

# GIRL GUIDES' GAZETTE

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## MISS BADEN-POWELL'S LETTER.

December, 1914.

MY DEAR GUIDES,—

Someone has written to me to ask whether we could not fix on a certain day when we could all polish up our *Guide Law*.

What do you think of the idea? That at one hour on one day thousands and thousands of Girl Guides all over the world would at that moment be reading or repeating the "Law of the Guides," and each would be testing herself in her own mind to know which Law she keeps, or which Law it is that she usually fails in.

Now think which is your best Law, and which one is it you are still fighting to conquer. We all promise to keep the Law of the Guides, and as *practice makes perfect*, so the very act of trying to keep your promise makes you reliable, trustworthy, and honourable. Girl Guides are all sisters to every Guide in all parts of the world, and now we are more than ever reminded that we are sisters to people in other countries when we see all these poor Belgian refugees amongst us.

I have been helping them as they arrive by hundreds, and pour out of the train, strangers in London, not knowing where to go. But we show them the way to come with us for a night's lodging, and some food, for we have turned a large shirt factory into dormitories, with beds and blankets all provided by the kindness of good English ladies.

And there we cheer up these poor women who have lost all their possessions, and may perhaps never see their homes again, and we feed their poor little children, who seem dazed and frightened.

But what will this war do for us? Some say that we shall be all the better for it,

that it is waking us up. Danger has roused us all to be active and alert. Party warfare and strife of sects have been banished from home, and numbers have risen to the call of duty, and have given unselfishly of their best.

Soon, when our Christmas comes, we shall be celebrating the day with perhaps lighter hearts and happier minds than in other years.

This seems to you strange, but I do believe that *this* Christmas will be a more unselfish one, a more noble one than those that were spent in mere enjoyment and aimless pleasure, or in selfish indulgence; and you will taste the delights of giving others pleasure, and reap the reward of working for others.

I have been much struck by the way children are anxious to do all they can to help. They want to "really and truly do real things," and now our little "Rosebuds" must be allowed to do something for our brave soldiers, to make mittens and neck wraps to keep our bold sailors warm, or to help laying and lighting fires, or darning socks and vests for our men.

When I see the dozens of pink and green Officers' Warrants, which I am to send to them, it reminds me that Guides might make very nice frames for Warrants. Frame making is very easy, and there are many different kinds to design. Some are of plain oak, simply polished, some are gilt, others are decorated with carving, or with pine cones nailed on.

Small pine cones or acorns and cups look very pretty painted over with silver or gold.

This winter finds us all as busy as bees, and, I hope, all the better for it!

With my kindest good wishes.—Yours,  
AGNES BADEN-POWELL.

## LADY BADEN-POWELL'S MESSAGE.

DEAR GUIDES,—

I want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Everybody is saying that just now, but some, probably, do not consider very deeply what they are saying, and they do not mean it very sincerely. But I mean it, and I feel sure that every Guide will, if she thinks of its importance. This will be rather a sad Christmas for a great many people, with their men-folk away serving their country, as men should, so it is more important for us all to do everything that we can this year to help to make somebody's Christmas a bright and merry one.

I hear of such splendid good turns done by Guides that I think this game of self-sacrifice is becoming quite a hobby!

I had the great pleasure last month of seeing a big parade of Girl Guides in London. Somebody did them a "good turn" that day in inviting nearly 2,000 to see a performance at a theatre. They paraded, of course, first, and they were jolly marching along tidily and neatly, looking indeed ready to "Save England from any evils."

I had never seen so many Guides together before, and I was immensely struck by their smart appearance, and by the number of Badges of Efficiency that were being worn.

I shall look forward to seeing a lot more of the Guides before the end of this coming year, which I hope will be a very prosperous one for you all. You won't forget the Rosebuds, will you? They want the help of the older Guides, who can so well show them how to learn all the things that a Guide should know. They will, I am sure, be very grateful for the sympathy of their older sisters.

