



LIFE



Robert-Stephenson
Smythe Baden-Powell was
born on February 22nd,
1857 in London, England.

His Father who was a Priest &
Professor at Oxford. He died
when Baden Powell was 3
years old.



He developed his drawing talent and was able to write with both hands. He had a flare for writing also.



His first school was at Tunbridge Wells.



B-P sat for scholarships to private schools when he was 13 and was successful in winning a scholarship to Charterhouse in 1870.

EARLY EFFORTS



On school holidays B-P and his brothers travelled far and wide on camping trips, boating and cruising. Here he learned much of outdoor life.

He entered into many activities during his school life. Acting, Singing, Cadet Corps, Sports, Art and the Orchestra





In 1873, Charterhouse school moved to Godalming Surrey it was in a nearby woods that B-P furthered his knowledge of nature and outdoor skills



Dr. Haig Brown, Headmaster at Charterhouse, encouraged him to sit for army exams. He was successful and was commissioned as Lieutenant in the 13th Hussars.

THE HUSSARS

B-P Sailed directly to join his regiment in Lucknow, India on December 16, 1876.

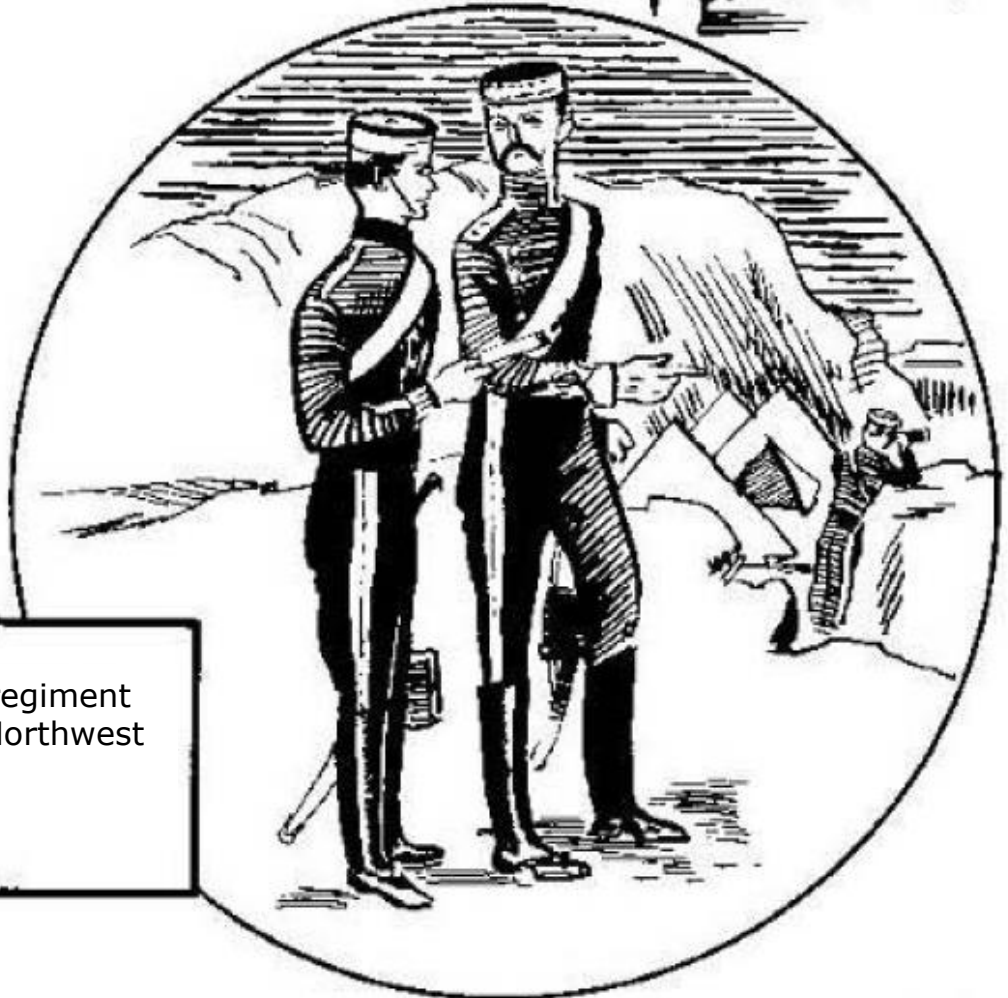


Here he took courses in surveying and information about the enemy. B-P was a good soldier and took every opportunity to better himself in his army career.



He supplemented his small pay by drawing for a London magazine called "The Graphic".

In 1879 he was sent home to England on sick leave.

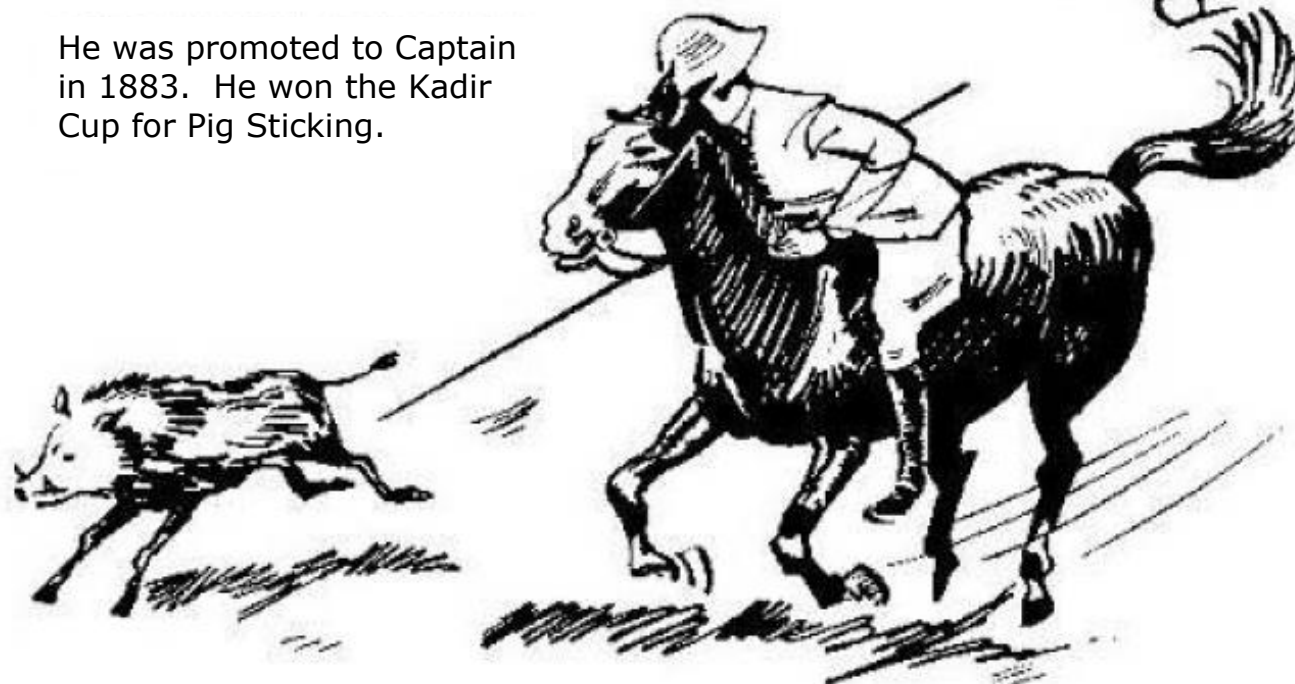


He rejoined his regiment in 1880 on the Northwest frontier of India.

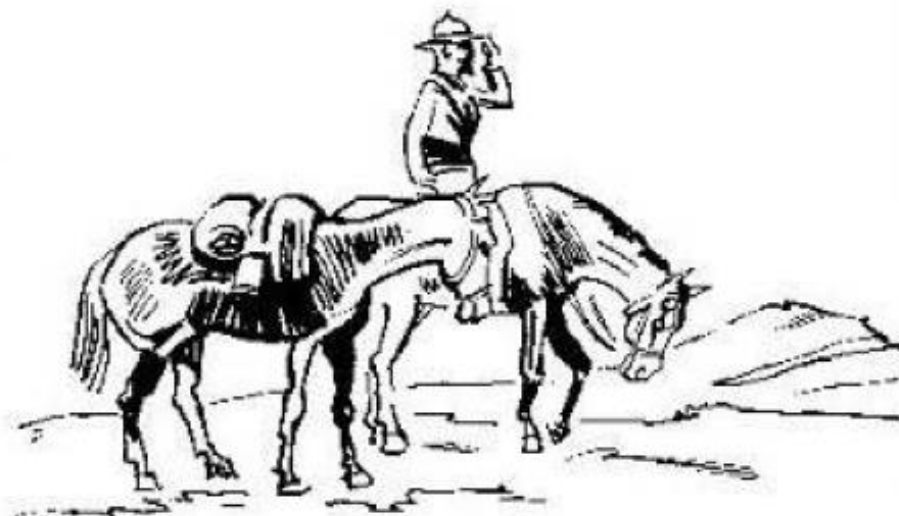
B-P. Lost no time in training his men in Military Scouting.



He was promoted to Captain in 1883. He won the Kadir Cup for Pig Sticking.



In 1884, the Regiment was sent to Durban, South Africa. B-P carried out 600 mile military survey of Natal Frontier.



Following the campaign B-P spent 4 years in England & was again posted to Africa to assist in stopping Zulu violent actions



Dinizulu the chief surrendered and B-P was promoted to major in 1888 because of his work in this campaign,

Dinizulu surrendered and as a token of surrender presented B-P with his necklace of wooden beads. B-P later used these as a design for the 'Wood Badge'.



Pah. Nothing but another mad Englisher

In 1881, he was appointed military intelligence officer for the Mediterranean and engaged in many spying missions.

