not go unnoticed. The Vietnamese - as all other people living in colonies - had always resented the White supremacy and were of the opinion that the people was very well able to rule the country without the French, provided the leaders-to-be had had
a good education and who better to provide same than the French.

So many of the well-to-do Vietnamese sent their children to France to study at the universities. (1). Others, particularly the poorer, came under the influence of communism and a Vietnamese Communist Party was founded illegally. It, with the support of the Soviet Union, also sent promising, young party members to Europe for further training.

One of them was Nguyen Tat Tahnh (19/05/1890 - 03/09/1969), nicknamed Nguyen Ai Quoc or Nguyen the Patriot (!) and after World War Two world wide known as Ho Chi Minh. As he greatly influenced scouting's further history and development, it is essential to pay some attention to him. His father was a rather well-to-do person, but also a patriot. In 1911 he signed on as a steward in a French boat and got to France, but also England, Germany and the USA. In 1919 he joined the French Socialist Party but as early as 1920 he was one of the founders of the French communist party. In 1924 he went to Moscow for a special training and later still the Komintern (Communist International), a body set up to spread communism all over the world, sent him to China as its agent, where he operated from 1925 - 1927. From 1933 - 1938 studied in Moscow at the Party Academy. Thereafter he was sent to China again to support Mao Tse Tung, the leader of the communist Chinese army fighting the Japanese who were in occupation of large parts of China. But in 1941 he received orders from Moscow to return to Vietnam.
In 1941 in southern Vietnam, an organisation came to being named Viet Nam Doc Lap Minh Hoi or the Vietnam Independence League better known as the Viet Minh. It was a guerrilla force in which nationalists and communists united. They were supplied and supported by the Allied air forces, and harassed the Japanese, but also made it quite clear that they were not in favour of the return of the French administration, desiring independence once the war would be over. The shrewd communists - having other plans and intending to establish a communist Vietnam (but not mentioning this) - were also involved, but stayed well in the background, so as - at this stage - not to alarm the real nationalists too much.

By the time that the Japanese infiltrated and when in March 1944 they interned the French, Huong Dao Viet Nam had already been Vietnamized though there were still some French leaders and scouts active. When the French had been taken out of circulation by the Japanese, they - no doubt - were missed, but the capable Vietnamese leaders were very well able to cope. In Japan the government had disbanded and banned the Japanese Scout Movement as it did in the
countries it conquered. Whether such a measure was officially taken in Vietnam has not been traced. At the grass root level scouts used to still meet but the developments came to a standstill. Also many Vietnamese scouts, rovers and leaders joined the Viet-Minh and no doubt played a useful part thanks to their training. Hoang Dao Thuy, one of Scouting's Founder Fathers, was a high ranking officer in the partisans.

June 6th, 1944, D(ecision)-Day, the Invasion. Allied forces, including the Free French, stormed the Normandy beaches, penetrated Adolf Hitler's Atlantic Wall and slowly at first but a little later quite swiftly France was being liberated by the Allies and the Maquis, the French Underground and armed Resistance. The latter liberated Paris when the Free French Army and the Americans were approaching its outskirts. The Vichy government, or what was left of it, escaped to Germany. General de Gaulle and his Free French took over.

In Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, Japan now turned really nasty and all remaining Frenchmen and their loyal locals were taken out of circulation. Japan never intended to promote the independence of the former British, Dutch and French colonies nor that of the Philippines, a US dependency. They simply wished to take over and colonize them themselves. They never made promises, just used the nationalists and some of them fell for it. But in 1944 they realised that the war in Europe would be over soon and that thereafter all Allied power and strength would be concentrated on them. They changed their tune, spoke of the Liberation of South East Asia, a New Order under Japanese
leadership and independence. Thus they promoted already excising feelings of nationalism and they planted a booby-trap which would cause the Allies or rather the former colonial rulers lots of trouble in the years thereafter. Hoping to get the Asian peoples on its side in the coming final stage of the war, the Japan offered the nationalists the Independence, be it under their supervision. Such celebrations and ceremonies were staged when the war was almost over.

In the Dutch East Indies Sukarno was permitted to declare the Republic of Indonesia. In Vietnam, August 1945, the Japanese gracefully handed over Vietnam to the nationalist and rebel Son Ngac Than.