Good luck to you all in 1915.

Yours very sincerely,

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.

## COMPANY NEWS



(We shall be glad to print in these columns reports of the doings and progress of companies, which should be as brief as possible. It would be a good plan for each company to appoint one of its officers or members as correspondent to the "Gazette." She would then be responsible for reporting all the more important events in the history of the company and any matter of general interest to our readers.)

### London and District.

**Greenwich.**—The fourth annual report of the 1st Greenwich Company has recently reached us. It records the satisfactory number of 81 girls on the register.

A great deal of good work has been done this season, and many Badges won. A library has been started with forty volumes, and the Company now has its own quarterly magazine. All Guides with their 2nd Class Badge have been allowed to attend East Greenwich Fire Station for instruction in fire drill.

**Ilford.**—The 2nd Ilford Company has been busy before and after school hours collecting parcels of clothing and carrying them to the poor and needy in the district. The Guides have regularly helped at Stratford with the Saturday breakfasts and dinners for poor children, and in their spare time have made mufflers, socks, body belts, etc., for the Soldiers and Scouts. Fourteen of the older girls assisted at a large entertainment given by the Premier Cinema Theatre Co., in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund, by selling tickets and programmes and by showing the audience into their seats.

**London.**—The Guides of the Thistle Patrol, 1st Knightsbridge Company, have rolled 100 bandages and sent them to the Red Cross Society in their district.

### England.

**Alderley Edge.**—This Company has subscribed for materials and made them up into about 250 garments which have been given to Soldiers, Sailors and Refugees; also knitted more than 100 belts and many pairs of socks, sleeping stockings and mittens, as well as the same quantity of mufflers for the Coastguard Scouts. The Guides have also assisted the Red Cross Society by delivering letters and collecting articles requisitioned for the hospital, while the Company is responsible for the washing, ironing and rolling of all bandages used in the hospital. The Patrols take it in turn to do "Laundry Duty," and the laundry is open

"WELL DONE, ALL!"

## Sir Robert Baden-Powell's Xmas Message

The best Christmas Greeting that I can offer to the Guides is—

*"Well done, all! and a Big New Year to you."*

The good work of the officers has produced good work from the girls. Result—public appreciation and extension of the Sisterhood. It has even enthused me to become more active in lending a hand.

Owing to the steady growth of the movement, it has become necessary now to develop the administrative side in order to put it on a sound footing for further extension.

I have every hope that the New Year will see us officially recognised by the grant of a Charter of Incorporation. That will be a great step. We shall thereby have an authorised Council of Advisors selected from among the leading men and women of the educational world.

Our Headquarters Committee will be re-constituted, and appointed by the Council; and will probably include representatives from Scotland, Ireland, the North, the Midlands, and the South of England.

This will put Headquarters on a broader basis, and will enable it to keep in closer touch with the needs and deeds of the Guides in every part of the United Kingdom. This touch will further be enhanced by the appointment of a Commissioner for each county and centre.

The system of having Commissioners has so far been only partially applied, but its success as an experiment leads us to hope for great results by its general adoption.

In the Boy Scouts' organisation we have found it invaluable. It enables localities to manage their own affairs under their own leaders of recognised standing, instead of having to refer continually to Headquarters for advice and instructions.

Our principle is for Headquarters, assisted by its Advisory Council, to define the Policy, or line for the whole movement to go upon; while the Administration is carried out really by the Commissioners and Local Committees.

It is by such decentralisation that the machinery runs smoothly and well—without being clogged and tangled by Red Tape, BUT—there is one essential to smooth working, and that is that every wheel and every cog works in its place. If one little wheel tries to make itself bigger, or prefers to take its own line of action, it causes friction and grinding and ineffective working generally.

In other words, for real and permanent success it is essential that the spirit of Loyalty, of "playing the game," should pervade everywhere.

Sink personal feelings and idiosyncrasies for the good of the whole. This is often hard to do, but it is equally often good for one's soul, and is still better as an example to other souls who are looking to you for direction.