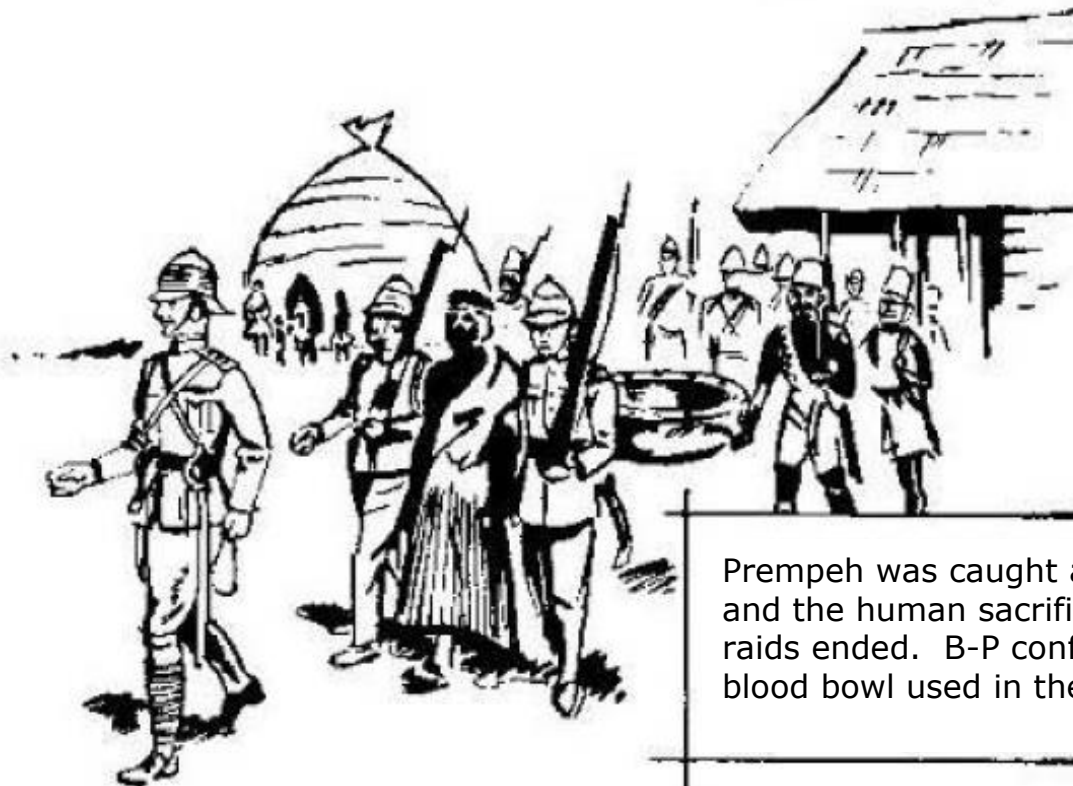


B-P was sent to Africa in 1895 to sort out people who were rebelling. Led by Prempeh, an evil tribal king, he joined Sir Frances Scott & led the expedition into Ashanti country.



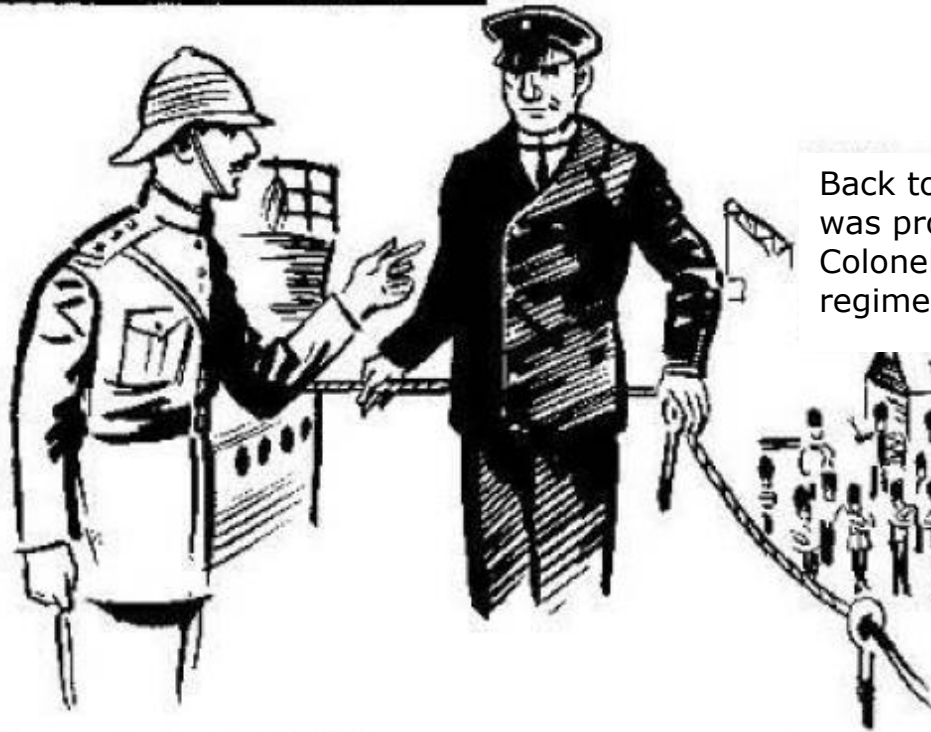


His Scouting party arrived at Prempeh's village ahead of the main force and in so doing prevented Prempeh's escape.

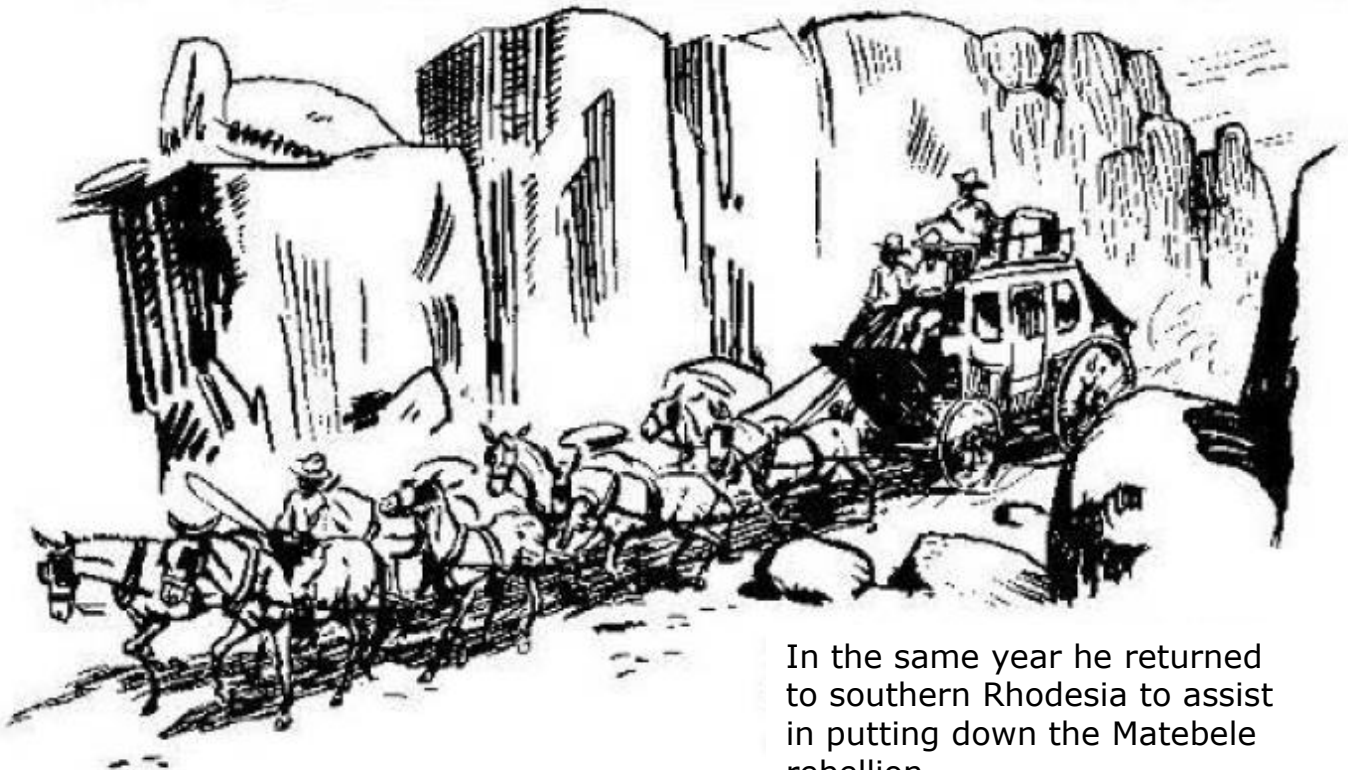


Prempeh was caught and tried and the human sacrifices and raids ended. B-P confiscated the blood bowl used in the sacrifices.

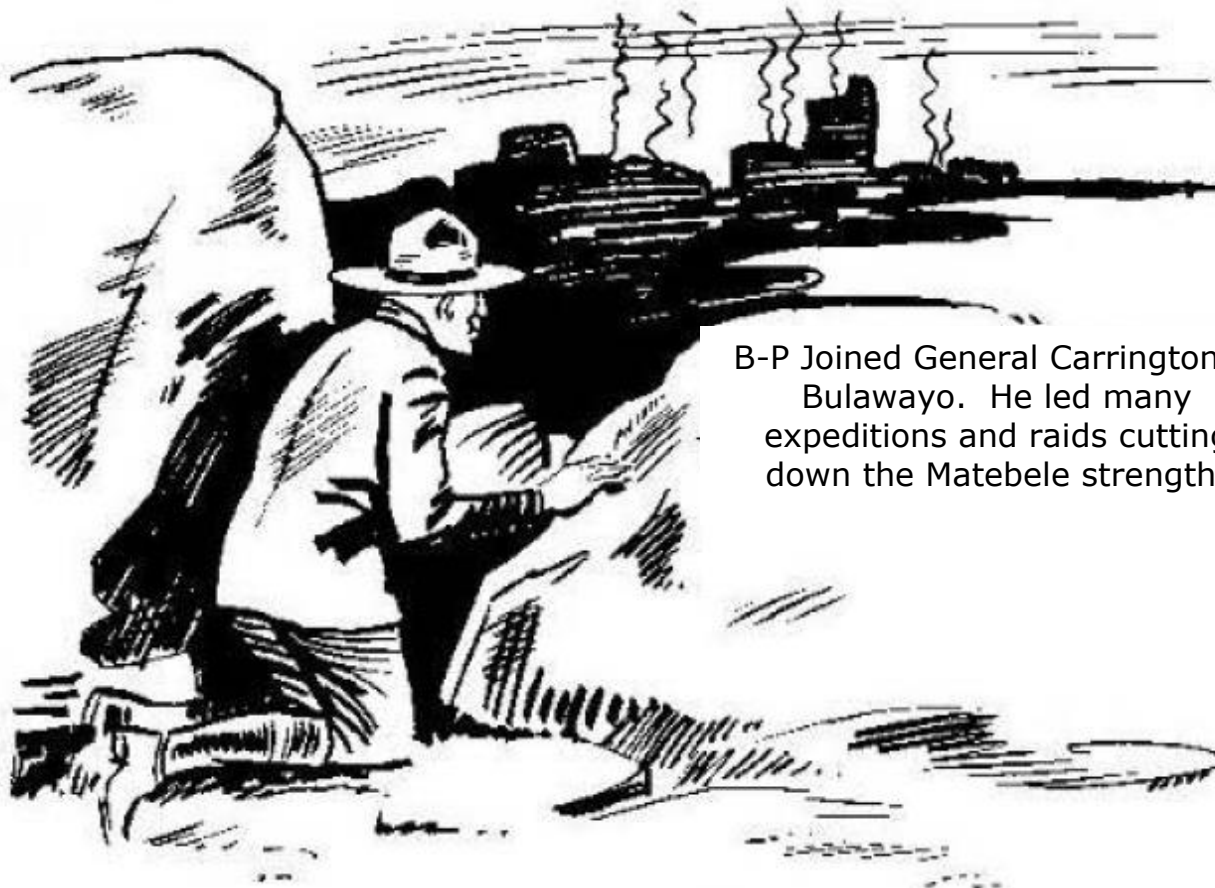
LT. COLONEL



Back to England in 1895 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and rejoined his regiment in Ireland.



