

GIRL GUIDES' GAZETTE

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MISS BADEN-POWELL'S LETTER.

September, 1915.

MY DEAR GUIDES,—

You will all have heard of the noted signal given by our greatest of Admirals, Lord Nelson! I am sure I need not repeat it. Now, did not every man who heard it that day determine to do his duty, and did he not swell with pride at the thought of what great deeds of valour he would perform, or how many *furriners'* heads he would cut off? And yet that was not all the meaning of that message.

Every man was to do his duty, and that meant that those who were out of sight, and perhaps only employed in pulling ropes, or very likely opening cases down in the bottom of the ship, were also to try their best to do what they were told to do.

You may be far from the battle, not even able to hear the booming of the guns, but you have each your place to fill and your duty set you.

It is very encouraging to see how all the Girl Guides are working and helping wherever they can. Many are denying themselves in order to give pleasure to the brave men who go to face intense suffering, and even death, to save our homes and hearths.

How proud we are of Canada's fine sons, too, many of whom have given their lives in defence of our Empire, proving how firmly the Empire is bound together.

Then we deeply admire the gallantry of our Australians and New Zealanders at the Dardanelles, who have fought so well for the future of humanity and civilisation.

Germany and Austria have now developed their maximum strength, and our Allies know what there is to contend with. There are about two thousand miles of firing line in this huge battle! What a contrast to the Battle of Waterloo (one of the greatest in history), where the battle front covered only a few miles.

This stupendous conflict reaches from the North Sea to the Adriatic, and from the Baltic to the Crimea. It is very awful to think of such warfare. Would it be possible to bring up our children to love peace and never go to war?

In Hungary a circular has been issued by Government to urge teachers not to allow children to hate their enemies. They are to be taught to think their enemies brave and honourable, and to respect them.

All of you may feel sure that here at home, by your own conduct hour by hour and day by day, either by your extravagance or by self-sacrifice, by your shirking or your hard-working, you each are helping or you are hindering your brothers on the field of battle.

If you are wasteful, you are making of no avail all their labour.

If you are doing your best every hour of the day, you are consecrating the sacrifices our brave soldiers are making.

We hear on all sides that we are to save up, we are to be economical and to go without luxuries. I see in one paper people are told to convert their back-yards into potato gardens, to use all bits of stale crust, and, if you are a patriot, you can only "shyly glance at meat."

One writer says she finds she can economise by putting rhubarb with the fruit in all her jam-making. She uses half-a-pound of sugar to 1 lb. of fruit. To give flavour to strawberries and raspberries she added red currant juice. She adds: "For the past month we have had a dish of stewed rhubarb and strawberries on the table at luncheon." What a pity that nobody would eat it!

I have heard of many very enjoyable camps for Girl Guides, notwithstanding the war risks; notably, camps for Officers' training. You have not been able to have quite such romantic, Robinson Crusoe-like times this year, but at one place we had quite

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WHAT WE ARE DOING.

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

The Irish Guides.

I don't know whether this brief note will be in time to catch *The Gazette* before it goes to press this month, but I send it in the hope that it may do so. I merely write to say that I cannot write to say anything much this month. You see, I have been in Ireland, and that accounts for it—not really for writing to say that I cannot write, but for having been unable to send any thought-out ideas.

The fact that I have been in Ireland naturally implies that I have been to see some of the most notable things in Ireland, and among these have been the Girl Guides.

In Dublin I attended a parade of some two hundred of them, under Mrs. Dixon. I realised that though there are not very many of them *as yet* in Ireland, those that are there are very smart and efficient, and will without a doubt be the nucleus from which will grow a widespread organisation such as should eventually be of greatest value to the Emerald Isle.

"Billets" for Guides.

The Dublin Guides had indeed already developed one particular step which is most popular with the girls, and of greatest value to their Officers in enabling them to get their Companies more completely in their hands for instruction and discipline. This is the use of a club-house not far from the city where the companies can take it in turns to spend week-ends in what one may term "billets" as it is not actually out in camp. This scheme has been inaugurated and put into practical shape by Lady Wright, and with complete success.

I am therefore anxious to introduce it as far as possible into other centres, and I hope that by next month I may be able to show that we have one available at any rate for the London Guides.

I have no doubt that with their usual quickness to seize a good idea many of our Commissioners for other places will jump to the value of this scheme, and will, within a very short time, have found ways and means

of instituting it in their own respective districts.

The Girl's Tongue.

Girls generally have the credit for talking and jabbering a great deal.

I have also heard it said that they cannot be employed for confidential work because they cannot be trusted to keep quiet about information which thus comes into their possession. All bunkum!

And this has been proved quite recently by the action of one of the big Government offices in London which has taken on Girl Guides as confidential messengers and orderlies—avowedly because "they can be trusted, better than boys, not to talk."

There is a feather for the Guide's hat!—Long may she wear it.

It is after all the outcome of "*Character*." If the character of the girl is developed she will have a sense of being trusted *on her honour*, she will discipline herself not to "blab," she will recognize her personal responsibility, and will "play the game" not for herself and her own glorification, but in the interest of her side, that is of her Country or her employer.

War Service.

Probably you have seen the excellent picture in a recent number of *Punch*, where two gossips are looking with envy on a neighbour, who by virtue of receiving a handsome separation allowance owing to her husband being at the front, is strutting forth in all the glory of a picture hat and feathers to visit a Picture Palace.

"And I don't blame her," remarks one of them. "You never know, the war may come to an end at any time."

That's it. "The war may come to an end at any time."

And what about those who have not yet made up their minds as to how they are going to do their bit for their Country during the war? They will be left with the guilty feeling of having done nothing.

