

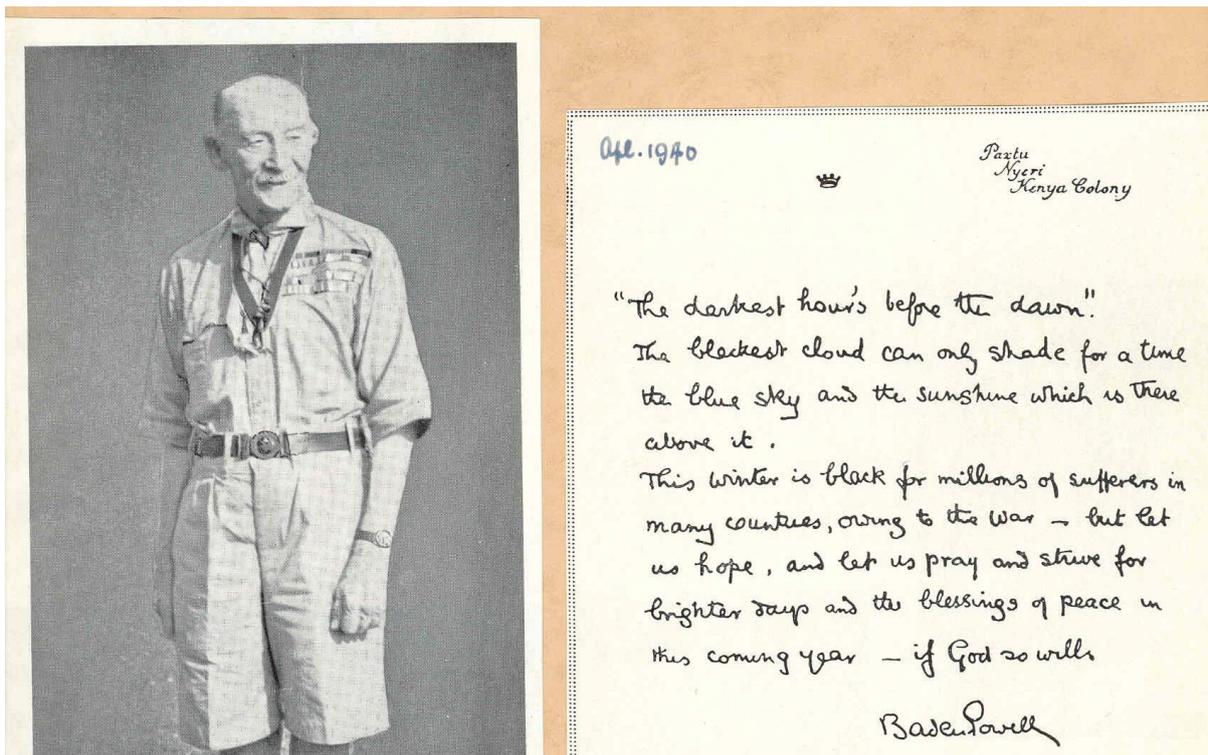
## HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH (December 2017)



In December 1920, in common with many towns and villages in Hertfordshire and the UK, a war memorial was unveiled at Potters Bar in the presence of a large crowd and with a guard of honour of Boy Scouts. They would almost certainly have been from the First Little Heath and Potters Bar Troop.

The memorial was dedicated by **Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey**, Great Uncle to our County President **Nicholas Halsey**. Sir Lionel had commanded the battleship HMS New Zealand in the Great War, before becoming Second Sea Lord. He was later Comptroller to the Prince of Wales, King Edward VIII.

By December 1940, **B-P** had retired to his beloved Kenya. It was from his home "Paxtu" that he sent what were to be his final Christmas cards. In these he wrote of the suffering caused by the World War he had striven to prevent through Scouting. This below card was received by **Frank Beazley** of the First Rickmansworth Scout Group.



Apr. 1940



Paxtu  
Nyeri  
Kenya Colony

"The darkest hour's before the dawn."

The blackest cloud can only shade for a time the blue sky and the sunshine which is there above it.

This winter is black for millions of sufferers in many countries, owing to the war - but let us hope, and let us pray and strive for brighter days and the blessings of peace in this coming year - if God so wills

Bader Powell

It was a sad day for Hertfordshire in December 1943 when **Sir Percy Everett (PWE)** decided to give up the role as CC for Hertfordshire. He had held that role for 36 years from the birth of Scouting that had ensured Hertfordshire became the first Scout County in the world.

His retirement as CC was brought on through being overwhelmed with the pressure of standing in as Deputy to **Chief Scout Lord Somers** who was in failing health. Sir Percy had become Deputy Chief Scout following the death of **B-P** on 8 January 1941. **PWE** remained as Deputy to the next Chief Scout **Lord Rowallan** until 1952 when **PWE** died. He was at that time "The oldest Scout in the World."



**PWE** (centre) shaking hands with **Lord Hampden** (County President and Lord Lieutenant) with his close Scouting friends on the steps of St Albans Town Hall. L-R **Commander Kent, David Francis Morgan, Graham Wallis, Bob Thomas, Dr Leslie Pears, Maud Colman** and **Charles Dymoke Green** is out of frame.

The first Winter course at Lochearnhead Scout Station was held in December 1962. The syllabus concentrated on Mountain Leadership. The Course Leader was **Revd Ian Davidson**, a chaplain to the Bishop of St Albans. The participants were all Hertfordshire Leaders – **Maurice Baker, Doug Corbin, Phil Hearse, Mike Doggett, John Hewitt** and **Peter North**. They were joined by a group from an Army Rescue Team.

In December 2017, **George Moody** became 80 years of age. He lives on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides and is a stalwart in the development of H.H.H. (Hertfordshire's Highland Headquarters) at Lochearnhead. He achieved special recognition in 1969 when he became the first appointee in the UK to become an ACC (GD) who lived 500 hundred miles from his appointing County. In 1969 George was a high flier in mountaineering techniques. He was appointed by the County Commissioner **Melville Balsillie**. George maintained his association with the Station over several decades as a mountain hike leader and attended as a course supporter as recently as this year. It was because of his long friendship with Melville that the family asked him to deliver an obituary at his funeral on Saturday 23 June 1973 in St Albans Abbey. This he did with great clarity and emotion to a packed gathering in The Lady Chapel which I remember well! George has many happy memories since becoming involved at the Station in 1962. He estimates he has spent in the region of 4000 camper nights there. In the early days he spent nearly every weekend there with **John Batham** (John was the village Postmaster and first Steward of the Station. He died in January 1977). Many Happy returns, George!



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