Already having lost thousands of young men and realising that an invasion of Japan might cost them millions of lives more, the Allies decided to end the war by using the recently developed nuclear weapons. The only two atomic bombs ever used in anger (so far) were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This ended the war in the Far East. Japan on September 2nd, 1945 signed the unconditional surrender on board an American man-of-war in the Tokyo Bay.

In the northern part of Vietnam the Japanese were disarmed by the Chinese Nationalist forces, in the southern area by the British Army. But both allied forces also met the Vietminh which emerged from the jungles and entered the cities. Emperor Boa Dai abdicated in favour of the Viet-Minh, which set up a provisional government in Hanoi under the leadership of Ho
Chi Minh, who as head of same, on August 19thm 1945 proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The French had meanwhile been released from the internment camps. Thinking that nothing had changed during the war, they set out to restore their regime, not taking seriously or ignoring the Vietminh Nationalists. (The Dutch made the same mistake in Indonesia.) But it soon dawned on them that the Vietnamese, like many others, felt quite capable of taking their own destiny and government into their own hands - or rather in those of their leaders, most of whom had studied at French Universities etc. - and that they refused to accept French authority any longer. There was some fighting.

In March 1946 the first negotiations were held in Fontainebleau near Paris and Ho Chi Minh was present. The French were forced to recognize Vietnamese independence. Yet - trying to keep a finger on the pulse and in order to keep some supervision and influence - they proposed that Vietnam would be part of an Indochinese Federation which in turn would be part of a French Union. But that was not what the Viet Minh had in mind. They wanted the French out definitely. So in the night of December 19, 1946 the Viet Minh took up arms again and launched attacks against the French forces. The first Vietnam War began and ended when the remaining French forces (mainly Foreign Legion), surrounded in the city of Dien Bien Phu, surrendered to the Viet Minh on May 7th, 1954. In July 1954 the last French military forces were withdrawn from Vietnam and the French era was over forever.
In 1945 Ho Chi Minh, head of government, was approached by the scout leaders who had been serving in the Viet-Minh partisans. They informed him of their intentions to re-activate the **Huong Dao Viet Nam** (the National Vietnamese Scouting Organization) and actually did so in November 1945, but this time as a truly National Scout Organisation, the emphasis on National, and seeking the World Movement's recognition. But it still had a long way to go. In December 1945 Hoang Dao Thuy organized a large scout camp in Hanoi to celebrate the "Victory of the Revolution". Ho Chi Minh visited the camp and was greeted by the organizer and camp chief and Tran Duy Hung, mayor of Hanoi and member of the influential Rover Crew "*Lam Son*" (2a, 2b, 3a.)

Ho Chi Minh had expressed some understanding of the scouting ideals, and seemed especially attracted by the world brotherhood and the equality of all scouts which indeed did fit in the communist ideology. Yet he told the leadership to go ahead but to convert the movement into the "*Scouts Patriots*", an organisation with a communist flavour. Some leaders were in favour, some - in particular the Roman Catholics and the protestants - rejected the idea.

One in favour was Nguyen Huu Dang (3a). One opposing was influential Vo Thanh Minh. He spoke to Ho Chi Minh and urgently requested him not to carry out his plans and to let scouting exist as the non-political organization it had been and should be in accordance with the international rules. The name change was put
to the vote but the majority voted against and the name adopted was *Hoi Huong Dao Viet Nam*. Hoang Van Quy was elected Commissioner General. Ho Chi Minh signed a degree recognizing the association and also accepted to be its Honorary President.

Vietnam was independent but its troubles were not over. Ho Chi Minh openly declared that Vietnam was to become a communist People's Republic, a one party state under his leadership. Not all the Vietnamese Nationalists fancied this idea and there was opposition and a division in the Viet-Minh, the nationalist separating themselves from the communists.

A second nationalistic government had already been set up. It came to clashes between the nationalists and the communists. In July 1954 an international conference was called at Geneva and a temporary solution was found in dividing Vietnam into two separate states. Communist North Vietnam, capital Hanoi under the leadership of Ho Tsji Minh and South Vietnam with Saigon as its capital under the leadership of Ngo Dinh Diem, a roman catholic. Thousands of Vietnamese were hitting the roads, some going to the North, others going to the South.

