

# Scout and Guide Stamps Club

# BULLETIN

Volume 59 No. 4 (Whole No. 342)



Queues at the on-site, 23<sup>rd</sup> World Jamboree post office.  
*(See article starting on page 9)*

WINTER 2015



## Editorial

You suddenly look around and find that its nearly Christmas - they always told me that time would go so quickly after I retired and they've been proved correct.

2015 has been a funny year because for the first time since 1978 I didn't have a formal role to fill in Scouting and, of course, I missed my usual time spent with the young people in the Gang Show.

We (or rather our DC) is restructuring the Active (Scout or Service depending on how you look at it) Unit. We have all had to fill in forms committing ourselves to specific roles during the year - and if you don't complete a form you will be deemed to have left the Unit. Not the best reward for those who already given a lifetime of service to Scouting.

Other than that Betty and I keep busy - especially with holidays where I think we will manage about four or five this year. We are going for a short cruise to Amsterdam and Antwerp just before Christmas to visit their Christmas Markets and will be travelling with my youngest son and his wife who have never cruised before. I really hope that they enjoy the change.

Well, I think that's about all for now and all that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2016.

As I finish typing this the news is coming through of the shootings in Paris and I do feel so sorry for the people involved and their families. How we will ever cure this problem defeats me but I hope that somewhere along the way the World Scout Movement can play a part in the peace.

Terry Simister

### **FUTURE COPY DATES**

February 15th. Please send copy, including photos, electronically  
- where possible.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS UPDATE**

**As mentioned before we are still intending to hold meetings in the UK during the major philatelic Exhibitions each year, providing that the hire costs are reasonable. Known dates are:**

**20<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 - Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London. Room F booked for 12 noon to 14.00. Committee Meeting from 12 noon to 13.00 and Open/Members meeting from 13.00 to 14.00.**

**The 2016 AGM has been planned for 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 and again to be held at The Headquarters' Training Ship, The Lord Amory, Dockland Scout Project.**

# Chairman's Notes

by Melvyn Gallagher

As I write this it is Remembrance Sunday, a day when throughout the U.K. and abroad thousands of Scouts and Guides march to their local war memorials and churches. Also this month at the Lord Mayor's Show in the



City of London the national Scout Marching Band takes part and marching Scouts have, and still are, seen at St. George's Day parades, celebrations for

national days and funerals. In the early days of Scouting marching was very much an integral part of the training (as seen in the illustrated cigarette card from 1911) but the efforts of most of today's Scouts would make a drill sergeant weep!

Parades showing marching Scouts, Guides and bands are seen on many stamps and postcards too, from many lands. Illustrated are just a few, postcard of the arrival of delegations to the 1947 World Scout Jamboree, a 1964 miniature sheet of Sharjah Girl Scouts and stamps from St. Helena and Barbados depicting Scout marching bands.



الشارقة ومناطقها كشاف مدارس البنات



SHARJAH GIRL SCOUTS  
SHARJAH DEPENDENCIES



This being the Christmas issue of the Bulletin I hope that you will support your local Scout posts, if available in your area, and on behalf of all the Committee I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2016.

## John's Jottings

by John Ineson

As many of you no doubt know, after Mafeking was relieved in May 1900, Baden-Powell was sent to Rustenburg. Recently Kohler Auctions sold this cover showing B-P's signature, and the reason why it was not stamped. Estimated at € 2000, it sold for €13,000 (approx. £9,420, US\$14,130). The



catalogue description was:-Stampless cover endorsed at lower left 'No Stamps. Active Service / R. Baden-Powell Maj. Gen.' addressed to a Mr. J. Figorski, Razor Strop Manufacturer in Sheffield, England; struck with RUSTENBURG squared circle datestamp in black of despatch (June 27). Two line PASSED / CENSOR in black and

counter-signed below by 'H. Nicholson, Col.' in red ink. London 'Paid' arrival cds on front (July 27) in red. Flap missing on reverse and slight corner crumple to cover at left but extremely rare, Baden-Powell occupied Rustenburg from June 15, 1900. Note: The letter (not with the lot) was sold at Christies in June, 1993, written on June 25 from Camp Rustenburg to J. Figorski thanking him for a present of a razor strap - 'and am very proud to have so useful an article dedicated to me - in recognition I presume of my attempts to blunt the keenness of the Boers'.

