

GIRL GUIDES' GAZETTE

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MISS BADEN-POWELL'S LETTER.

February, 1915.

MY DEAR GUIDES,

It gladdens one's heart to see how well you have all been helping your country in this time of trouble and anxiety, and all your lovely parcels of knitted garments and made-up clothes have also gladdened the heart of many a sufferer.

What a surprise it was when we opened the great big crate, full of charmingly dressed dolls, from the 6th Renfrewshire Guides!

Miss Bessie Young is indeed to be congratulated on her Company's achievements and generous presents to the Belgian refugees.

The greater part of this grand gift we gave to Countess de Lalaing, the wife of the Belgian Minister, to distribute, and by request of the Renfrewshire Guides I took the special dolls (with lovely clothes to take on and off) to give to the poor little Belgian refugee children in the Duchesse de Vendôme's hostel; and what an immense delight it was for them. You should have seen how their faces brightened up at the sight of the dolls.

Many of you, those who were lucky enough to get invitation tickets to Covent Garden Theatre, must have been impressed with the need that your country has of your help at this time of sore trial.

Have you told your comrades of the wonderful views of the War which you were shown?

The great theatre of Covent Garden was most generously lent, in order to exhibit the Cinema showing everyone's Duty to Britain in the hour of need, and it will be long before all you Girl Guides who were present will forget those scenes.

You can imagine how very pleased I was to hear from you of your Girl Guide Hostels at various places, and of your kindness in

preparing them in readiness for those wounded by shells or aeroplane raids. Of course, there may also be other uses for them, of a less serious nature.

How I wish you could all have been with me to see the realistic Display of Nursing that the Guides got up for me the other day.

They were supposed to have prepared a hospital for the sufferers from a railway accident, and though the beds were only "make-believe" on forms and benches, the sheets being newspapers, a charming effect was produced by the little nurses themselves being dressed in fresh white aprons, trim caps and spotless white armlets, all of which gave an impression of freshness and daintiness.

Most ingenious was the ready way they improvised "back-rests" by turning an ordinary chair face downwards, under the pillow. The same thing was done to support a leg or foot. Then, too, habits of tidiness were insisted on, every bandage that was taken off was at once re-rolled up in readiness for future use.

Tending the sick and the infirm is specially woman's work, and even to the stay-at-home the opportunity may come to ease pain and give comfort.

Some day our heroes' little children may need your nursing as well, and then through all their battles and trials will they not be comforted if they can know that the Girl Guides are sure to look after those the brave soldiers have left behind them?

What success have you had with your bulbs? How I should like to have seen all your bowls of snowdrops and narcissus, and the tea-tray on which Guide Maud grew crocuses to spell her name! Now the restful winter has strengthened the plants and they are all eager to show what they can do to make the world beautiful. Have you sown *your* seeds?

Have you made your bit of this world more beautiful?

I planted my bulbs months ago, and oh! how long they seemed doing nothing but peep at me. Now, however, they have put on a spurt, they feel the spring in the earth and the air, and I am rewarded by bowls full of lovely scented waxen blooms.

Get your seeds in, for you cannot expect flowers next summer unless you sow the seeds in good time, so ask the seedsman what he advises.

We bury these dry, dead-looking seeds in the earth, just as we all shall be buried, with the full assurance that a far more beautiful creature will spring out of it later on which will live to rejoice the world.

Sincerely yours,

AGNES BADEN-POWELL.

HOW TO FIND COMPASS DIRECTION WITHOUT THE AID OF A COMPASS.

By MARIANNE A. TIPPING.

(*Captain Alderley Edge Company*).

One of the tests to be passed in order to become a "First Class Guide"—and it should be the ambition of every Guide to gain the First Class Badge—is the "finding of the points of the compass without a compass."

Though this may not seem to be a very important thing to those who are so fortunately circumstanced that compasses, weather vanes, etc., are always at hand, yet a time might occur to any one of us when the knowledge requisite for the passing of this test would be the only means by which we could find our way in an unfamiliar district or in the night-time; therefore, it is really a most important part of a Guide's training, as well as being a very interesting one.

