

BADEN-POWELL DIES; BOY SCOUTS' HEAD

**Conceived Movement in 1908
When He Took a Group of
English Boys Camping**

A HERO OF THE BOER WAR

**Visited America for Last Time
in 1935—Succumbs in
South African Home**

NAIROBI, Kenya Colony, Jan. 8 (AP)—Lord Baden-Powell, a military genius who devoted much of his life to a peace organization—the Boy Scouts—will be buried tomorrow on a sunny slope of Mt. Kenya, deep in the Africa he loved.

The man who won British acclaim as the defender of Mafeking in the Boer War, died today at his home in Nyeri of a heart ailment. He was 83 years old.

He remained in Africa, lending his talents for organizing to forming the South African constabulary. Next he was inspector general of cavalry for Great Britain. In 1910 he retired.

Always interested in boys and girls, the outdoors and organizing youths in groups for instruction, he commenced a work that eventually led to the Boy Scouts and formation of the Girl Scouts. Ordered to rest in 1937 because of a "tired heart," he left London for Africa.

Picture Worn by Thousands

When the Boers amazed the Britons by their stubborn and successful fighting against disciplined red-coated troops in the early part of the South African War there emerged a popular hero. The empire needed a few glamorous personages after the somewhat disappointing military performances of Sir Redvers Buller and Lord Methuen. The hero, whose image was worn on celluloid buttons by thousands of those who stayed at home, was Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, defender of Mafeking, who later became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World and founder of the Boy Scout movement.

"B-P," as he was popularly known, was a typical product of the English public-school playing fields. At Charterhouse, where he was dubbed "Bathing Towel," he might well have fitted into Rudyard Kipling's "Stalky & Co." As a cavalry subaltern he saw early service in India, Afghanistan and South Africa, indulging in pig-sticking and polo between frontier wars.

As Lieut. Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, he retired from the army in 1910. The Boy Scout movement had begun two years previously when he took a group of English schoolboys on a camping trip in the Dorset Woods. During the more than quarter of a century that he was Chief Scout of the World he saw it grow until millions of boys in all civilized countries had joined and more than a million Girl Guides, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls had grouped themselves for similar high motives.

Lord Baden-Powell was symbolic of the movement. The scout hat which is worn by the boys and girls is patterned after the hat worn when Lord Baden-Powell was commander of irregular horse in South Africa. The greatest triumph of his career was perhaps in 1930, during the "World Scout Jamboree" in England, when 50,000 prize Scouts from seventy-one countries gathered to pay him honor.

In the creation of the Girl Guide movement, Lord Baden-Powell was greatly helped by his sister, Miss Agnes Baden-Powell. In 1912 he married Miss Olave St. Clair Soames, who was equally enthusiastic about both Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements.

Was Born in London

Lord Baden-Powell, first Baron of Gilwell, G. C. M. G., G. C. V. O., K. C. V. O., K. C. B., O. M., C. B., C. V. O., was born in London on Feb. 22, 1857. He was the sixth son of the Rev. Professor Baden-Powell of Oxford and Langdon Manor and Henrietta Grace, daughter of Admiral W. H. Smyth.

He was educated at Charterhouse and had intended to go to Oxford, but "for a lark" he went up for army examinations, came out one of the first of seven hundred candidates and received a commission with the Thirteenth Hussars, one of England's crack cavalry regiments, of which he was later to be the honorary Colonel.

As subaltern and later adjutant of that regiment, he served for a number of years in India and Afghanistan, and then on the general staff as Assistant Military Secretary in South Africa in 1887-89. He took part in the operations in Zululand in 1888 and was mentioned in dispatches. From 1890 to 1893 he was Assistant Military Secretary in Malta, after which he returned to Africa to command native levies in the Ashanti campaign.

He became Inspector General of Cavalry and served as such for four years, until 1907, when he was appointed Lieutenant General in command of the Northumbrian Territorial Division.

Sought to Promote Citizenship

The Boy Scout movement was founded with the object of "promoting good citizenship in the rising generation." Its success was emphatic. Within six months of its creation there were 80,000 Boy Scouts in England alone, and as the years went by the number increased into millions in all parts of the world.

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell visited the United States and Canada on several occasions, the last time in 1935.

His autobiography, "Lessons of a Lifetime," was published in 1933. On his final visit to America two years later, he went first to Ottawa and Quebec, where he greeted thousands of Canadian Scouts. Then he came to the United States, primarily to attend the "jamboree" scheduled for that summer at Alexandria, Va.

An epidemic of infantile paralysis which swept the Eastern seaboard that summer caused President Roosevelt and the United States Public Health Service to order the "jamboree" canceled at the last minute.

The fifth world jamboree of the Scouts, held in the Netherlands in July, 1937, was the last attended by Lord Baden-Powell.

The heir to the title is the Hon. Arthur Robert Peter Baden-Powell, who was born on Oct. 30, 1913.



LORD BADEN-POWELL Associated Press, 1935