An interesting 1955 Canada World Jamboree stamp came up for sale in Gary Lyon's Canadian "Eastern Auctions" on 7 October. This shows a misperforated stamp and printed in the gutter at the top. Estimated at Can\$100, it sold for Can\$76 (approximately £38, (€52, US\$58). I had not seen such a stamp before and the price realised seems to be very reasonable. Another stamp that interested me was the 1966 New Zealand Scout Jamboree stamp with gold omitted in the Scout badge. It is catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £1200 mint (SG 838a) and was sold by a London Auction house for £550 (€760, US\$825) during October. I had seen this stamp offered before, but seemed to remember that somehow it is possible to be able to remove the gold. This stamp did not have an expert certificate. A similar stamp





was sold by Stanley Gibbons Auction in May 1987 for £200 but it was sent for a certificate but according to my records was returned as a fake.

Another issue of stamps that interested me was the imperf 1955 Indonesian Scout set, as this has a high catalogue price and thought to be very scarce. I was recently informed that blocks of four imperf were going to be sold in Denmark with an estimate of €200.

Thinking that this was a reasonable price when the auction company stated that the catalogue value was €3600+, I was considering bidding for these stamps, but having made contact with an Indonesian dealer he informed me that 4 sheets of 100 stamps were printed imperf. However what changed my mind about bidding for these blocks, was being informed that Corinphila Auctions of the Netherlands sold two hundred sets imperf in September for €1700.!!



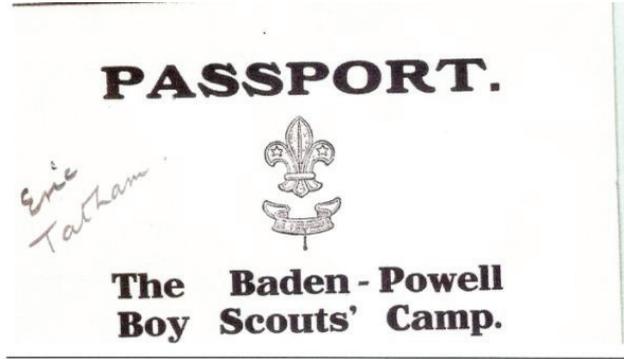
Bob Lee mentioned in the last Bulletin that our member Hallvard Slettebø from Norway had received a Large Gold medal with 96 points at the International Stamp Exhibition in Singapore for his exhibit "World Scouting". This is a great achievement, and as he has now won three FIP Gold medals, this means that in future exhibitions he can only participate in the Championship class and not in competitive (thematic) class. Another Scout exhibit in Singapore by Oswaldo Navas from Ecuador "Scouting Movement, Education for Peace" was awarded a Vermeil.

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*The prestige booklet from UK Royal Mail "WWI 1915" was issued last May and on page 1 is this print of a Scout and his father, which was from a recruitment poster published by the Essex County Recruiting Committee .*



Colin's Corner in the last Bulletin mentions the Beaulieu Camp held at Buckler's Hard, Hampshire and on board TS Mercury in August 1909. In my collection, I have a PASSPORT card for the BADEN-POWELL BOY SCOUTS' CAMP addressed to Eric Tatham. The envelope, which is addressed to Eric Tatham of Elstree bears the impress of C.Arthur Pearson Limited, Henrietta Street, London W.C. and is postmarked 4 August 1909. Presumably Eric Tatham was one of the "gallant thirty" who sold a great number of "The Scout" magazines.



At our meeting held at STAMPEX on 19<sup>th</sup> September, Tim Reed gave us a talk about his time at the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Jamboree in Japan this year. A great event by all accounts,



and he showed us some of his philatelic "treasures" from the Camp. Shown here is a first day cover with two postmarks: the left postmark is from the Jamboree Site City – Yamaguchi-Cho, and the right postmark from the Jamboree Post Office

– Agisu Yamaguchi. The cover was prepared by my great friend and SGSC member Kuniichi Komachi who was an Assistant Camp Chief. "Kuni" also runs a Scouting Library in Tokyo and can be seen on his own personalised stamps



STAMP & COIN MART magazine in their CINDERELLAS article of October 2015 talks about "The Salvation Army's cartridges" which reads:

The Salvation Army (SA) has featured on the postage stamps of numerous countries throughout the world. Its swift responses to disasters by sending staff, medical supplies, food, clothing and bedding to wherever they are needed have provided many opportunities for stamp issuers to express gratitude with commemorative stamps praising the Army's work.