In the same year he returned to southern Rhodesia to assist in putting down the Matebele rebellion.



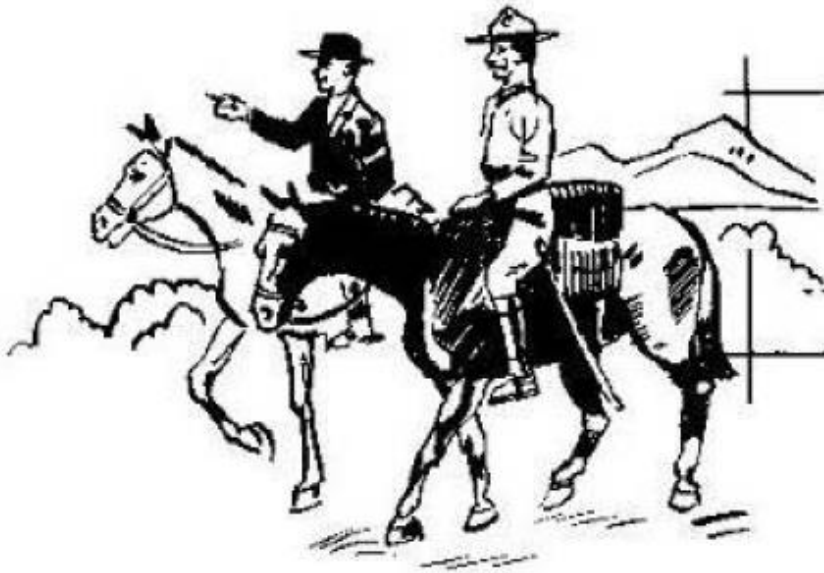
B-P Joined General Carrington in Bulawayo. He led many expeditions and raids cutting down the Matebele strength.

He was ordered to capture an important witch doctor Unwini.



B-P Did capture him and the natives were ready for peace.





With the campaign over B-P rode to Capetown with Cecil Rhodes, the great explorer.

He returned to England in 1879 and wrote "The Matebele Campaign". He was appointed to command the Fifth Dragoons in India.



Parting with the 13th Hussars after 21 years was a sad moment.

The demonstration of the regiment was a great honour to B-P

BACK TO INDIA

He introduced new training methods, health and fitness programmes, and emergency drills to his new command.



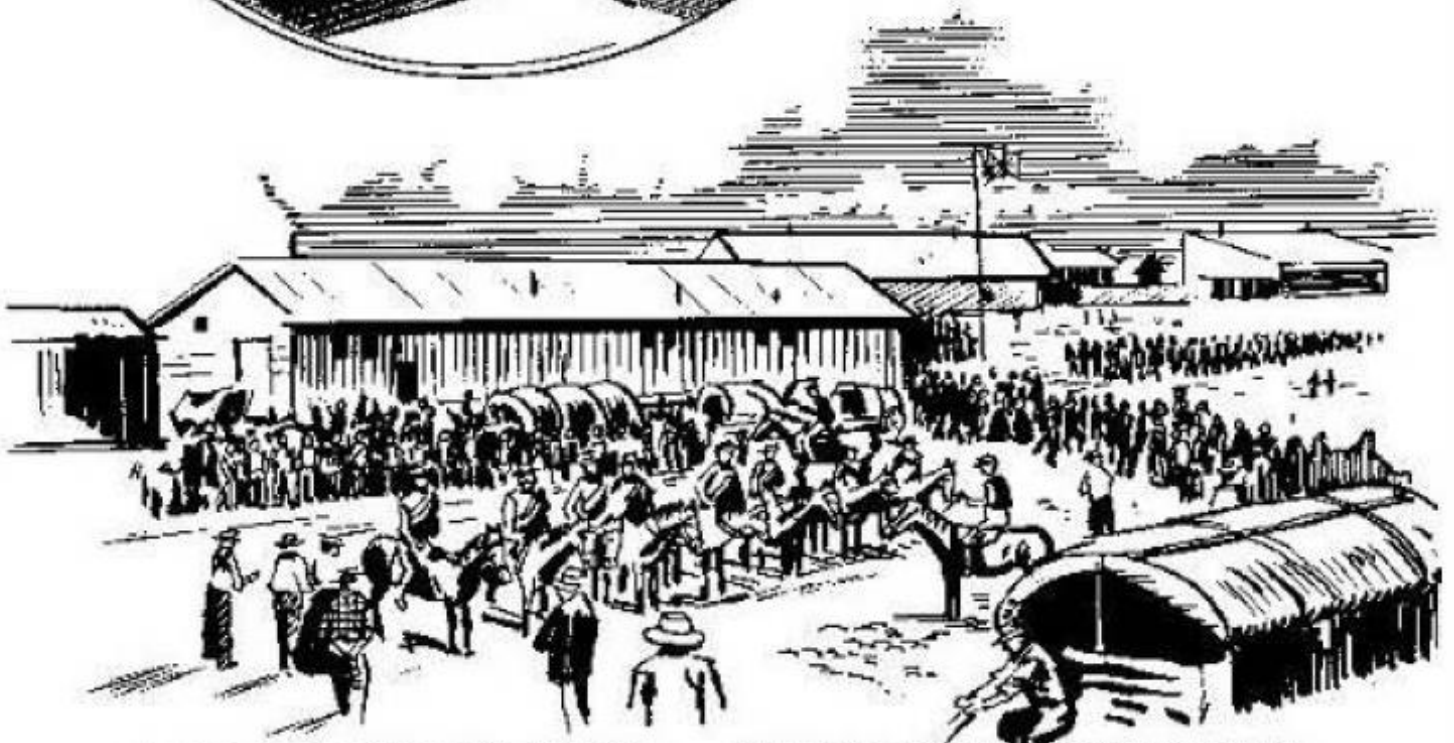
Regimental Scout Patrols were organised and trained. They were awarded badges of proficiency of the arrowhead design.



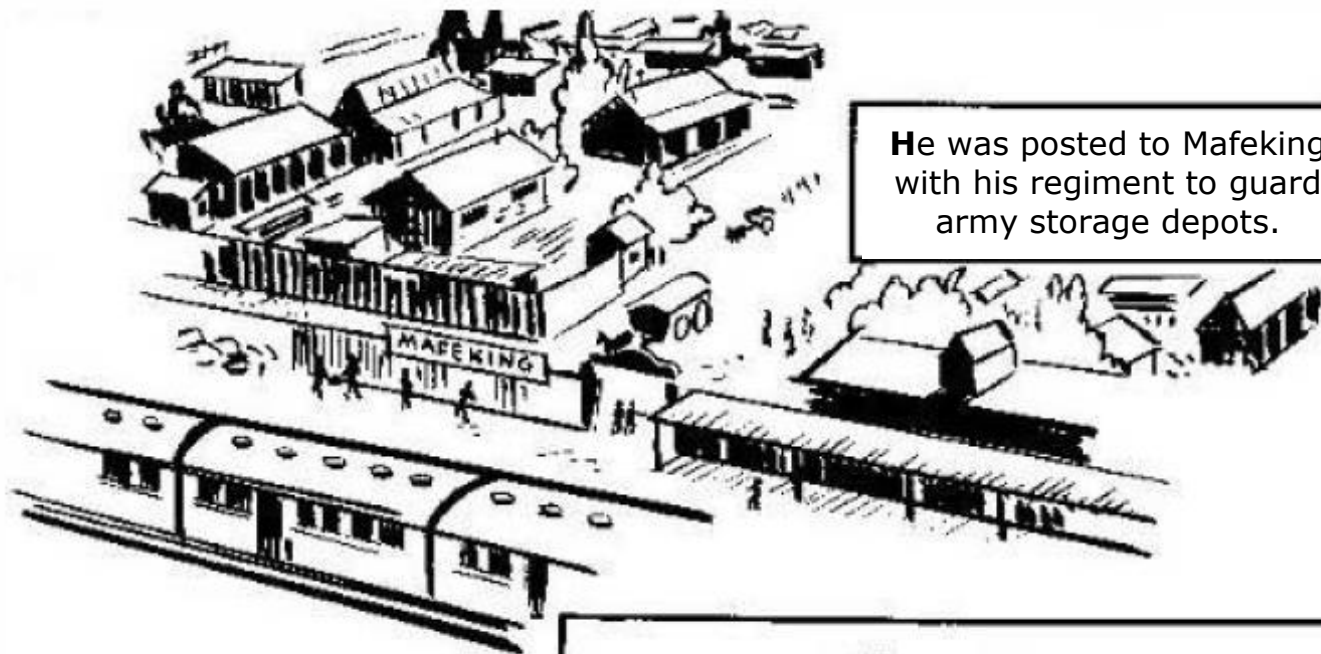
He wrote an outline of an army training manual - "**Aids to Scouting**".



He returned to England in 1899 and left immediately for South Africa where war threatened with the Boers.