On the other hand, there will be a number, at any rate among the Guides and the Scouts, who will be able years hence to look on their little red badge for War Service with satisfaction, and to feel with pride that though they were only girls or boys at the time, they did their bit to help their Country in the time of its need. But there is no good in putting off your good turn. "Do it now" should be our motto.

We are considering various duties which may well be considered to qualify a Guide for the War Service Badge, and among them undoubtedly come the following:

- (a) Collecting books and magazines.
- (b) Collecting eggs for hospitals.
- (c) Making sandbags.
- (d) Making bandages, swabs.
- (e) Collecting moss for dressings, etc.

The above are only some among the many activities which are of value at this juncture.

(a) With regard to collecting books and magazines, I am badly in need of these at some of the Y.M.C.A. huts at camps in France, where the soldiers come for rest after fighting or war work, and are thankful to get some light and amusing reading.

I will gladly give a little memento to the Company which collects the greatest number of books by October 5th. Send them to Headquarters, please.

(b) Eggs are being collected and sent daily in large numbers to the hospitals; but before long the hens will be going on strike and eggs will not be so plentiful. Yet the wounded will be as many as ever, and as eager for eggs.

So it would be well to collect all the eggs we can get now, and to store a good number of them to send out later on.

There are various ways of storing them, but one way which is very successful, and which I saw in operation in Ireland the other day, is to put the eggs in crocks or barrels full of water and "water-glass," when they keep fresh for months.

(c) The dimensions and materials for sandbags are given below, but I should like to add that they may be made in all sorts of colours. White bags give too much of a target to the enemy's artillery, the more varied in shade the less conspicuous is a wall of them from a distance.

(d) The newest form of bandage is not the long roller bandage with which we are all

familiar, but a many-tailed bandage, of which a central portion is laid over the injury and the tails are then inter-wound over it to keep it in place. Thus the bandage for limb injuries is made of unbleached calico, and consists of a central pad with six tails on either side. The tails are all three inches wide. Three of them are 27 inches long from end to end; one 25 inches, one 24 inches, and one 23 inches.

But the bandages are made differently for the different seats of injury; thus there are shoulder bandages, hip bandages, stirrup bandages, chest bandages, and so on.

Particulars can best be got from the Central Depot of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, 2 Cavendish Square, London, W.



The points of the Compass, which every Guide should know.

SANDBAGS.

There is an almost unlimited demand at the Front for sandbags.

We hope that Companies will occupy their spare time in making these useful articles which, when finished, should at once be sent to Headquarters.

Material—Hessian: If 60 inches wide at 9d. per yard makes two bags; if 35 inches wide at 6d. per yard makes 1 bag.

Sandbags when finished—Length 33 inches, width 14 inches, leave top entirely open. Insert strong string, strongly tied through the bag, 3 inches below mouth.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A Wonderful Needlewoman.

By a curious coincidence the other day we came across a recently-published record of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service. In it we found the following reference to Mrs. Hacon, whose interesting article on her work at the Abbaye de Royaumont will be found on another page.

Part of Mrs. Hacon's duty appears to be helping to keep the men's clothes in repair.

"Through Mrs. Hacon's ingenuity," says the writer, "I have seen the 'veste' of an artilleryman minus half a sleeve made into a wondrous garment with warm woollen cuffs—all because there was nothing in the world to mend it with but a pair of navy blue bedsocks, and an old scarlet sock to repair a breach made by shrapnel in a pair of infantryman's trousers!"

Cheerful Guides.

In these days, when youths are so scarce in civilian life, Guides are much in demand as office "boys." We are glad to hear splendid reports of them.

"We have several Guides in our office," writes a friend, "and they are ever so much more satisfactory than the boys we used to have, who could never be depended upon to do anything properly."

"But what I like especially about the Guides," continues our friend, "is their cheerfulness. Be their work ever so uninteresting, they always wear a smile and look as though they enjoyed doing it."

That's the sort of character we like to hear that our girls are winning. They will never have a better chance than now of proving their worth.

Be on the look-out, Guides, for opportunities of distinguishing yourselves, and be sure to sustain the good reputation so many of your sisters have already won.

Subscribers to "The Gazette."

Quite a healthy rivalry is springing up amongst Companies as to which will subscribe most largely to *The Gazette*.

The Captain of the Calverley Company says that they already take 33 copies and mean to make the number bigger next year.

This total, however, is eclipsed by the Alderley Edge Company, which subscribes for 40 copies each month, to be increased very shortly to fifty.

Now then, Guides, which Company will establish a new record by going over the half century?

Don't all speak at once!

A Parcel from America.

The Girl Guides of America are showing a very sisterly feeling, for only quite recently they sent over a parcel of mufflers which they had made for the Scouts who are helping to keep watch and ward over our coasts. Their kindly action is much appreciated.

Two Requests.

Miss D. Richards, Wades Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks., is anxious for help with a Company in Euston (London). Will any Officer come to the rescue?

The Ilfracombe Company is in need of a poker work apparatus, and is willing either to hire or to buy it. All correspondence should be addressed to Miss L. M. Willis, 54 St. Brannocks Road, Ilfracombe.

Company News.

We still continue to receive very ancient reports—some, in fact, are not sent to us until over a month has elapsed since the event described took place.

Please be rather more prompt, reports of this nature do not improve by keeping.

Write your account immediately after the display, or whatever it is, has passed off, and *dispatch it at once to us*. You may trust us to get it into the earliest possible issue.

Interesting photographs will be welcomed—we are not keen on set groups of Companies, with the girls dressed in their best "bibs and tuckers," and neatly arranged round the Company Colours—we only publish them for lack of something better!

Surely some of your activities must be worth photographing, so that other Companies may profit by what you have done?