Less well known are the SA's own early Cinderella stamp issues, usually in the form of attendance labels sold to youngsters who turned up for prayer meetings. This method of drawing children through their doors seemed to produce better results than the traditional ploy of offering a free cup of tea and a bun to those who came and stayed for refreshments. In January 1919, youngsters who braved the wintry weather to put in appearances were about to be given a God-sent opportunity to do His work by paying a halfpenny for the first stamp to affix into a free booklet. A total of 36 stamps would be required to fill it during the space of three years. All who completed their pledge, spending one shilling & sixpence in halfpennies, would be in line for great rewards, perhaps qualifying for a job as a junior officer with his/her own uniform. Halfpennies as personal contributions paid for stamps which were called "cartridges"; and the booklet holding them was called a "cartridge album".

The 1919 designs are thought to have been modelled on pictorials issued by Turkey in 1914, although depicting aspects of Salvation Army life. One of the stamps shows "Life Saving Scout & Chum". The stamp is depicted here, plus a contemporary postcard showing a Troop of Salvation Army Scouts. Note the Salvation Army badges on the Leaders' hats.



It has been some time since I have advertised my “100 List” which is still distributed to some 20 members, and new material to offer is always arriving. Lists can be sent by email or by normal post. The Lists contain 100 items, which comprises stamps, mint and used, covers (FDCs & postmarks etc), postcards, labels, other ephemera, and sometimes a few badges, mostly priced at under £1.00, plus a few better items to fill the page. Many are one-off items from my stock which has been accumulating for about 35 years (!). Any subscriber not placing an order from two consecutive Lists will be deleted. Looking forward to a few more subscribers!

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The following has been received by our Secretary, Graham Osborne, from Member Sandy Kerr whose e-mail address is “sandykerr1@btinternet.com”.

Dear Graham,

I am a club member and am also involved with the Caledonian PS in Glasgow. I will be responsible for the Club's programme in 2017/18 and am making enquiries about people who might give a display. Can you tell me of any members in Scotland, or willing to come to Scotland to give a display on Scouting philately? I know it all seems a long way off but the best people get booked up early! We would try and avoid the winter. One possibility is to come up for Scotex in October. Indeed you could have a meeting at that event if it would help boost Club membership!

Caledonian PS meets on Thursday evenings (7.30 -9.30) in Strathclyde University and have a regular attendance between 30 and 60. The normal format is of two rounds separated by a tea break. Each round can involve up to 100 sheets. Speakers usually only give a brief introduction to the material and the members are free to inspect the frames at leisure.

I look forward to hearing from you about possible speakers. I will be expected to have an outline programme by September next year.

Best Wishes

Sandy

If any Member - or Members - is (are) interested in helping with this event would they please contact Sandy direct but also copy in Graham at “[camberry@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:camberry@tiscali.co.uk)”.

## Postal Arrangements for the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree held in Japan.....

By Tim Reed

I was fortunate enough to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree held in Yamaguchi province, Japan, between the 28<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015. I joined almost 35,000 other Scouts and Guides from around the World for this fantastic event. My role was with the 'International Service Team', helping to organise security for the off-site activities.

Throughout the camp there was a post office located on the Jamboree site in the main market area, adjacent to the Scout shop. This was staffed by members of 'Japan Post' and opened from 27<sup>th</sup> July through to 8<sup>th</sup> August. The post office opened on 27<sup>th</sup> July, however, on this initial day it only had on sale the two sets of official postcards produced for the camp. No post was sent from camp on this day.

I am aware that a handful of the official postcards were sent from the nearby local post office at Ajisu on 27<sup>th</sup> July and these are the first philatelic items sent from the camp during the Jamboree.

The official sets of postcards contained 6 pre-stamped cards. One set depicted various scenes of the location where the Jamboree was being held, the other had various Japanese Scout cartoon characters. All cards had the Jamboree logo on them.



*Further queues at the on-site, Jamboree post office*

The post office opened properly for business on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 8.00am. This was the first day of issue for the special stamps produced for the Jamboree by Japan Post. The stamps were only available in mini sheets of 10 and were priced at 82 Yen each. There was a limited quantity of these sheets available on site on this day. Unfortunately an American Scout leader/stamp dealer who was first in the queue

decided to purchase virtually the entire stock... – It would appear that he had forgotten the Scout Laws that morning! This resulted in the remaining people who had been patiently queuing for their stamps being rationed to one sheet each.....