In three months Colonel Baden Powell had recruited and trained two regiments in Bechuanaland.



He was posted to Mafeking with his regiment to guard army storage depots.

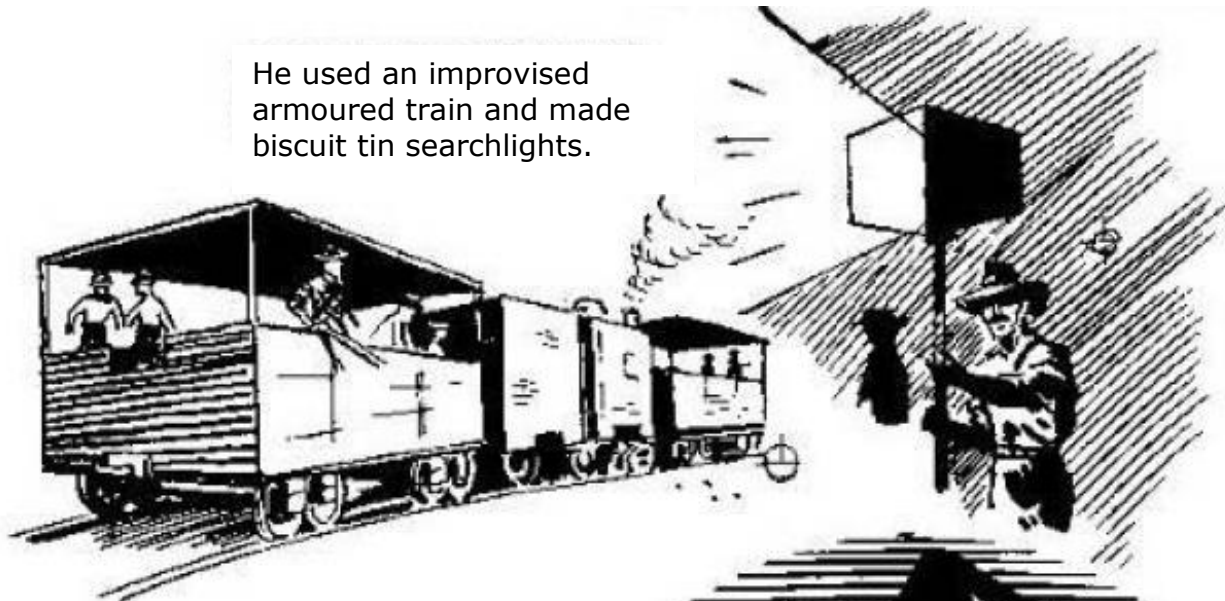


With only 1,000 men, he set up a network of forts and trenches which kept the Boers off balance.



While here he mailed proofs of his new book "Aids to Scouting" just before war was declared on October 11, 1899. Over 9,000 Boers advanced on Mafeking.

He used an improvised armoured train and made biscuit tin searchlights.



Old tin can grenades were thrown by using a fishing rod



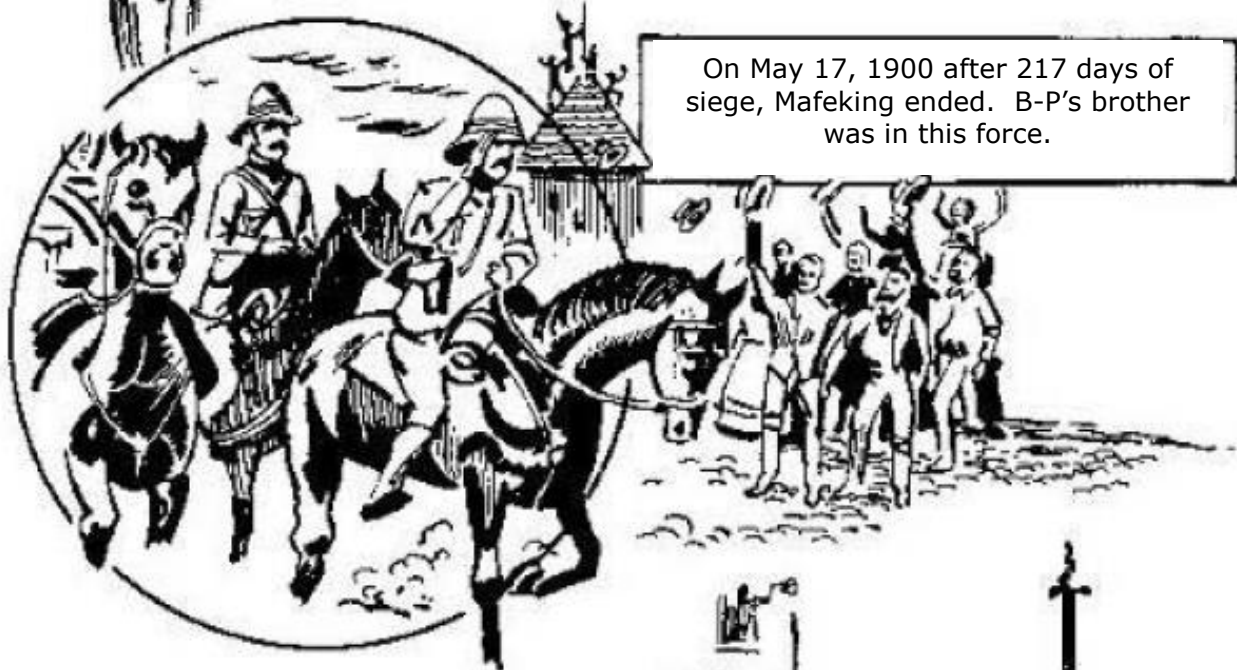
He gave orders by a megaphone to imaginary troops.



On Sundays, a day of truce, the Boers watched while the British stepped over "Barbed Wire". It was a bluff.



He organised boys into the Mafeking Cadet Corps. B-P was impressed by their efficiency.



On May 17, 1900 after 217 days of siege, Mafeking ended. B-P's brother was in this force.



B-P Became a national hero and was sent a congratulatory telegram by Queen Victoria, she promoted him to Major General.



Later in 1900 he was asked to form the South African constabulary. He was greeted in Cape Town by vast cheering crowds.

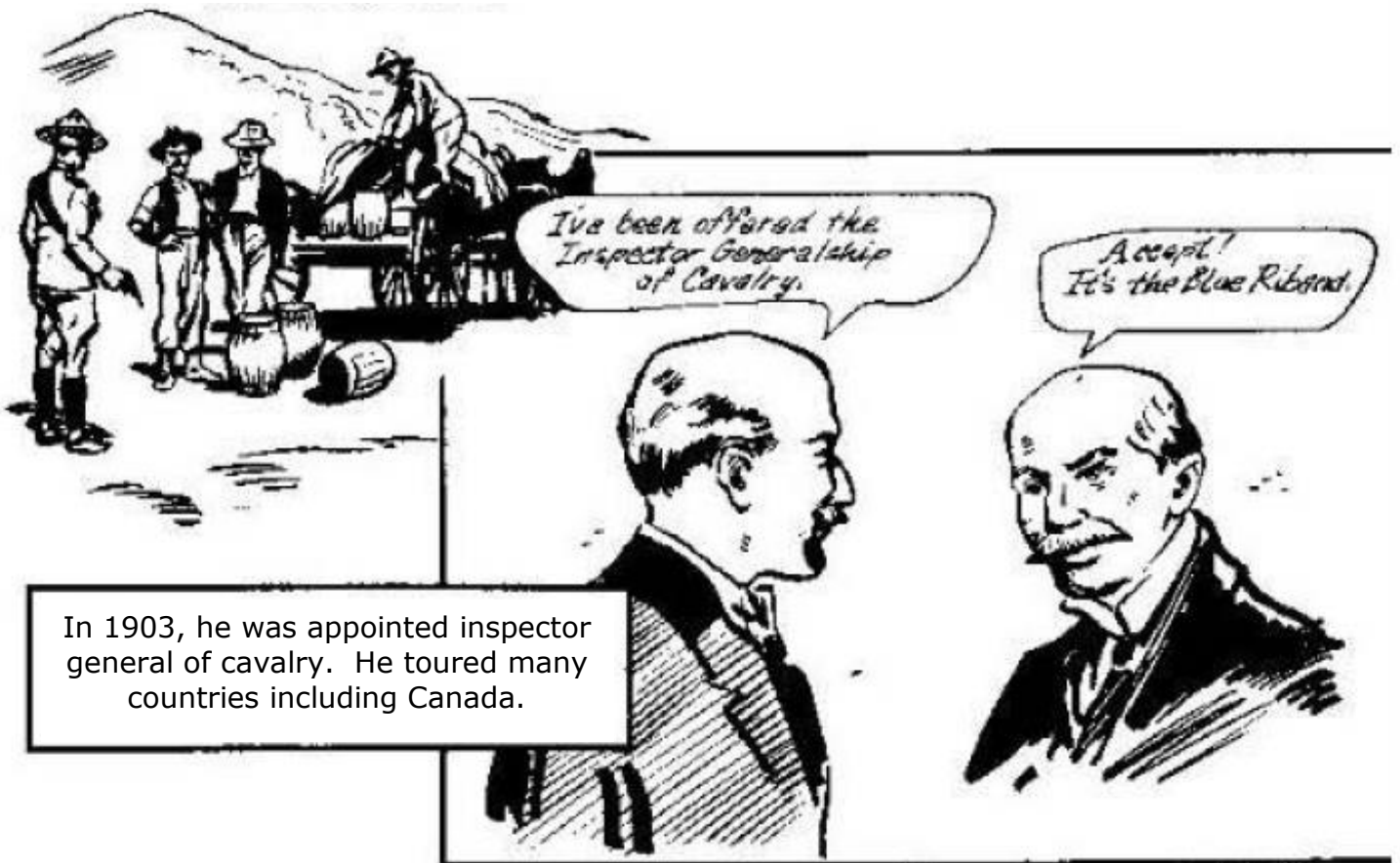


By June 1901, the constabulary was organised and trained. B-P was sent to England for a rest.