There are many ways of finding the north (and, of course, when you have found the north, you can at once find the other points, because if you stand facing the north you are just in the position in which you are when you look at a map; and the east is to your right hand, west is to your left, and south behind you), but I propose to tell you only a few very simple methods, and then you can do all that is required for the

test, and, if you are a real Girl Guide, you will follow up the subject for yourself.

First, to find **compass direction by day.**

The sun is always *due south at twelve o'clock midday*; therefore, if at noon you turn your back to the sun, your shadow on the ground points to the north, the east is to your right hand, and west to your left.

The sun is east at 6 a.m., and west at 6 p.m. (near enough to serve our purpose), and so, of course, it is midway between east and south—*i.e.*, south-east—at 9 a.m.; and midway between south and west—*i.e.*, south-west—at 3 p.m.

Of course, in the winter months we do not see the sun until he is ever so far past the east, and he goes out of our sight some time before he reaches the west; but we can easily reckon (once we thoroughly grasp the regularity of his movements) exactly where he is the whole time he is visible.

You can also *tell the time by the sun* if you have a compass by noticing the compass direction of the sun and then calculating the time at which he is due in that position, and this may be very useful at any time.

For instance, you are walking out on a summer's morning and have no watch, but you see a weather vane, or you have your compass with you, and you find that "King Sol" is midway between east and south-east.

You say to yourself: "He would be east at 6 o'clock, and south-east at 9 o'clock, and so it must be midway between those hours, that is, half-past seven. I must hurry home to breakfast!"

Another easy way of finding the north and south is to hold your watch on your hand with the hour (*i.e.*, the small) hand pointing towards the sun. Then draw a line just midway between the hour hand and XII., and that line will point due north and south. If it is before noon, the south will be the end of the line *before twelve*; if it is after noon, the south will be the line *after twelve*.

Second, to find **compass direction at night.**

First, *by the moon*, if she is visible. The full moon is something like the sun—east at 6 p.m., south at midnight, and west at 6 a.m.; and the points between can be calculated from those, as in the case of the sun.



ROSEBUD.—We have received a number of splendid suggestions for a new name for the Rosebuds and we hope to be able to make an announcement about it very shortly.

LILY.—The Postcard Exchange has not closed; we are always glad to publish the names of Guides who want to get into touch with other Guides through the post.

EPSOM.—It is no use writing to the Editor if you want equipment; send to the Secretary at Headquarters and do not forget to enclose the money with your order.

AMBULANCE.—The initials V.A.D. stand for Voluntary Aid Detachment, the members of which are doing splendid work for the wounded under the auspices of the Red Cross Society.

LIEUTENANT WEEKES.—What an excellent idea to give each of your Patrol Leaders an annual subscription to *The Gazette* as a New Year present. Certainly it would be just as welcome as a birthday gift, if any other Officers wish to do the same thing.

PATROL LEADER (Ashford).—You will be glad to see that we have started a corner for Lone Guides. You will find several hints in Miss Dalzell-Walton's contribution. Let us hear of anything interesting about your own work. So pleased to know that you appreciate *The Gazette*.

ANONYMOUS.—The only official handbook for Guides is Miss Baden-Powell's volume "How Girls Can Help," obtainable from Headquarters, price 1s. 3d. post free. At the same time, a lot of additional, and very useful, information will be found in the "Girl Guides' Diary," price 7d., post free. An idea of its contents can be gained by referring to the advertisement on the back page of the cover.

HOW TO STIFFEN STRAW HATS.

Scrub the straw with a small brush (a toothbrush is as good as anything) dipped in the white of an egg. Leave it to dry, and it will be quite clean and stiff.

In this column we shall publish items of especial interest to Members of Lone Patrols.

The 2nd Lone Company.—This Company consists of 26 Lone Guides, and was started in May, 1913. The Company now has 73 Proficiency Badges, 2 Nursing Sister Armlets, and 2 All-round Cords, in spite of the many difficulties that Lone Guides meet with in trying to make themselves efficient.

For each test, a certificate must be obtained from a responsible and qualified person before I grant the Badge; and for the annual Ambulance and Interpreter tests, I send them a written examination each year, which has to be done without any assistance whatever, so that I can see for myself how much they really know. I have had excellent answers.