*Official stamp announcement sheet produced by Japan Post*

The on-site post office only provided a standard letter service. It had two special handstamps in red ink – One depicted the Scouts that appeared on the stamps themselves. The other depicted the main pavilion that was on the site of the camp. There were also two standard handstamps that were from the Ajisu Post Office and used black ink.



*All four handstamps used for the Jamboree*

The staff at the on-site post office clearly hadn't expected such a demand for the new stamps on the first day and directed those of us hoping to purchase more stamps to the Post Office in the nearby town of Ajisu. This was located approximately 2 kilometers away.



*The author at Ajisu Post Office on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015*



Club member John Wyeth preparing a First Day Cover at Ajisu post office

A handful of collectors made their way to the Post Office at Ajisu. The counter staff were very helpful and supplied the new Scout stamps. They also had the same special handstamps available. The post office also provided a 'Registered' postal service from this location. (There was no Registered postal service available on the Jamboree site itself)

The on-site service ran until the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> August, however, by this time many of the Scouts had left the site and very few postal items were sent from the site on this date.

Standard incoming post was delivered to the contingent HQ of each country. The contingent staff from each country was responsible for delivering this mail on to the individual Scout or leader.

Parcels and Registered items had to be collected and signed for at the 'Business HQ' which was located in the World Scout Centre area of the Jamboree site. Each piece of registered post received a specific number written on the cover in a marker pen. Many also had arrival marks stamped onto them. When I checked with the records at the Business HQ there had been less than 250 such items recorded with them.

In summary:-

27<sup>th</sup> July :- A small number of the official Jamboree postcards were sent from Ajisu post office – Only the standard hand stamps were available. No post was sent from the on-site post office.

28<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> August :- Standard mail could be sent from the on-site Jamboree post office and received a combination of the two red and two black handstamps. Standard and Registered mail could be sent from Ajisu post office and received a combination of the same handstamps.

Post arriving on site after the 8<sup>th</sup> August, received a 'Return Unknown' hand cancel, in red ink. I have only seen one such cover so far.

I was unable to ascertain the number of items of incoming mail, onto the Jamboree site – Perhaps someone else can help with this figure?

The only figure I can give is that the number of incoming parcels and registered items requiring a signature would have been approximately 250 items in total.

Staff at the Jamboree post office were unable to provide me figures for the number of items posted, or indeed the number of stamps sold, as they told me they didn't record this information. Other club members may well be able to assist with this.



*Registered First Day Cover and receipt sent from Ajsu on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015*



*One of the official pre-stamped postcards depicting the Jamboree site*



*Incoming mail with Return Unknown cancel – Arrived on site after 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015*

This was the title of an article which appeared in STAMP AND COIN MART magazine earlier this year, and I make no apologies for using it again.

During this current period of commemorating The Great War 1914-1918, it occurred to me to have a look at some of the (almost) militaristic philatelic items connected with Scouting which were issued at the time.

The article concerned looked at the German Scout and other Youth Organisations in particular, and bearing in mind Baden-Powell's ideas of brotherhood and peace, some items do not appear to quite fit into this pattern.

Taking Germany initially, the uniforms of the Pfadfinder (Scouts) look quite soldier-like compared with most other countries' Scouts with shorts, neckerchiefs and big hats. Although at the time most British Scoutmasters uniforms appeared to be militaristic. Perhaps it did not do at that time for adults to appear in shorts!

A label issued by the Globin Sports Equipment Company in 1914 shows Scouts using rifles. Also labels from Nuremburg have Scouts carrying rifles. Another label from the firm "Gilling" depicts Scouts firing pistols. The chocolate company De Fries & Beckmann produced a strip of five advertising labels, three of which show Scouts with rifles. A similar set of these labels was issued in the Netherlands with text in Dutch, by the confectionery company S.Meyer.



Many other products were advertised on labels during these early days of Scouting in Germany, all including Scouts in their designs. These include watches, confectionery, heels for boots, uniforms and equipment, porcelain, pens, harmonicas, books, margarine and soup.



As is well known, the German Scouts acted as postal messengers in the occupied cities of Brussels, Antwerp and Liege, but there is no evidence of their being involved in warfare.