Prominent Scout leader Vo-Thanh-Minh (about whom more later) was not at all in favour of the division of his beloved country and attracted international attention when he protested in a striking way. Having arrived in Geneva during the conference, he pitched his tent – of all places – right in the middle of the Garden of the United Nation's Palais des Nations – spoke to the
press and went on hunger strike. To no avail and he returned to South Vietnam to dedicate his further life to Scouting.

Little is known regarding what happened to Scouting in North Vietnam after 1954. But - as it was said - the movement thereafter "quickly joined the population on the path of revolution". There was - at first in North Vietnam only (after 1975 in all of Vietnam) a Communist Youth Organization, a Pioneer type youth movement with - initially - a compulsory - and later - a more relaxed, voluntary membership. Whether the "Scouts Patriots" that Ho Chi Minh advocated have ever been and whether they were the basic of the Communist Youth Organization could not be traced. Neither whether the scouts that sided with Ho Chi Minh had any influence e.g. by introducing the scouting methods.

When it was decided (1954) to divide Vietnam in North and South, the NHQ of the National Scout Organization Hoi Huong Dao Viet Nam was moved from Hanoi to Saigon.

Girls had been involved in Scouting almost from the start. But the Roman Catholic Church had a lot of influence and, apparently, as in many other countries it was - in the early days - opposed to Guiding for its girls. It expected the "rough sides and elements of Scouting" to be
harmful to the girls' tender souls and characters and was afraid too that they might be losing their feminine charms turning into "tomboys" or "she-men". Of course there were girls of other denominations and the first girl scout units were created within the scout movement. Rather late, in 1957, a separate South Vietnamese Girl Guide Association was founded to be recognized as an official member by WAGGGS in 1966.

In the South Vietnam Scouting developed reasonably well. In 1957 a leaders training centre "Tung Nguyen" was opened in Dalat under the leadership of DCC Cung Giu Nquyen, later to be succeeded by Mai Ngoc Lieu. World Movement's Representatives came to visit and it was found that the movement met all the requirements and (1957), as HOI-HUONG-DAO VIET-NAM, the movement was recognized by the International (now World) Committee and admitted to the World Movement.

In 1959 the Vietnamese scouts were celebrating the 30th anniversary of their Scouting with a National Camp at Trang Bom and a contingent went to the 10th World Jamboree near Mount Makeling in the Philippines (1959). All seemed well but not for long.

HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY; THE WAR YEARS 1960 - 1975

South Vietnam, as mentioned earlier, was led by Ngo Dinh Diem. He was a fierce anti-communist but made the terrible mistake of lumping all his opponents together and branding them all as being communists. This caused difficulties and discontent and in 1960 some of his opponents took up arms and created a
new partisan movement. The communists in the north and the south jumped at the opportunity to infiltrate the discontents and gradually the partisan movement was brought under their influence and got to be known as the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam better known as the Viet-Cong (Cong = communist). Whereupon the real democrats, also opposing the regime, gradually left the Viet Cong.

Of course the Viet-Cong could count on North Vietnam's full support. The latter in turn was supported by the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, who liked nothing better than a bit of unrest in South East Asia which might promote the spreading of communism and the increase of their influences. Arms and other equipment were being provided and used. But North Vietnam "volunteers" were also rushing in to join and reinforce the Viet-Cong brothers in their fight for the "liberation" of South Vietnam.

At the same time in other parts of the Far East communist take-overs were tried but were sometimes prevented (Indonesia) or communist partisans were causing a lot of trouble without succeeding (Malaysia).