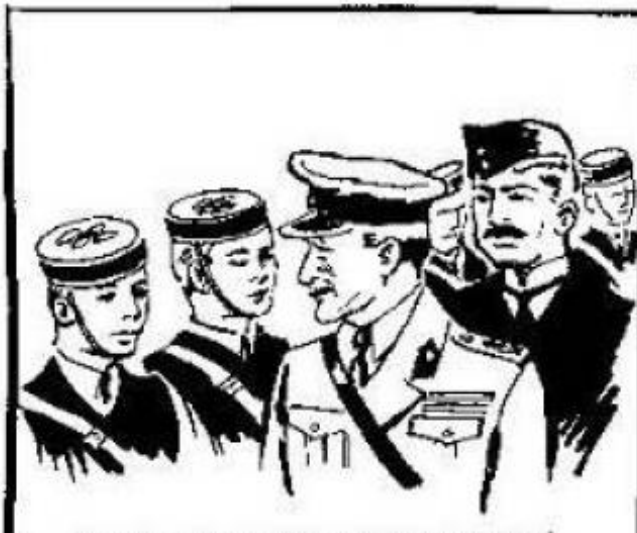
On leave he found that his book "**Aids to Scouting**" was being used by thousands of boys and teachers.

At the end of 1901 B-P was back again in Johannesburg. The war ended in 1902 and the constabulary began its real work of maintaining law and order



He was fond of Canada. On his many tours he took time to fish and camp.

In 1904, he drafted out ideas for training boys from his experiences with Mafeking cadets and his wide travels.



After an inspection of the boys' brigade, Sir William Smith the founder, encouraged him to write a boys' edition of "**Aids to Scouting**".



In 1907 he sent his first outline of the book to youth leaders throughout England. Mr C Arthur Pearson the influential publisher encouraged him in his work.

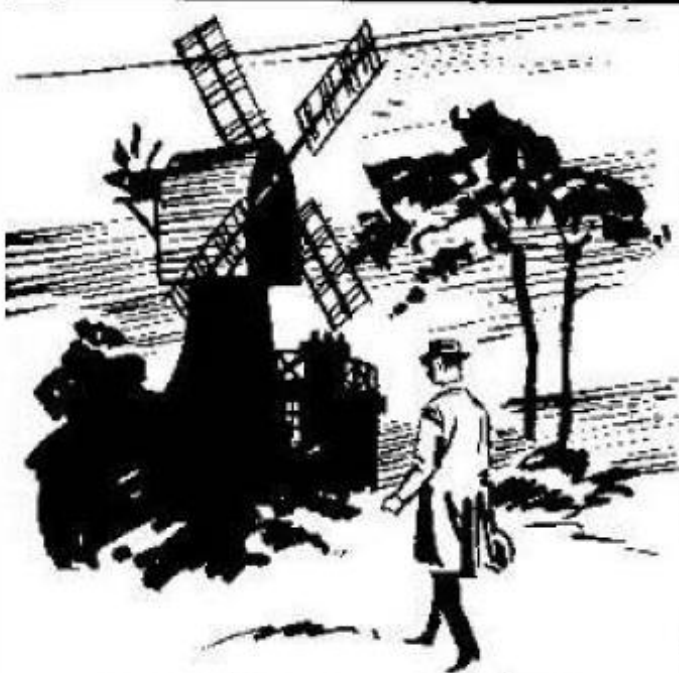
BROWNSEA ISLAND



He held a successful weeks experimental scout camp July 25-August 8 1907 at **Brownsea Island**. He used the patrol system.



Following the camp he was sure that his ideas for the training of youth were sound.



B-P Wrote "**Scouting for Boys**" in a windmill on Wimbledon Common and in January, 1908 the book appeared in six fortnightly parts. This year Scouting started in Canada.



Scouting caught on. Boys across the country formed patrols. They asked men to become their scoutmaster and troops began in schools and clubs.



The Scout magazine started on April 14, 1908 and it was soon obvious that there was need for a special organisation.



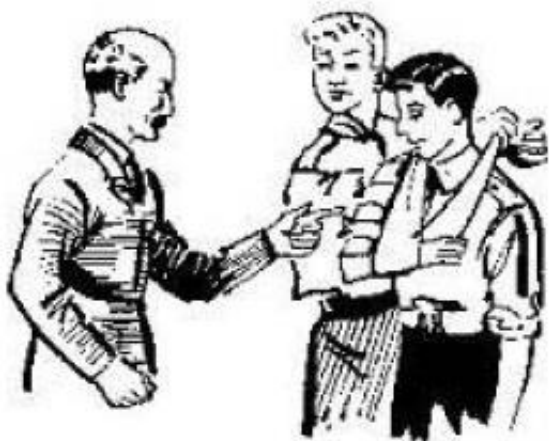
1909 was the year of the first rallies. Over 11,000 Scouts attended at Crystal Palace and 6,000 at Glasgow.

Girls were interested too. B-P realised that a similar organisation was needed.

KNIGHTED-1909



Later in 1909, B-P was knighted by King Edward VII on this occasion the King's Scout Rank was established with the sovereign's approval.



B-P Resigned from the army on King Edward's advice so that he could devote all his time to the growing youth movement.



King Edward VII died in 1910. He had been a great patron of Scouting and had encouraged B-P in many of his ideas.

CANADIAN TOUR - 1910



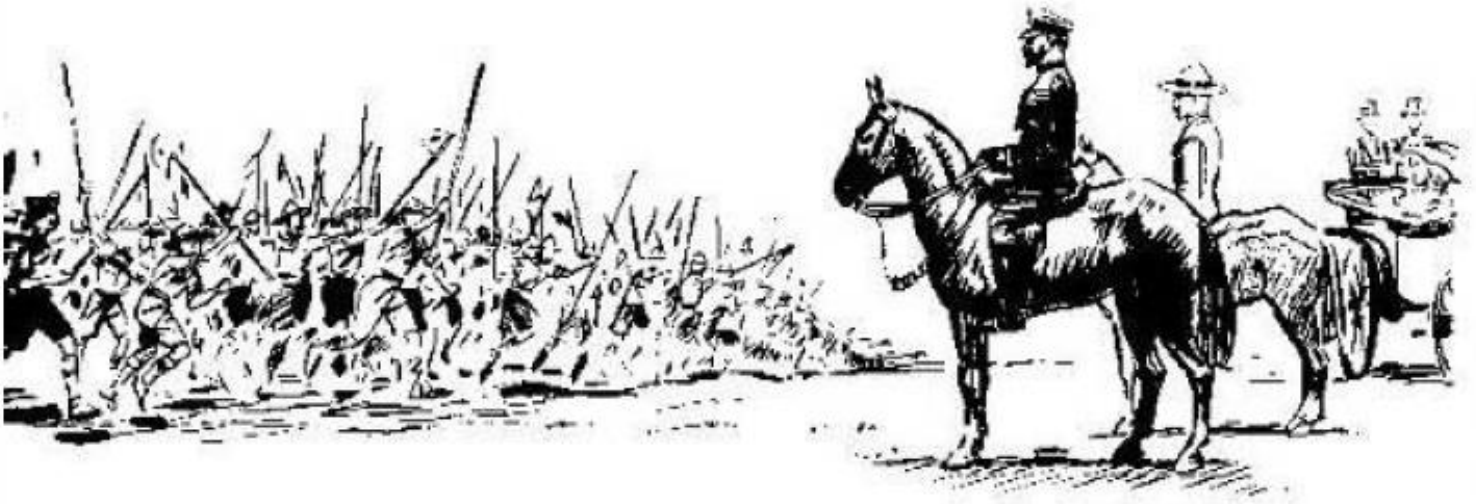
In August 1910 B-P was in Canada. Two English Scout Patrols also arrived. They gave displays in Quebec City, Toronto, Winnipeg and Banff. Although Scouting has already been established in Canada, this tour added interest to its growth in this country.

In 1910 the 'Girl Guides' were begun and in the same year the 'Sea Scouts' were introduced.

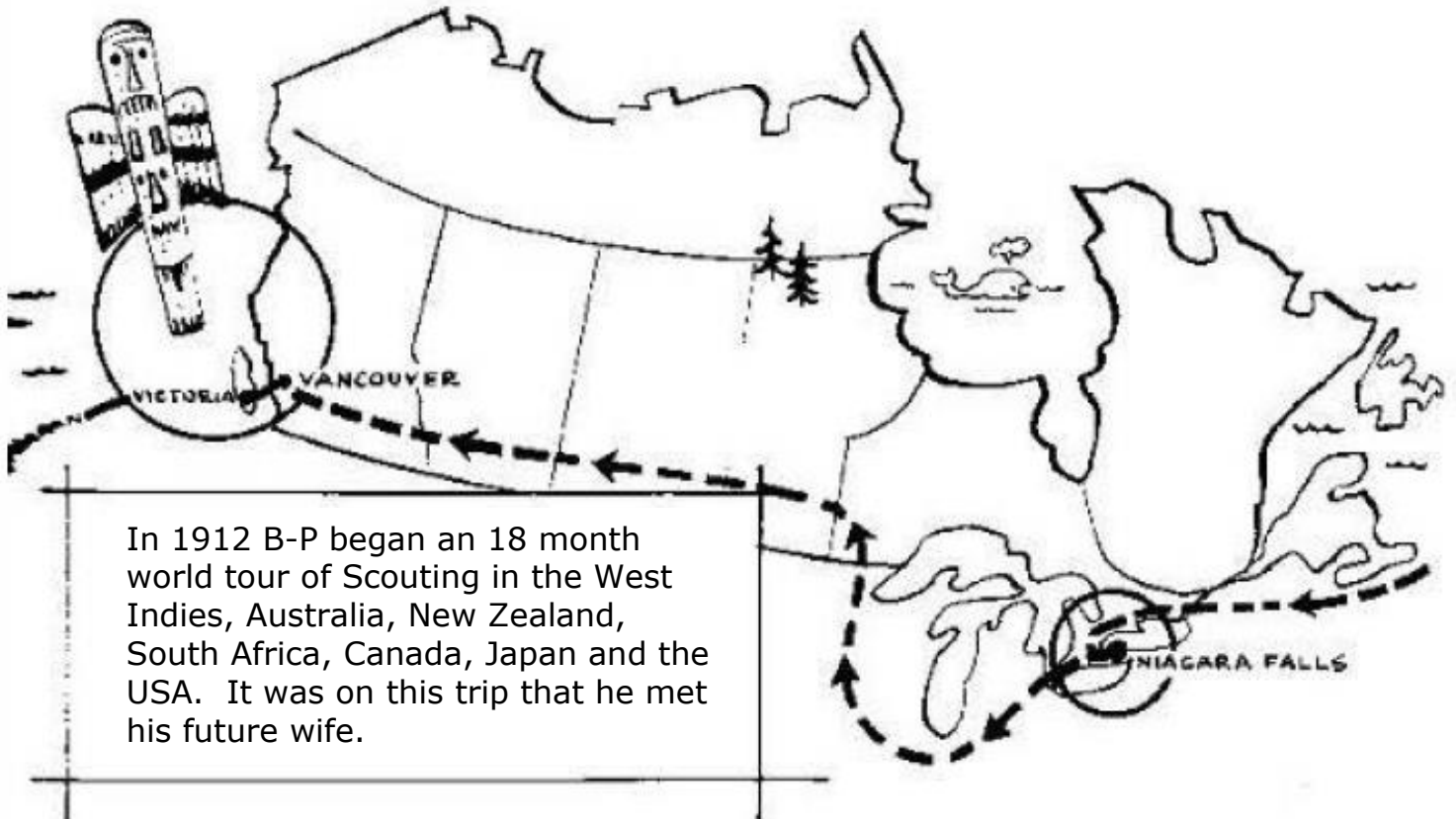


He visited USA and offered ideas for scouting there. He also visited Russia and discussed scouting with the Czar.