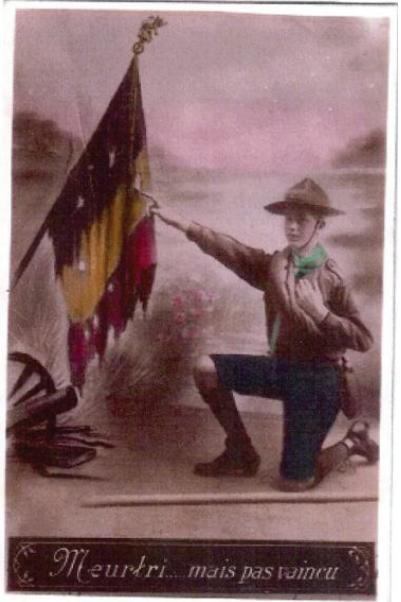
Austria were Germany's allies in the Great War, and many labels were issued showing the more peaceful activity of salvage collecting for the

war effort. Also, one from a set of ten labels for War Service depicts a Scout carrying parcels.

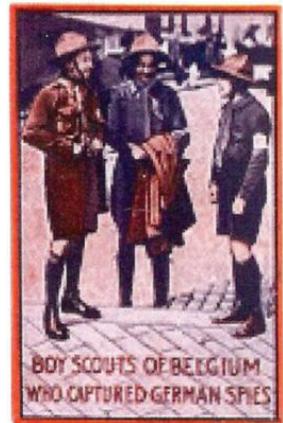
Belgium, having been occupied, produced patriotic postcards, one showing a Boy Scout with tattered Belgian flag with the text (in French)

“MURDERED... but not beaten.”

There were also postcards produced in Great Britain showing “A Boy Scout Hero” and “Belgian Boy Scouts distributing food and drink in the firing line” Similarly, a label (British?) with “Boy Scouts of Belgium who captured German spies”.



BELGIAN BOY SCOUTS DISTRIBUTING FOOD AND DRINK IN THE FIRING LINE



France bore the brunt of most of the fighting in the trenches during the war, and patriotic labels were issued: “Boy Scouts Au Service de Gouvernement Militaire de Paris” and “Eclaireurs de France au Service de l'Armée & des Administrations” There were many Scouting postcards in France during this period, some of which were posted by



Mobilisation 1914

Eclaireurs Français au service de la Patrie.  
Bielser Pionniers im Dienste des Vaterlandes.

British soldiers to their families at home. I can only record one showing Scouts with rifles, but many have very patriotic themes.

Italy was on the side of the Allies, and recently a book was published “Gioventu Italiana e Grande Guerra” describing Boy Scout activities during the Great War. Many illustrations depict Scouting involvement at the

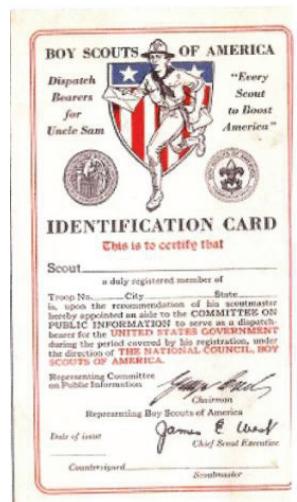
time. One particular postcard shows a Scout charging with a rifle and the message “Speranza d’Italia” (The hope of Italy). There is also mention of the involvement of Crown Prince Umberto, heir to the Italian throne who was a Scout.

Switzerland, although neutral, considered the possibility of attack, and postcards are recorded showing the Mobilisation of Swiss Scouts. Also a postcard is known depicting a Scout helping refugees from France. And Sweden must have had similar thoughts with a postcard of Scouts` Mobilisation, Stockholm 1915.



U.S.A. joined the War in 1917, and there is an attractive postcard showing the reproduction of a poster for “U.S.A. Bonds Third Liberty Loan Campaign BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA” (The card was issued much later). The Boy Scouts of America used “Dispatch Riders for Uncle Sam” for which a special

Identification Card was issued.



Finally to Great Britain`s Scouting efforts: A postcard from Hart Publishing Co. shows a group of six Scouts, all with rifles, pulling a maxim gun. (See over page) Another card from SOLDIER AND SAILOR SCOUTS` CLUB depicts a soldier in shorts carrying a German helmet, with a Scout carrying his rifle. This sketch was drawn by B-P himself. (See over page). A lovely artist`s postcard for St. George`s Day includes a group of British, French and Belgian Scouts pulling German Scouts into an abyss. Although



BOY SCOUTS—ON THE MARCH WITH MANNING GUN.

produced in France, this card was posted in England in May 1917. (See card on back cover).