This was the period of the Cold War between the Free Western World and the communist block. The one side led by the United States of America and the other side under the direction of Moscow. The Americans and the Australians got worried and wanted to prevent the growth of communist influence in the Far East. So they decided to support South Vietnam, at first sending arms and equipment, then small units of
military advisors only, but soon getting involved on a much larger scale and sending thousands of soldiers to do the real fighting. Meanwhile the "secret and silent" North Vietnamese support to the Viet-Cong also underwent a drastic change. "Volunteers" the size of complete North Vietnamese army units were now sent and thereafter the North Vietnamese army was officially marching in as well. Soon all were involved in the fighting which had turned into a full and open war but still with a lot of guerrilla elements. The US Army, which so far had never lost a war, was now faced with a problem and was taught a lesson which the Germans (in Europe), the French (in Vietnam and North Africa) the British (on Cyprus in Palestine and Kenya) and the Russians (in Ukraine) had learned, viz that a modern army, however well trained and well equipped, is not always a match for guerrillas who are almost invisible. The one moment acting as peaceful workers in the fields, the next moment grabbing their hidden arms and opening up. During the Tet offensive (1968) the South Vietnamese and the Americans could only just stop the Viet-Cong from reaching Saigon's outskirts and could only just repel them with tanks, their superior artillery and the air force. But slowly South Vietnam - step by step - was conquered by the opponents.

SCOUTING DURING THE WAR; 1960 – 1975

As was to be expected this war also influenced Vietnamese Scouting. Leaders and Rover Scouts were called up for military service and many were killed in action. The younger scouts and guides were rendering
their services to the hard hit population, the majority of which was reduced to poverty, reason why, in total despair, it sometimes joined the Viet Cong or at least supported it.

Many scouts and leaders, either in the armed forces or as a result of the fighting in which civilians got entrapped, lost their lives or just vanished into thin air. Some well known leaders were lost. Vo-Thanh-Minh, the one that out of protest, once pitched his tent in the garden of the UN building in Geneva (as mentioned earlier), during the Ted offensive led an action to come to the rescue of the many civilian victims. He was taken prisoners by the Viet-Cong and vanished forever.

Tran-Dien, the national commissioner for Rover Scouts and an opposition senator in the South Vietnamese parliament, was also seen to be caught during the Ted offensive and disappeared without a trace. Both are supposed to have been executed immediately after their capture.

Despite everything Scouting carried on and under the circumstances it cannot have been very pleasant as by now real war was being waged in the country. Yet the movement managed to celebrate its 40th anniversary with another National Camp at Thu Duc. The
camp's name was Suoi Tien or Fairy's Source. US scouts participated in the event. In 1971 a fair Vietnamese contingent participated in the 13th World Jamboree at Asagiri Heights in Japan. In 1974 another National Camp was organized in Thu Duc, near Saigon, named "Tu Luc" (=Self Reliance) Camp. A 1975 census revealed that there were 17,000 scouts in South Vietnam.

Meanwhile the population of the United States of America had enough of the war and the government slowly withdrew its forces from Vietnam. Feeling that the end was near, large numbers of South Vietnamese left the country and in the end it was just the city of Saigon which was still defended by South Vietnamese troops and a handful of Americans. But the latter were just protecting their retreat and in May 1975 the world, Life-on-TV, watched those dramatic and chaotic moments when the last Americans and some Vietnamese were lifted out of the American embassy by US Navy helicopters. In the city Viet-Cong or North Vietnamese snipers were already in evidence and not much later the victorious Viet-Cong and North Vietnamese troops marched into the city and took over.

South Vietnam was reunited with North Vietnam and the two carried on as the People's Republic of Vietnam. Capital Hanoi. The city of Saigon was renamed to be Ho Tsji Min City, thus was honoured their great leader who had died on September 3rd, 1969. As usual the new authorities began by cleansing the country of all those who had opposed them but also of those who might become a danger to them as -
when left alone - they might become leaders of a future opposition or resistance. All those suspected of having leader's capacities, such as university professors, teachers, other intellectuals, not forgetting scout leaders, were arrested and if not killed immediately they were sent to "re-education camps" which most of them did not survive. Scouting and Guiding ceased to be and were banned, disbanded and persecuted. South Vietnam disappeared behind the Bamboo Curtain, which was as effective as the Iron Curtain in Europe.

Thousands, having served the South Vietnamese government and the American Forces, defending their freedom and country, had already fled the country and in the years thereafter many more thousands tried an escape. In larger and smaller boats they set sail for the open sea. Thousands did not make it, starved or drowned when their overloaded, frail vessels sank. If they were lucky these "boat refugees", as they were called, were picked up by passing container or other seagoing vessels. The countries whose flags these ships were flying were obliged to offer them refuge. So apart from the United States, which had its fair share of refugees, sea going nations like Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany etc also accommodated many. But France was the Vietnamese’s' favourite country the more so as most of them spoke French and so the language was not a problem as in other countries.