The girls do not make their "lone-ness" any excuse for being let through things easily, but aim at being in every way equal to any regular Guide, who has the advantage of companions and instruction.

There are four Patrols—the Thistle, Ivy, Acorn, and Daisy—the members of which are scattered all over England and Wales, while there is one Guide in Ireland, France, Italy, and Morocco respectively.

The four Leaders are expected to keep in touch with all the members of their Patrol (by writing), and are, to a certain extent, responsible for the keenness and progress of it. They also keep in touch with each other, and exchange their own ideas as to working their Patrols, a keen rivalry in efficiency being shown.

Lately, they have been knitting for the soldiers and the Scouts on the East Coast; and we are trying to start a Company Magazine and a Library.

The picture of a Guide, which was issued as a supplement to *The Gazette* some time ago, was the portrait of a member of this Company—Patrol-Leader Ursula Devereux, of the Thistles.—Ava Dalzell-Walton (Captain 2nd Lone Company).

Guide Audrey E. Lloyd (1st Lone Company, Acorn Patrol), Bramerton Rectory, Norwich, would like to hear from Guide A. Farrar, of the 1st Lone Company, whom she met in Camp in 1913.

WAR WORK FOR GUIDES.

By LT.-GEN. SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL, K.C.B.

The Need for Guides' Hostels.

When I last wrote to you in the *Gazette*, I suggested that, in view of the havoc likely to be played by German bombardments among the non-combatants and women and children in our country, it would be good work on the part of the Guides to prepare their club-rooms as "hostels" or small hospitals for the injured, or as refuges for those rendered homeless.

Since then the enemy have already made a raid with Zeppelins over several towns and villages in Norfolk, and their fleet was about to inflict a second bombardment on our coast when it was met by a British Squadron and driven off with severe loss.

But these will not be their last attempts. No doubt the Zeppelin raid was merely a practice run, to see whether they could get to England, do their work, and get away again during darkness; and they proved that they could do so. They will probably, therefore, repeat their visit to some of our inland towns. London is well prepared for them, and they know it.

In consequence, it may be expected that they will try some other quarter, very likely some of the crowded industrial centres of the North Midlands. They do not mind killing a baby or two on their way, and so country towns and villages may also expect a few bombs, as well as the great cities.

Therefore, if the Guides carry out their motto of Being Prepared, wherever their headquarters may be, by having their hostels ready equipped and themselves ready trained, they will be performing a service of value to the nation and of charity to the injured.

I hope very shortly to be able myself to visit some of the Guide Hostels. Any Officers desiring to get help towards equipping their hostels can, if they wish, have an autotype letter in my handwriting to show to possible subscribers, commending the idea. These can be obtained gratis from Headquarters.

Japanese Nurses.

Our Allies the Japanese have helped us most effectively with their forces at the taking of Tsing-Tau from the Germans. They showed there that pluck and gallantry for which they are so famed. But now they are rendering assistance to us in another way, and that is by sending some of their doctors and nurses, belonging to what is their equivalent for our Red Cross Society, to tend our wounded.

There is a remarkable point about these Japanese nurses which I am sure will interest every Girl Guide, and that is that in their training they not only learn all the points which a European Red Cross Nurse is taught, but, in addition to this, they also learn a great deal of Girl Guides' duties.

Here are some extracts from their list of instructions:—

A nurse must consider her mind to be like the blossom of a flower, and must tend it carefully and develop it.

Neatness in dress and tidiness in doing her hair is a virtue in any woman, but more so in a nurse.

She should be extremely careful of her appearance, must never be dirty or untidy, but, at the same time, she should not go to the other extreme and use paint or powder with the idea of beautifying herself.

It is not only the pretty nurses who please their patients best. Kindliness, politeness and cheerfulness count more than good looks in making patients happy.

Decent appearance in dress makes a girl decent in mind.

Above all the good points in a nurse, gentleness stands highest. Gentleness means several things, including quiet and ready obedience to orders, subdued behaviour, "without using high-sounding words and not having pretentious manners," without being bumptious or noisy. Gentleness is like a spring zephyr which melts the frozen ice, so in the same way gentleness can soften an irritable man. A Japanese proverb says, "Softness can subdue harshness."