A comic postcard posted in 1915 shows a Boy Scout “Doing his little bit” with three German Army prisoners plus a Zeppelin in tow. (See card on back cover). There were many patriotic Scout postcards produced during the Great War period, some comic, others with serious intent. One issued by Belfast Boy Scouts War Service Commemoration has the message “Too young to fight, but not too young to help the fighter.” (See card on back cover).

Last, but certainly not least are the many postcards commemorating the great Boy Scout hero Jack Cornwell V.C. who died at his post in the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

He was the youngest British person ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross.



### LEST WE FORGET

**The new Scout Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum is now in the course of manufacture and it is hoped to be able to open it to the public by about Easter of 2016**

“SCOUT REVENUES” article by T.P. McDermott from Bulletin Autumn 2015.

As a follow up to the article on Scout Revenues in the last issue of the Bulletin below are copies of some of the fishing licenses which are referred to on page 13 in the second full paragraph which were unfortunately omitted.

1. Referred to as figure #1



2. Referred to as figure #2



**FISHING PERMIT**  
Rules and Regulations

This permit allows you to fish in Lake Arthur August 3 - 9, 1977. You must carry it with you while fishing and observe these regulations:

Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Bass — Largemouth and Smallmouth	9 inches	6
Walleye	15 inches	6
Pickereel	15 inches	6
Northern Pike	24 inches	2
Muskellunge	30 inches	2
Panfish — sunfish, catfish, yellow perch, crappies	No Minimum	50 combined species
Bait — minnows, chubs, crayfish, etc.	No Minimum	50 combined species

## The Mystery of the Silver Cross; PL King's Scout Arthur Higham

Members, no doubt, will have taken part in recent Armistice Day Services, and be very aware of the sacrifice and Scout service that was common place in the two World Wars. 'The Mystery of the Silver Cross' unfolded itself as a result of my researches for my book Scouts at War Vol 1, The Great War. Whilst it does have a slight philatelic element, it should be remembered that my brief for these pages is to enthuse about Scout Ephemera, which I am very pleased to be able to do because, only this month (November), I was able to acquire the complete multi-faceted archive relating to the mystery that previously I had only been able to peruse.



Arthur Higham was the son of the manager of Brough Gasworks which was situated on the northern shore of the mighty tidal River Humber, 10 miles from Hull. Arthur was a member of the 2nd Brough Scout Troop and was a well-developed, bright, sporty boy who played football and cricket competitively (as did his father). He had attended Hull Technical College for 18 months before he was awarded

his Silver Cross on Sept 29th 1917.

His beautiful certificate was signed by Baden-Powell himself and records that on July 21st 1917 Arthur had rescued a Chief Petty Officer Naval (CPO) from drowning in Brough Haven, a short distance from the site of his father's Gas Works.

The obvious question as to why a Naval Chief Petty Officer needed to be rescued by a 15 year old boy could not be answered from the brief details held by the Scout Association however the archive, previously owned by King's Scout Arthur Higham's daughter, Mrs Jean Ireland, contains many newspaper cuttings reporting the award and all of the many items that I refer to in this article. A Hull newspaper report from October 1st 1917 reported a Public Meeting held in the Court House Brough, *for the purposes of presenting The Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal and Vellum Certificate to AL Higham. Also the presentation of Gold*



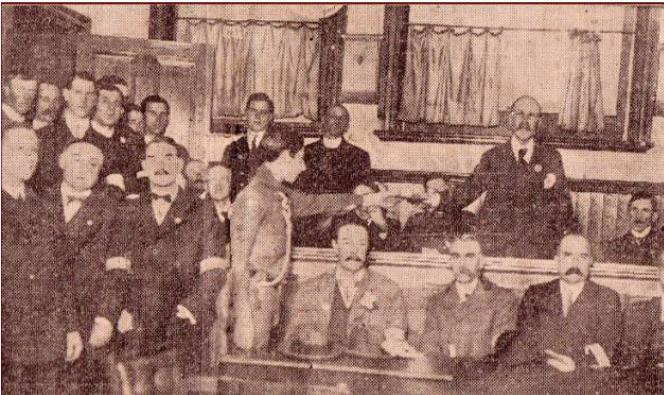
*watches presented by the Special Constables of the District which were given to F Higham Senior and also his son who displayed such conspicuous bravery.*

The newspaper report, headed by a photograph of the heroic Scout, stated that both Arthur and his father were Special Constables, (a duty older Scouts were entrusted to hold from the outbreak of the war). The other Special Constables in the area had clubbed together to present Arthur and his father with beautifully inscribed gold watches. Arthur and his father also received a police medal 'For Faithful Service' in the Special Constabulary and also the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E. which in 1916 could be awarded to non ranking officers in the Police Force for Gallantry.