Some were less lucky when they did not meet foreign ships on the high seas and their crafts stranded on the beaches of Malaysia, Indonesia or the Philippines.
They were put in camps with nowhere else to go and only the International Red Cross to care. But even then the scouts among them united, helped their compatriots and gave to but also received valuable assistance from the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Red Cross. They even provided scout uniforms and other equipment.

And so many Vietnamese scouts and guides settled in countries foreign to them.

Wheresoever’s they landed in sufficient quantities they founded Vietnamese groups and resumed their scouting activities. They communicated with the National Bureaus of the Scout organisations in their new countries of residence, were given support and the possibility of joining the movement as special groups. Individual scouts and guides were made welcome by local groups.

After the fall of Saigon and the communist victory in Vietnam, Some of members of the Hoi Huong Dao Viet Nam NHQ staff had also managed to escape. Nguyen Quang Minh, a former Secretary General, settled in the USA and with others undertook action to communicate with the Vietnamese scouts scattered all over the world and he also reported back to WOSM's World Bureau in Geneva. Hoi Huong-Dao Viet-Nam, having been a recognized NSO and a member of the World Movement, the Vietnamese - in the past - had been involved in the World Conference's many and lengthy discussions regarding the Exile Movements and they understood full well that it was no use creating just another one, the World Movement not being able to
recognise and admit movements not operating within the national boundaries of their country. (See Chapter 1)

It came to a meeting between WOSM’s Secretary General Laszlo Nagy and the Vietnamese top leadership. The latter first of all and uppermost wanting their scouts to remain members of the World Movement able to enjoy all the benefits and training possibilities. Emphasizing this they discussed the matter with WOSM's Secretary General and in mutual agreement it was decided that no Vietnamese Movement-in-Exile would be founded. So, in cooperation with WOSM's Secretary General it was agreed to urge all Vietnamese groups, all over the world, to join the NSOs of their new countries of residence. The NSOs in turn were asked to give these groups a special status within their movements, allowing them the use their own language and traditions, permitting them to wear a (South) Vietnamese flag badge in addition to the national badges of the country involved. Further it was agreed that a "Liaison Office of Vietnamese Scouting Abroad" would be established, chaired by Mai Ngoc Lieu and Nguyen Quang acting as Secretary General (1976-1979). In 1983, following a meeting in Cali-
fornia/USA, a Vietnamese co-ordinating committee was created named Hội Đồng Trung-Uong Hồng-Dao Vietnam or International Central Committee of Vietnamese Scouting (ICCVS), initially based in Houston, Texas, USA. Its first President was Trần Văn Khắc, in 1930 one of the founders of the first all-Vietnamese groups in Hanoi, later the stimulator of scouting in the south of Vietnam and later still its President. He too had managed to leave Saigon and had settled in Canada. Once again this loyal veteran was very active, encouraging the establishing of many groups in that country. He retired from ICCVS in 1985 and passed away in 1994. The Presidency was then taken over by Nguyễn Văn Thọ who had been President of Vietnamese Scouting when Saigon was taken by the Communists and in the nineties he was succeeded by Vinh Dao, presently residing in France. (Who has been very helpful to the author.)

The Committee, true to the agreement with WOSM, as such never acted as a NHQ of a Vietnamese Exile Movement but restricted itself to assisting, promoting and sponsoring the groups in their various new countries of residence.

There being thousands of Vietnamese refugees in many countries such as the USA, Great Britain, Norway, Australia, Japan, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Germany and others, many groups were founded and they all joined the NSOs of their new countries of residence.
In France - of course - there had always been Vietnamese groups. In the beginning mainly consisting of students. When France had left Vietnam and the country obtained its independence, some more Vietnamese, who, for reasons of their own, could not stay in their country of birth, came to France for a more permanent stay, and more groups had been founded. The membership of which was now augmented by the new refugees and later supplemented by "boat refugees". They were found in Ile de France (Paris, Lognes, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and Evry) but also in Limoges, Mote, Lyon, Brest, Strasbourg and Troyes. An arrangement was made with de Fédération de Scoutisme Français which offered the groups an associated membership. Consequently the Vietnamese participated in all activities and training programs the French associations were offering and - also important - thus were WOSM members. The French movements always aimed at, with the help of the Scouting system and method, to accelerate and promote the integration of Vietnamese Youth in the French society. It is not surprising that Hội-Dòng Trung-Uông Huông-Dao Vietnam (= International Central Committee of Vietnamese Scout-
ing) later moved its seat to Guyancourt /France and in the nineties it was led by Vinh Dao. The Committee organized and led several International Camps in various parts of the world and Vietnamese scouts were flown in from all over the world to participate. The first one was held in Jambville/France in 1985, followed by similar camps in Canada, Australia and the USA.