On July 4, 1911 a Royal Scout review was held by King George. Over 30,000 Scouts including many unexpected Canadians assembled at Windsor for this historic inspection. Lord Grey, Governor-General, became Canada's first chief scout.



In 1912 B-P began an 18 month world tour of Scouting in the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Japan and the USA. It was on this trip that he met his future wife.



On October 30, 1912 B-P was married to Olave St-Clair Soames at Parkstone,



Scouts collected a fund in order to buy the couple a car for their wedding present.



An act of parliament incorporated Boy Scouts in Canada. There were 13,565 Scouts in Canada.



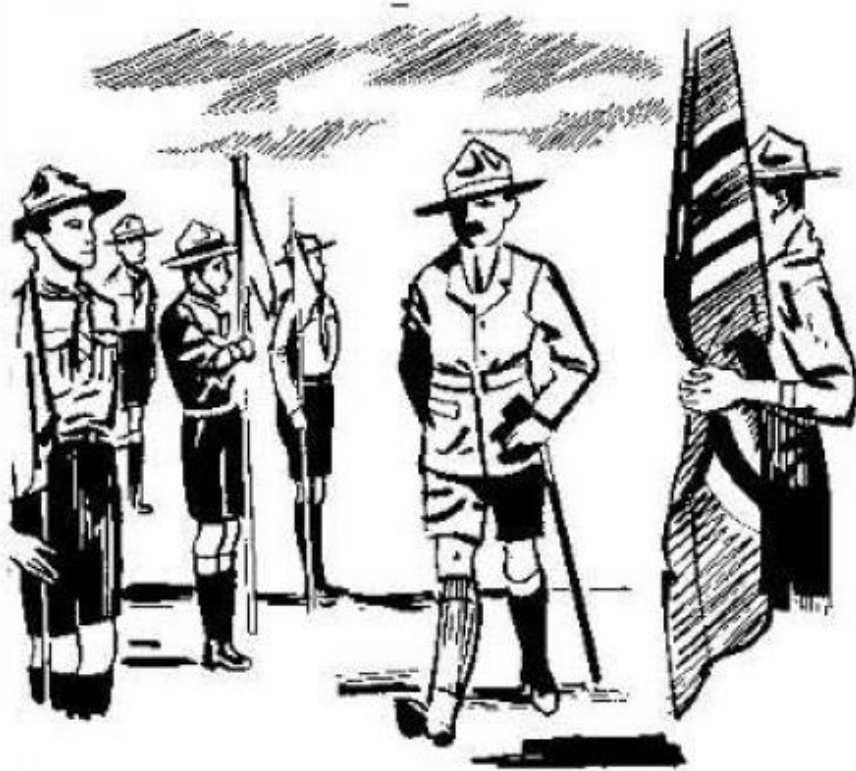
He developed the proficiency badge system to encourage hobbies and handicrafts.



In the first hours, scouts were guarding bridges, telegraph lines and other strategic locations.



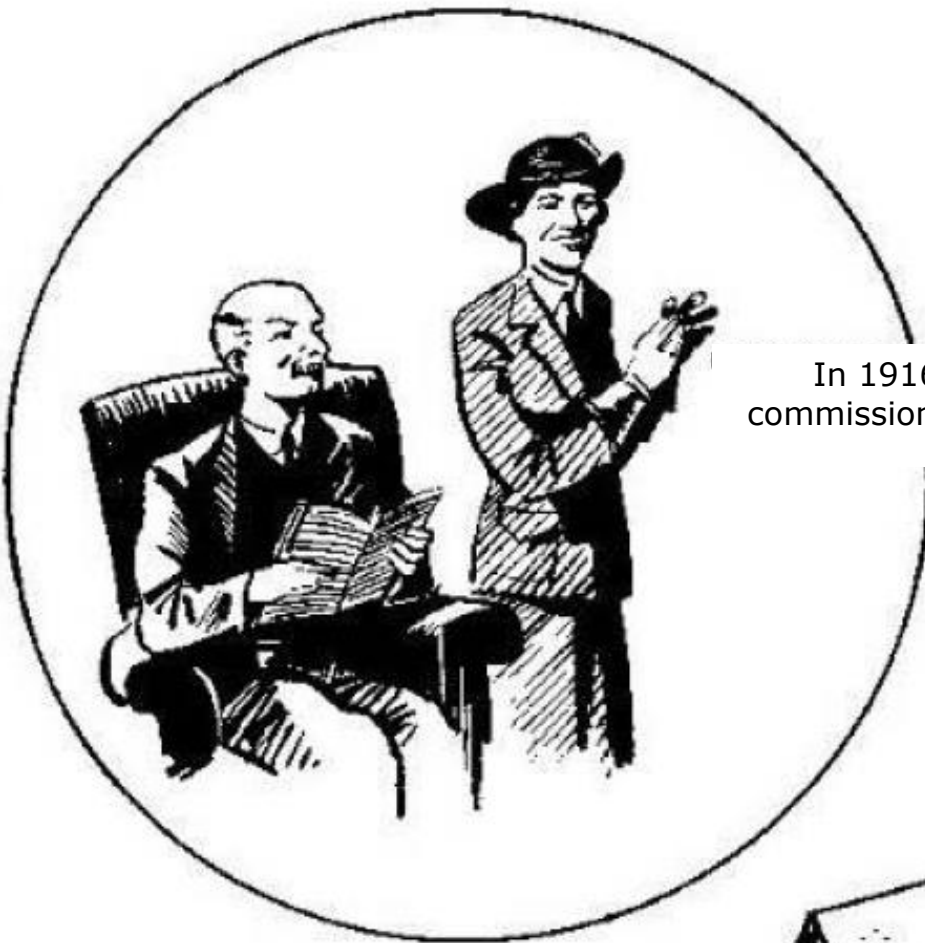
B-P put his mobilisation plan into action when war was declared in 1914.



B-P volunteered for active service but was told that the Boy Scouts were important and that he should remain with them.

In 1914, Sea Scouts took over coast guard stations and carried out duties until 1920.



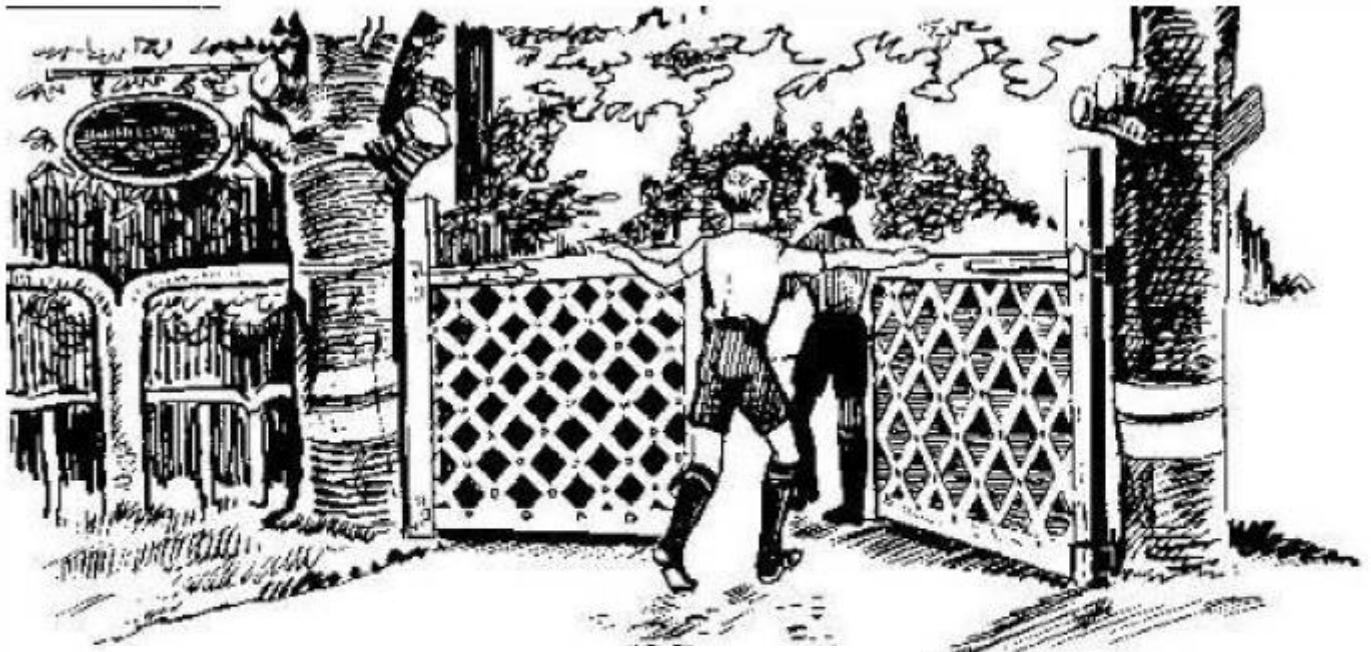


In 1916 Lady B-P became chief commissioner of Guiding in the empire.