The Chairman explained that these were very high honours which had never before been awarded to a Scout in the East Riding of Yorkshire and not to his knowledge in Great Britain.

Whilst not taking anything away from the King's Scout, the Chairman pointed out that some praise was due to the Scout Association for the training they gave Scouts, particularly the way they encouraged their members to learn to swim, an activity he thought should be on the curriculum of the local National School. He ... *knew of no braver action, especially when the dangers of the river were considered.* Mr A Atkinson JP, Mayor of Hull was in attendance as a Special Constable and President of the Brough Scout District.

Before the watches and medals were presented, a Mr Lane (no mention of him being a naval CPO) addressed the meeting, stating that he was the man that King's Scout Higham had rescued and he was in no doubt that the Scout had saved his life.



Another newspaper, the *Hull Morning Telegraph* on October 1st included a photo of the presentation, under the heading, *Heroic Special and Scout* but contained no further information. King's Scout Higham, as can be seen from the photograph, looked very smart in his uniform.

So, other than the discrepancy in the title of 'Mr' or 'Chief Petty Officer' Lane, where is the mystery referred to in the title of article?

The archive includes details of the presentation of the Scouts' Silver Cross Medal 'For Saving Life' with Certificate to Arthur Higham, by County Commissioner Dunkley (of the East Riding of Yorkshire) in November 1917. At a special parade, held at Brough District Scout Headquarters, Commissioner Dunkley told the Scouts that the Movement should be proud of its involvement in the war effort: 20,000 Scouts joined up in 1914, 2,000 were presently doing Coastwatching Duty, thus relieving Coastguards and 20 Scouts from the district had joined the Grand Fleet as signallers. He asked Brough Scouts to accept a coloured engraved drawing of Jack Cornwell VC made from a painting by local artist, Mr Elwell.



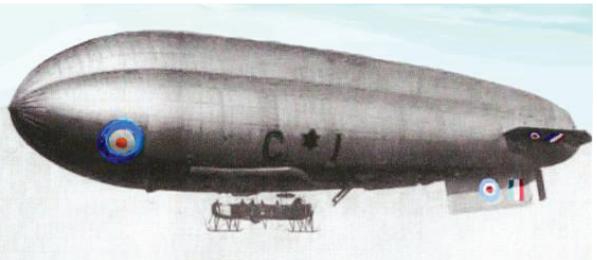
Arthur Higham's Silver Cross. Surprisingly, the Medal is actually bronze, but has a blue Silver Cross ribbon and the supporting certificate which makes it clear it was the Silver Cross award. B-P called it the *Blue Ribbon* medal. The wording 'For Saving Life' was changed in 1922 to 'For Gallantry' to take account of the same grim circumstances that applied to Fred Higham (Senior). His was a heroic rescue attempt, but could not be said to have saved life, as the victim died shortly afterwards.

*At 10.40 p.m. on July 21st 1917 a naval Airship fell into the Humber at Brough, about 30 yards from the side. Arthur L. Higham, aged 15, swam out and succeeded in saving one*

The above citation is from the roll of the Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal winners, obtained from the Society's Annual Report of 1917, however Arthur's actual certificate just records, for having saved life from drowning.

Letters were read out at the parade from Lord Curzon of Kedleston, on behalf of the House of Lords, congratulating the father and son for ... *the assistance rendered to two members of the crew of a naval airship.*

The balloon was a C\* (Coastal) Class Airship C11, built at Kingsnorth in Kent. It took 5 hours to fly her up to Howden on June 26th 1916. The Airship Station had four airships of different classes and their job was to patrol the North Sea looking for enemy shipping, especially U boats. The C\* Class were non-rigid steerable airships called blimps and known



locally as Howden Pigs because they resembled three sausages under one skin. They carried a five or six man crew.

On April 23rd the aircraft crashed at Scarborough and was badly damaged. It was repaired and, on July 21st, set off on patrol, but came down in the Humber in flames. Three members of the crew were killed outright, but two were rescued by the Highams, father and son.