"Meanwhile the world has changed a lot. In 1989 the European Iron Curtain was opened. The Berlin Wall - its main symbol -, came tumbling down. The communist system of the East Block countries collapsed. The Soviet Union ceased to be. The Cold War was over. Even the People's Republic of China relaxed and Vietnam, sealed off from the world for decades, also opened its borders to visitors again. Apart from American and other foreign tourists even the American veterans of the Vietnam war were welcome to come and see the country once more. Western products as Coca-Cola etc. were made available again.

In the former East block countries Scouting and Guiding either revived or were founded - for the first time. So one wonders about Scouting in Vietnam. It has been proven that despite the communist regime scouting has never been routed out. In particular in Roman Catholic circles it was kept alive. Will it ever revive officially? One day it certainly will!
FOOTNOTES.

1) One of the things that history teaches is that a nation - with an ancient civilization and many old traditions - once conquered and ruled by a foreign, mostly European power, in the long run feels the urge to become independent. The colonizers, aware of this, always did everything to nip in the bud all awakening nationalism. But on the other hand most of the colonial powers also provided education. Not only locally. Bright, promising youngsters were enabled to go to European universities. On arrival they met the people by whom they were accepted on equal terms. Such contrary to what they were used to experiencing in their homelands where there was always - and after their return would be again - a barrier between the "whites" and them. Buth having completed their studies, on return to their homelands, they in no way felt inferior to the "whites" in charge and they considered themselves very well capable of running their own country. The only problem was how to attain this. Some chose the democratic way, whereas others thought this a process far too slow and applied other means, such as armed rebellion. Nationalists they all were.

World War Two interrupted the pursuit of independence but on the other hand promoted it. The Japanese infiltration was not welcomed and, when the Japanese had removed the Vichy Government, it was considered to be no improvement of the general situation but more as a replacement of the one colonizer by the other.

2a) Most of the Vietnamese scout leaders and older scouts were nationalists. The "Lam-Son" Rover Crew was something special. Some of its Rover Scouts were students and some of them studied at French Universities. They were also very keen Scouts and played an important role in the development of Vietnamese Scouting. But they also belonged to those Vietnamese who were of the opinion that they, with their education and background, were very well capable of leading their own country and that they did not necessarily need the French to do it for them. So they joined the partisans of the Vietminh which harassed the Japanese but made it also quite clear that a return of the French administration would not be tolerated either. When the French had been evicted but the country had been split in two independent states scouts were found in both parts. They were all good scouts but also nationalists. Some of them thought that Ho Tsji Minh's communist system was the right thing for Vietnam and so they sided with him, whereas others stuck to South Vietnam.

2b) Some "LAM-SON" Rovers went on to obtain high ranks in the South as well as the North Vietnam governments. In Ho Tsji Minh's North
Vietnamese administration Pham Ngoc Thach, a medical doctor, became Minister for Health, Mai Van Bo North Vietnam’s ambassador to France in the 1980s. Ta Quang Buu who in the 1940s had been Chief Commissioner of the Scouts in Central Vietnam was appointed Deputy Defence Minister and as such, on behalf of the Vietcong, signed the Geneva agreements in 1954 and later became Minister for Higher Education. Tran Duy Hung, another medical doctor, in the late forties and the fifties was mayor of the city of Hanoi. DCC Ta Quang Buu, Hoang Dao Thuy’s son-in-law was North Vietnam’s Vice-Minister of Defence and was in its delegation to the 1956 Geneva Conference which divided Vietnam. On the other side were two other "LAM-SON" Rovers, Cung Cung Giu and Tran Van Tuyen. Tran Van Tuyen in 1948 was appointed Minister of Information in the South Vietnamese Republic and later acted as Deputy Prime Minister of same. After the communist victory in 1975 he was sent to a re-education camp where he died in 1976. Cung Giu Nguyen, a writer and a scholar, was a DCC and a long time in charge of the movement’s leaders' training.

