

# Scouting in World War I

## The costs of war...

Among the hundred and fifty thousand ex-Scouts who served in His Majesty's Forces during the Great War — ten thousand of whom never returned — the proportion of awards, mentions and promotions was very high. Commanding officers were loud in their praises of recruits who had a preliminary Boy Scout training, and Scouts very seldom remained long in the ranks.

Eleven Victoria Crosses headed a very long list of awards and distinctions:



- 2nd Lieut. George Edward Cates, Late Rifle Brigade
- 2nd Lieut. John Manson Craig, Royal Scots Fusiliers
- No. 511828 Private Robert Edward Cruickshank, London Regt. (Harringay)
- Lieut. John Henry Stephen Dimmer, 2nd Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps.
- T. Lieut. Donald John Dean, 8th Bn. Royal West Kent Regt.
- 2nd Lieut. Reginald Leonard Haine, H.A.C.
- Temp. 2nd Lieut. Rupert Price Hallows, 4th Bn. The Duke Of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regt.
- No. 15851 Piper Daniel Laidlaw, 7th Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers
- Lieut. George Burdon Mckean, Canadian Infantry
- 2nd Lieut. (A/Capt.) Alfred Maurice Toye, M.C., Middlesex Regt.
- John Travers Cornwell

## John Travers Cornwell

John 'Jack' Travers Cornwell, a Scout in the St. Mary's Mission Group, Manor Park, London, entered the Royal Navy in 1915. Training was brief, but Jack, helped by his days in Scouting, was able to adapt quickly.

On 31 May 1916 while serving in HMS Chester, Jack was struck by a shell splinter. Grievously wounded, he stayed at his post awaiting orders until he was relieved at the end of the battle. On reaching port, Jack was transferred to a hospital in Grimsby and three days later he died a national hero. He was 16 years old.

For gallantry he was given both the Victoria Cross and the highest Scouting award, the Bronze Cross. To commemorate the courage shown by Jack, Baden-Powell created 'The Cornwell Scout Badge' in his memory.

The badge is still used by The Scout Association. It is awarded to youth members in respect of pre-eminently high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance.



## The first World Scout Jamboree

When hostilities ceased, a war weary world turned to the Scout Movement with the hope of breeding peace into future generations, it was a challenge that B-P and the Scouts were equal to.

In 1920 Baden-Powell convened the First World Scout Jamboree - a celebration of the potential of youth. The jamboree brought together Scouts from around the world to experience their common humanity. over 6,000 scouts from 28 countries answered the call. The Jamboree took place from 31st July to 7th August at London, Olympia.

On 2nd August The Daily Telegraph published,

"If only we could seize the micrococcus Jamborensis and inoculate the whole world with it, there would be better hope of the immediate present and of the immediate future. The Boy Scouts is one of the best hopes of the world. More power to their poles! There are still foul dragons which await their slaying."

Since 1920, World Scout Jamborees have continued to take place every four years (with the exception of the war years), with the aim of promoting peace and cultural understanding.