Mr Fred Higham and his son were together at Brough Gas works when they saw the distressed aircraft crash into the river. They had no hesitation in entering the Humber's dangerous waters. As the name of the airman rescued by Mr Fred Higham is not mentioned in any report, it seems probable that he did not survive.

There were, most likely, five men aboard the aircraft, all of the Royal Navy Air Service; Flt Cdr L D Morrison aged 31 was the pilot. He was with Lt William Baker Harvey (23), Harold Frank Moore (19). They are all named in a book *Airman died in the Great War* by Chris Hobson as having died, but Hobson also reports that two unnamed men were rescued. We know one of the men to be CPO Lane. Air Mechanic 2nd Class Harry Ward 18, has also been named as a member of the crew, and he also died on July 21st 1915 so it seems likely that he was the airman that Mr Fred Higham tried to save but was unable to resuscitate.



In 1918 his son gained the then highest training award available to a Scout, the Silver Wolf, which was also, at the time, a prestigious honour for high profile adults. The criteria for Scouts was two year's service as a King's Scout, twelve proficiency badges and have performed a special piece of Scout work under *exceptional circumstances*.

The mystery surrounding Arthur Higham's Silver Cross is of course why it was that the Scout Association citation and subsequent newspaper reports made no mention of the burning airship. The most likely explanation for this is that this information was censored, a restriction that certainly applied to press reporting in the Great War. It does not of course explain why it was that the Royal Humane Society was able to mention the aircraft in its citation (but not on its certificate?) The roll I would surmise was not for publication and so never had to be submitted to the censor.

A 'mystery' of a different order exists as to the level of the award. The Mayor of Hull, Mr A Atkinson JP is on record as saying that he ... *knew of no braver action, especially when the dangers of the river were considered*. A letter in the archive

from a Mr Henry Stonehouse dated July 27th 1917 shows that the writer was under no doubt as to the level of bravery exhibited. He writes,

***I am more than four times your age and cannot recall any action during the whole of my 63 years that will bear any comparison with your noble act.***

The criteria for the Bronze Cross from the 1917 Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) states;

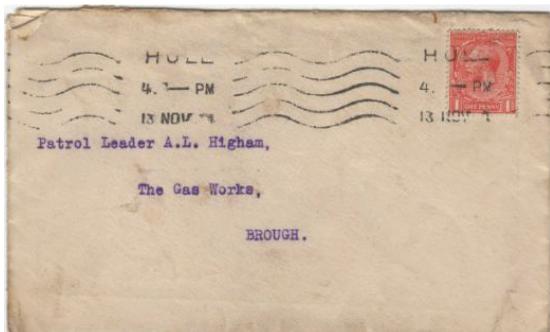
***It can only be won if the claimant has shown special heroism or has faced extra-ordinary risks in saving life.***

Anybody who has seen the River Humber at Brough will be in no doubt that the Bronze Cross was an appropriate award.

The Scout Association awarded six Bronze Crosses during the Great War to British Boy Scout recipients; two of them were to military personnel, the most famous being that to J C Cornwell VC. At least four Bronze Crosses were issued for rescues from drowning, one for stopping a runaway horse.

Higham's Silver Cross would seem to be the only one directly associated with the Great War, other than the two military recipients. There were several other recipients of the Silver Cross in 1917-18 who gained their award for helping to rescue victims of air raids. Such awards would not on the face of it, seem to incur the same risk to the rescuer as did that of Kings' Scout Higham's courageous rescue. Could it be possible, that faced with censorship, and therefore the difficulties of writing down the full circumstances of Arthur's heroic rescue, that the committee responsible for deciding the level of the award in London, were unaware of the burning airship crashing into the Humber?

Below is the seemingly mundane cover sent to PL Arthur Higham on 13th November 1917, but inside was his first intimation that he was to be awarded his Silver Cross ***'with a Certificate signed by General Baden-Powell'***. I know of no other that directly relates to such a high degree of Gallantry by a serving Scout.



*Arthur Higham was the 60th Scout to be awarded the Silver Cross since its inception in June 1909, but by the time of his award (November 1917) only 13 Bronze Crosses had been awarded and four of those were to Scoutmasters. What ever quirk of fate occurred to ensure that King Scouts Higham's Medal that hung on his Silver Cross blue ribbon was actually the Association's Bronze Cross was entirely fortuitous!*

# SCOUT & GUIDE STAMPS CLUB

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