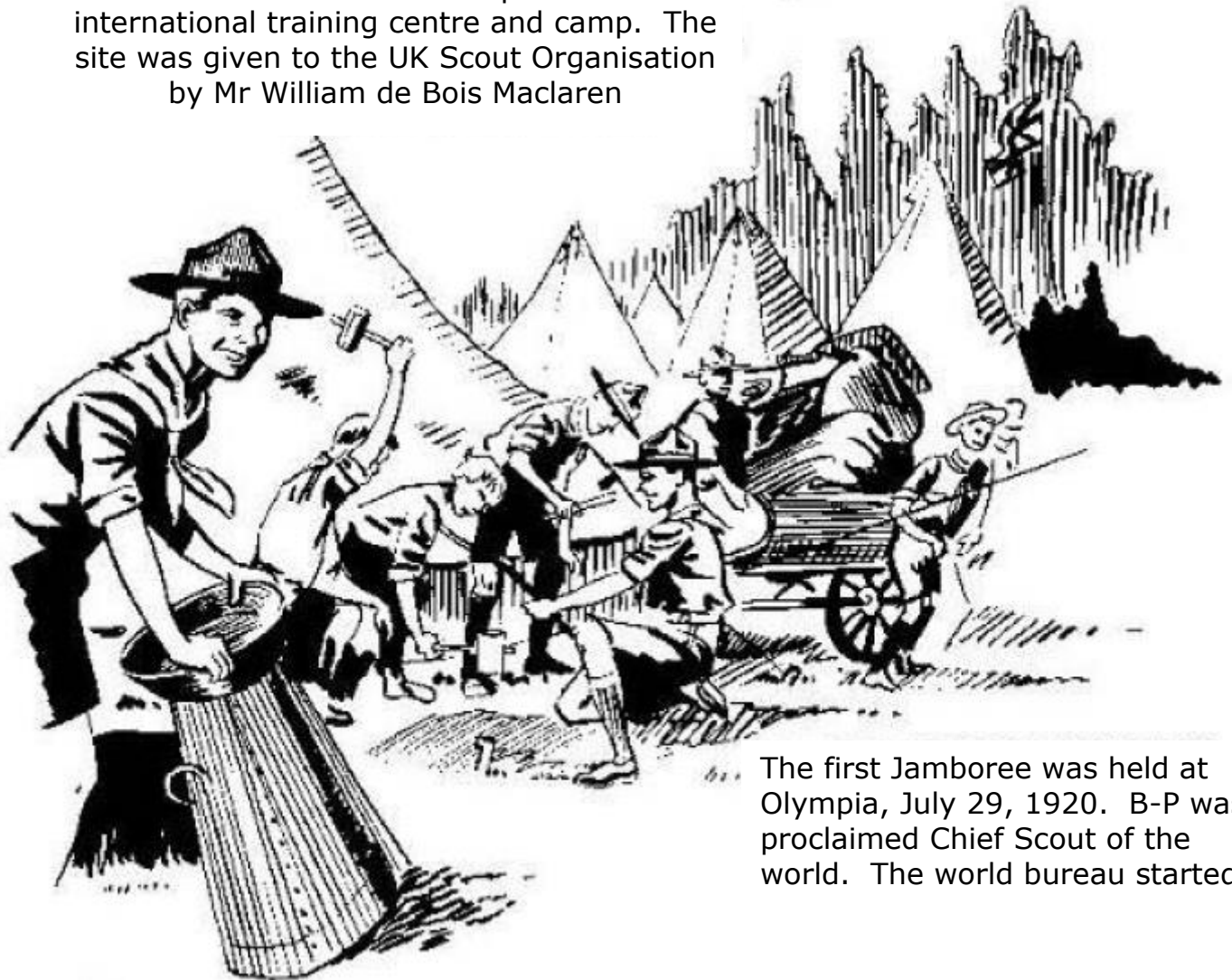
Early in 1916 B-P organised the Wolf Cub section and the Wolf Cubs handbook was published. Correspondence courses and training camps for the leaders were started.



The war ended on November 11, 1918. Over 150,000 Scouts had served earning many Victoria Crosses.



In 1919 Gilwell Park was opened as an international training centre and camp. The site was given to the UK Scout Organisation by Mr William de Bois Maclaren



The first Jamboree was held at Olympia, July 29, 1920. B-P was proclaimed Chief Scout of the world. The world bureau started.

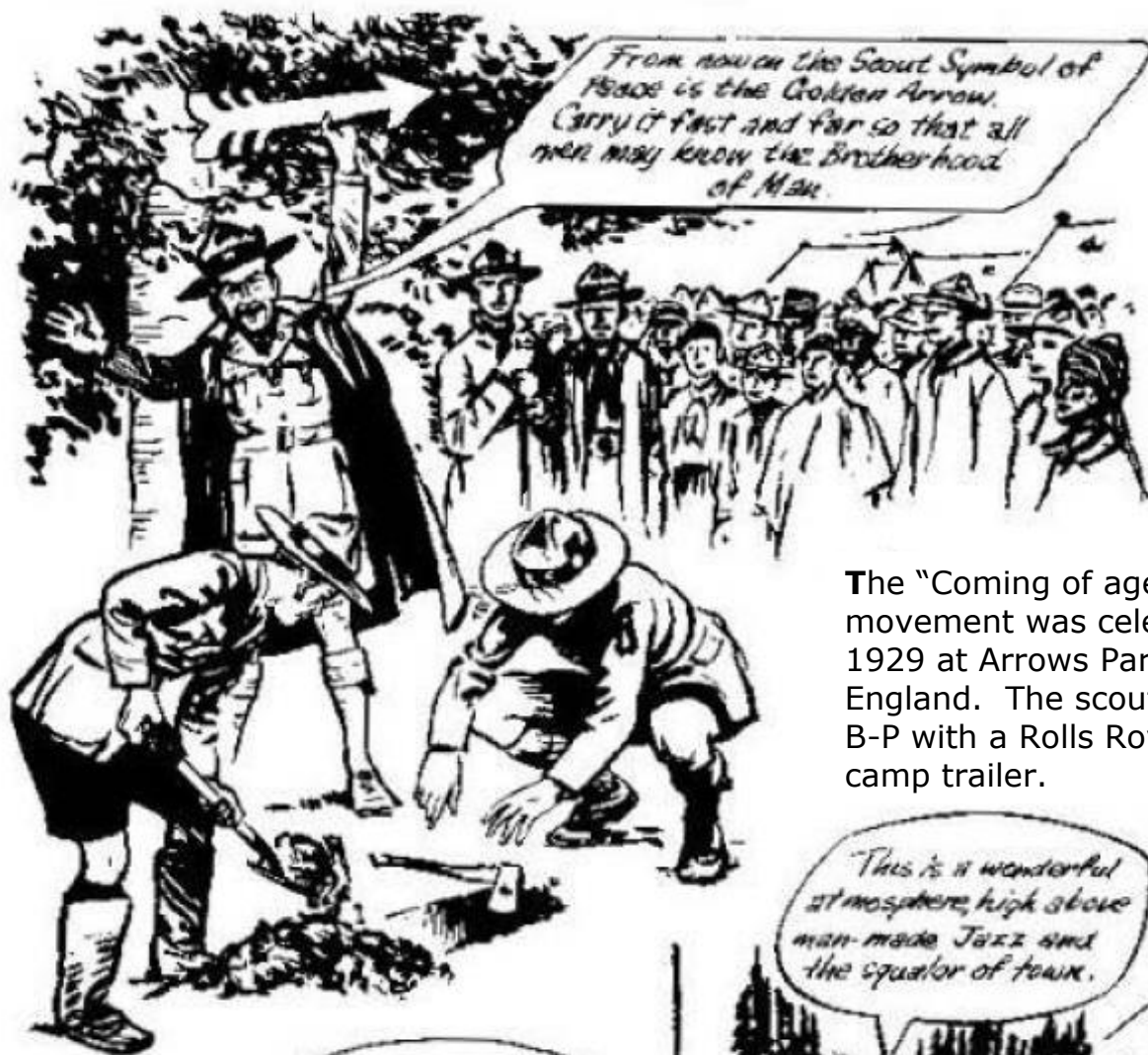
*Could you spare a minute, Sir?
I've read "Rovering to Success"
and I have a problem.*



"Rovering to Success" was published in 1922 to assist Rovers in that section of the movement which had been started in 1917.



B-P Visited Canada in 1918 and 1923 on nationwide tours.



The "Coming of age" of the movement was celebrated in 1929 at Arrows Park, Birkenhead, England. The scouts presented B-P with a Rolls Royce car and camp trailer.



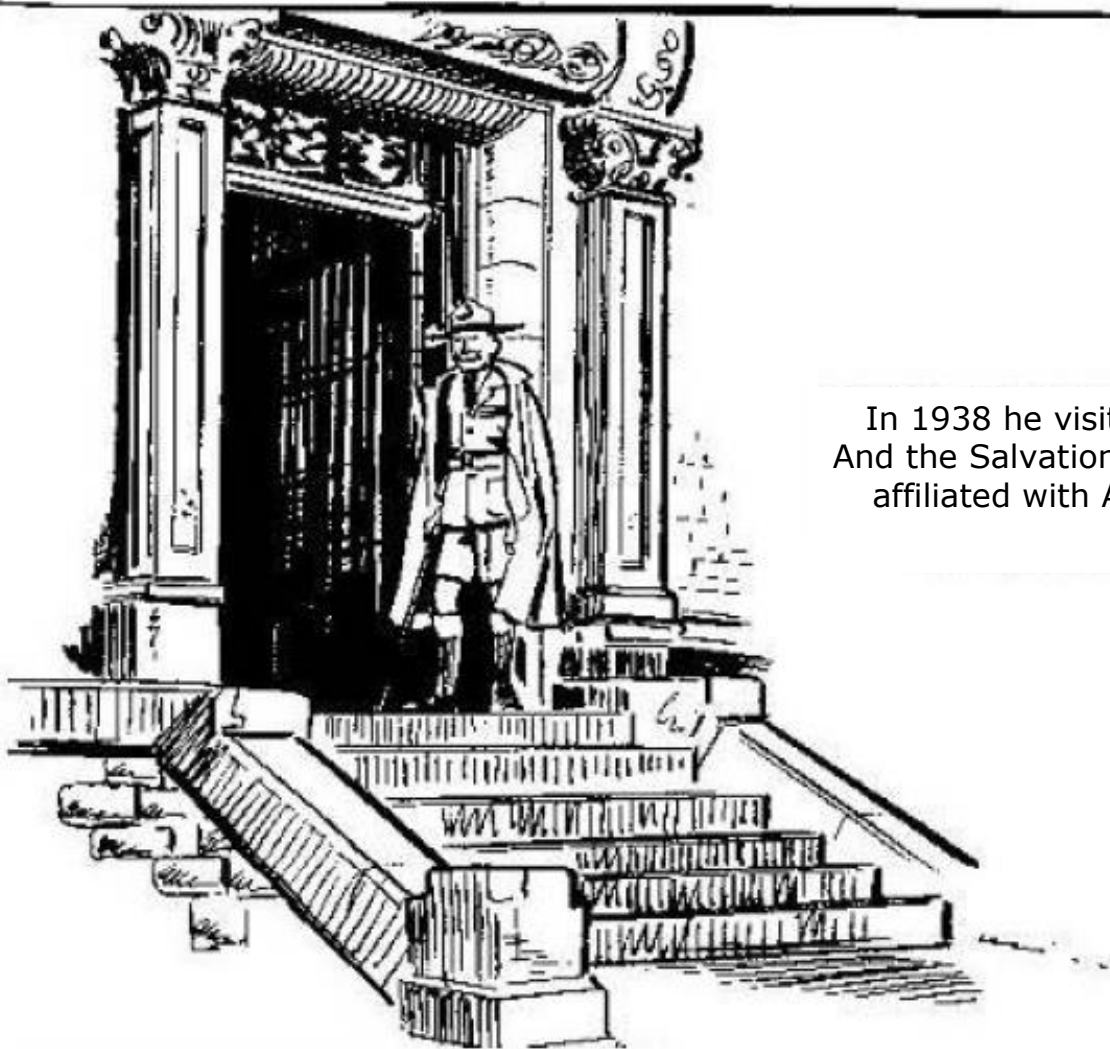
B.P was given the title Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.