Even a woman, like a man, must have courage, must be just, and must be truthful; but even though she has these, if she does not have gentleness she spoils everything.

The reason why a woman is better than a man at nursing is because she is gentle. But a nurse, though gentle, must not be weak or undecided. She must know her duty and carry it out with firmness; she must not allow patients to break rules or to disobey doctors' orders.

In dealing kindly with her patients, she must avoid over-familiarity and must retain her dignity and her patients' respect. Now, these are all points which a Guide learns who carries out in her daily life the Law of the Guides.

But perhaps the most curious point in the similarity of the training of the Japanese nurses and of our Girl Guides is the fact that the official motto for both is *Be Prepared*.

Arthur Duden Parker

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.

Barnet.—The 1st Barnet Company has been knitting scarves, mittens, and cuffs for the Troops. At Christmas the Guides made and collected small gifts for all the little Belgian and French children in Barnet (about 30), and also sent some toys to the "Evening News" Fund for "Tommy and Jack."

Brixton.—A short time ago, the Guides of the Brixton Company started a "Self-Denial Box" in aid of the National Relief Fund. The box was recently opened, and contained £1 2s. 6d. The amount was handed to the Mayor of Lambeth. The Company are now busy knitting comforts for the Scouts.

Bromley.—There are four Companies of Girl Guides here, who have been doing very good work, especially since the beginning of the war. The 1st Company has made 16 dresses for Belgians, four shirts, and one gross of bandages, and also about 125 lbs. of jam and jelly, from the sale of which 8s. was sent to

the Belgian Refugee Fund, and the surplus spent in wool for belts, etc.

The 2nd Company made 27 lbs. of jelly, from which they have got 10s. in hand.

The 3rd Company made mufflers, bandages, and two shirts.

The 4th Company.—Several members have helped in Red Cross Hospitals, in cooking and scrubbing and other ways. One member, a laundress, has given up her week-ends to helping in this way.

In December, all the Companies united in giving a Patriotic Entertainment, demonstrating the work of the Girl Guides and their usefulness as citizens of the Empire.

Clapham.—Patrol-Leader Minnie Le Serve, of the 2nd Clapham Company, has won the Swimming Championship in connection with the Clapham and Brixton Swimming Association.

Ealing.—The four Ealing Companies are all showing good progress, and a large number of Badges have been won.

Greenwich.—The second issue of the quarterly magazine of the 1st Greenwich Company is a very good number, and the publication has every appearance of prospering.

At the Company's Christmas party, Patrol-Leaders Grace Robinson and Lucy Harper were presented with bags by the Mayoress's Working Party for the "good turns" they had done since the commencement of the war.

Ilford.—On January 9th, a most successful social was held at St. Luke's Rooms, Ilford. Forty-five of the 1st Barking, 39 of the 2nd Ilford, 30 of the 2nd West Ham Companies, the Vice-President, and several of the ladies of the Barking and Ilford Committee were present. The 1st Barking Guides subscribed to pay for the room, and the 2nd Ilford Guides supplied the tea; all the cakes, buns, etc., were made by the Guides. The tea was followed by a concert, and the entertainment ended at 9.30 by the entire company singing "God Save the King."

Leytonstone.—The 1st Leytonstone Company has made steady progress since last year, and also gained several recruits. On December 20th, the girls provided a tea for some Belgian refugees residing in Leytonstone, and also entertained the little ones, who thoroughly enjoyed it. They have commenced a "Rosebud Patrol" amongst the juniors.

Richmond.—By the kind invitation of Lady Max Waechter, over one hundred Richmond Guides visited the pantomime.

Victoria Park.—On January 16th, the 1st Victoria Park Company was inspected by Miss G. I. Thorndike, Commissioner for London East.

The Guides gave a very interesting little display, which included the singing of the Guides' marching and ambulance songs, scarf drill, fancy marching, and Swedish exercises. The Company, as a whole, presents a very smart appearance, which is especially creditable as