3 a) Nguyen Huu Dang was also one of the LAM-SON Rovers that played an important part in pre-war Vietnamese Scouting. He was also involved in the "Association Promoting the development of the Vietnamese language and the introduction of the European alphabet". Further he was a prominent protestant. A convinced bachelor leading a very Spartan lifestyle without any luxuries. But he was also a very humble person who kept a low profile, despite the fact that he was an important and prominent worker in Scouting, his church and his language association. He always very much remained a vague, unknown figure in the three of them refusing to step into the limelight and reluctant to accept the acclaim his work entitled him to. So it came as a complete surprise to all knowing him when in August 1945 they read in the press that Ho Tsji Minh had appointed him to be his Minister of Education, Youth Work and Culture. It was revealed that during his Scouting leadership, as well as his membership of the Protestant Church and his work for the Language Association, he had for a considerable long time been a secret member of the - in pre-war times illegal - communist party and that he had even been a member of its Polit Bureau, its top leadership. All the time his task had been to influence the intellectuals and attract them to the party and secondly he had been forming communist cells and "planting moles" in the organisations he was working for.

He - a Scout - obviously wanted to keep Scouting going and certainly he had no problem with Ho-Tsji-Minh’s wish to turn Scouting into a communist youth movement with an outward scouting appearance. He
arranged a "spontaneous" meeting with the Chief Scout Hoang Dao Thuy, the latter's son-in-law Ta Quand Buu and some other important leaders and tried to persuade them to join the communists and, most important of all, to bring the Scout Movement to the benefit of its members. Struck by unbelief those present had to discover that their long serving, trusted brother scout revealed himself as an equally long serving communist infiltrator and mole. Flabbergasted they left and went their separate ways, never to meet again.

3b) Nguyen Huu Dang's friends and former friends had another surprise coming. The North Vietnamese government pretended to introduce more openness and launched a campaign officially named "One Hundred Flowers Blossom" inviting and encouraging intellectuals to openly criticize the government's policies and actions. Now, amongst other things, Ho Chi Minh and his government in communist North Vietnam introduced agrarian reforms like the ones Mao Tse Tung had carried out in the People's Republic of China. Further was also demanded liberalisation of the government, more freedom of expression and creation, real democracy with a more humane attitude towards the people. But when the invited criticism came forward, there were mass arrests, and it was proven that the government's true aim had been to identify hidden opponents to the regime.

The surprise was that, in 1956, Nguyen Huu Dang was officially named as and accused of being the leader of a large group of North Vietnamese writers, medical people and other intellectuals known as the "Flower Men". After their arrests Nguyen Huu Dang and his followers disappeared without a trace into the "black hole" of history during one of the well staged purification processes that were so often used to rid the party of its discontents and disappointed.

Either he had become a burden to the party and an excuse had to be found to expel and get rid of him, or - the accusation was correct and truthful - which is not certain - and he really was the "Flower Men's" leader and spokesman, it might have been a sign that he turned away from the Marxist-Leninist conviction and desired a "communism with a humane face". The possibility of a disappointment in the system and a changed point of view are not to be ruled out. The Vietnamese and other scouts that knew him preferred not to remember him as the "false brother" but as one of the culprits of circumstances that he, an idealist, did not quite understand or had not had in his grip. He - like many Christians - knew that the first followers of Jesus had lived in communities, the well-to-do and the rich caring for and sharing with the poor
and no one in want of anything. A real and pure communist or socialist life style that had not lasted very long. Add to this the Scouting ideals of World Wide Brotherhood and equality of all as well as the patriotic feelings and, the combination of it all may well have confused his thinking in such a way that he may have thought that the fulfilment of his idealistic dreams were to be found in communism, as so many others Christians did. Until they found that Communism was a stone hard, suppressing dictatorship that had nothing in common with democratic-socialism.