In 1931, the 1st World Rover Gathering was held at Kandersteg, Switzerland. Lady B-P was elected Chief Guide of the World. 1933 the 25th Anniversary of Scouting and the 3rd World Jamboree, Hungary



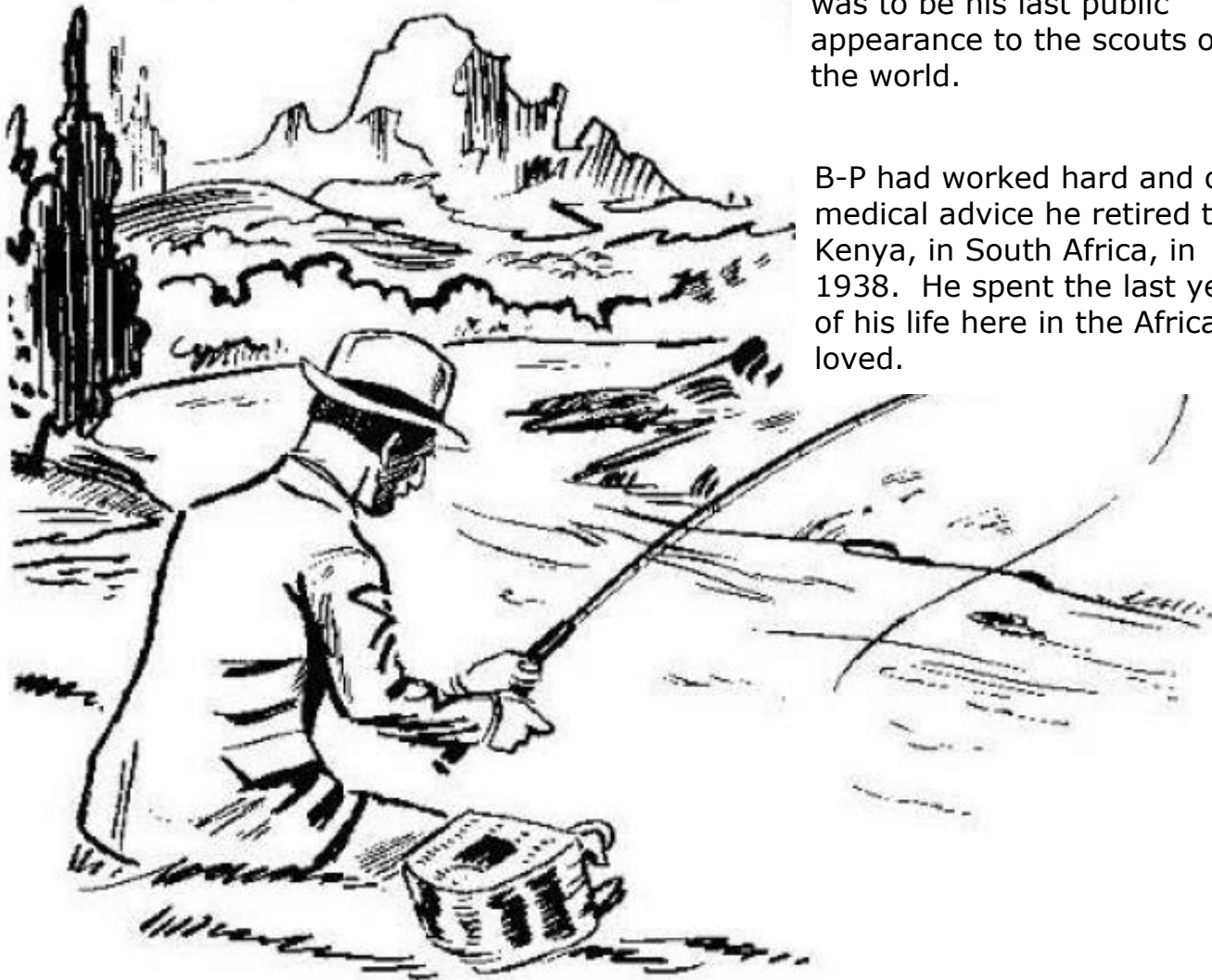
In 1934, he set off on a world tour of organisation.



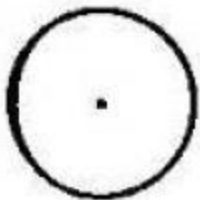
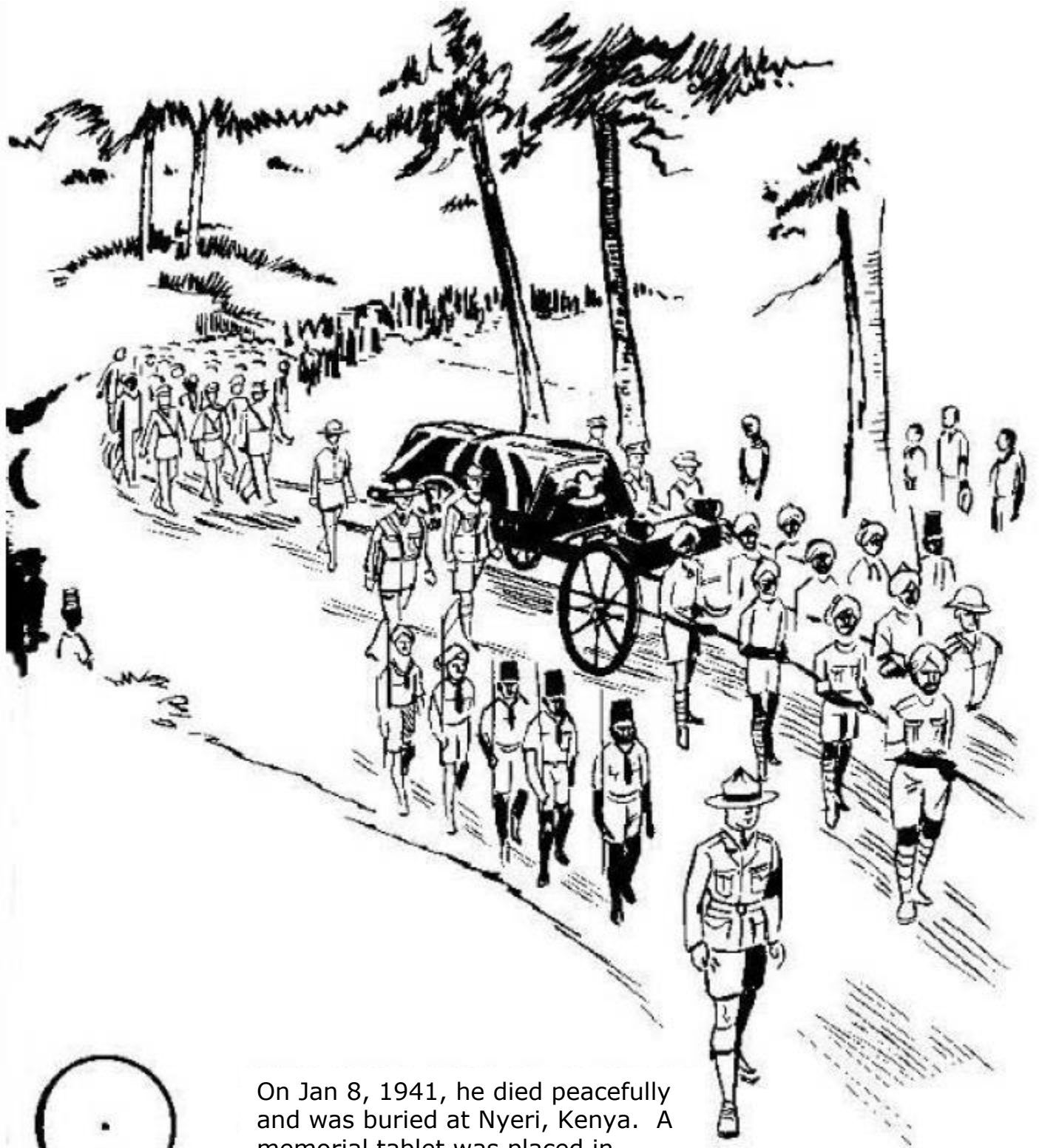
In 1938 he visited Canada.
And the Salvation Army Scouts
affiliated with Association.



In August 1937 the 4th world Jamboree was held in Holland B-P spoke to the great assembly realising that this was to be his last public appearance to the scouts of the world.



B-P had worked hard and on medical advice he retired to Kenya, in South Africa, in 1938. He spent the last years of his life here in the Africa he loved.



On Jan 8, 1941, he died peacefully and was buried at Nyeri, Kenya. A memorial tablet was placed in Westminster Abbey honouring his great work for youth.