I don't mention this on account of any difficulties in the past in this respect, for I have not heard of any—quite the contrary, it is from this self-effacement on the part of officers in the past that I draw my great hope of the future of the movement.

If you older captains can maintain that same tone of loyalty among the many who are coming to join your ranks, you will be doing a big thing for the success of the movement.

And if you add to the harmonious co-operation of all parts of the machine a drop of the oil of Cheerfulness, all will run very smoothly and well.

1915 lies before us, full of great opportunities, and full of promise. Let us make a success of it!

*Robert Baden-Powell*

## "Xmas Greetings & a Bright & Happy New Year"

*from the Chairman of the Headquarters Committee.*

DEAR GUIDES,

This is my wish for each one of you. We are passing through a serious crisis in the history of our nation; it is all the greater call to the girls of the whole British Empire to respond as our brave men have done, to rally together, to stand together for the highest ideals of strength, endurance, patience, self-sacrifice, hope and faith, guarding the honour of the Empire at home whilst our sailors and soldiers are fighting and laying down their lives for King and Country.

Being her best and doing her best should be the resolve of every girl and every woman in order that every home in the land may become—even through sorrow—better and nobler.

It is highly satisfactory to record that we close the year with a larger balance at the Bank than ever before in the history of the Girl Guides movement, this notwithstanding the great increase in expenses, but we must remember that in order to keep pace with the growth of the movement and it needs, a larger and ever increasing income will be required.

In the past we were hampered by want of funds, which were not sufficient to admit of an Organising Secretary, and additional aids to the development of the movement.

Some time ago the Committee wished to obtain a Charter of Incorporation, but the funds did not then admit of the expense; now happily the financial position justifies obtaining this Charter, and various changes will result therefrom.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who is now going to take a really active interest in our movement, has written on another page of the proposed plans for the future, so it falls to me, as Chairman of the Headquarters Committee, and one of the oldest members, to say something of the past, and to pay a grateful tribute to the little band of ladies who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and who have laboured to make the Girl Guide movement the great success it is.

There was a time, when, like most other new movements, it had to struggle against the tide of prejudice. Little by little that has been overcome, with the result that far and near the Girl Guide movement has won recognition for its valuable work in adding to the usefulness and

to the pleasure of the girls, and in inculcating high principles of honour, discipline and patriotism—a happy omen for the future, which I have from the first maintained will cause the Girl Guides to become a national movement.

So satisfactory has been its steady and widespread growth, that for some time we have been obliged to have additional office room at our Headquarters in order to cope with the ever-increasing work. It is a matter for congratulation that besides the thousands of Girl Guides in the British Isles, there are numbers in India and the King's Dominions beyond the seas; also that the dear little "Rosebuds"—when old enough—will be a valuable addition to the far-reaching good of the movement.

It is splendid to know, how, in response to the suggestions drawn up by the Headquarters Committee as to the best methods of making yourselves useful in the national crisis, and sent out with a covering letter signed by Miss Baden-Powell, you girls have been doing such excellent work, proving yourselves so reliable and conscientious, and making such useful and valuable contributions to the nation's effort, and proving that the good work of the Guides, Officers, Commissioners and Committee is bearing fruit.

We have been fortunate in having a most capable and indefatigable Secretary, and on the Staff is an able Accountant. Here let me say, every penny sent to Headquarters is entered and accounted for, and the books are regularly inspected and passed by the Auditors.

The GAZETTE has proved of untold value during the first year of its existence, and has put a coping-stone to the work of the Committee; it is our earnest desire that the Girl Guides will uphold the great principles of the movement, and by Divine help be a power for good in the future of our beloved country.

Coupled with best Christmas Greetings, my New Year message to each of you is:—  
Be good, be true, be pure; ever radiating  
a noble and uplifting influence.

Your sincere well-wisher,

*J. Lumley Holland*