



Robert Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell

Lieutenant-General **Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell**, OM, GCMG, GCVO, KCB, KStJ, DL (/ˈbeɪdən ˈpoʊəl/ *BAY-dən POH-əl*;^[4] 22 February 1857 – 8 January 1941) was a British Army officer, writer, founder and first Chief Scout of the world-wide Scout Movement, and founder, with his sister Agnes, of the world-wide Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement. Baden-Powell authored the first editions of the seminal work *Scouting for Boys*, which was an inspiration for the Scout Movement.^[5]

Educated at Charterhouse School, Baden-Powell served in the British Army from 1876 until 1910 in India and Africa.^[6] In 1899, during the Second Boer War in South Africa, Baden-Powell successfully defended the town in the Siege of Mafeking.^[7] Several of his books, written for military reconnaissance and scout training in his African years, were also read by boys. In August 1907, he held a demonstration camp, the Brownsea Island Scout camp, which is now seen as the beginning of Scouting.^[8] Based on his earlier books, particularly *Aids to Scouting*, he wrote *Scouting for Boys*,^[9] published in 1908 by Sir Arthur Pearson, for boy readership. In 1910 Baden-Powell retired from the army and formed The Scout Association.

The first Scout Rally was held at The Crystal Palace in 1909. Girls in Scout uniform attended, telling Baden-Powell that they were the "Girl Scouts". In 1910, Baden-Powell and his sister Agnes Baden-Powell started the Girl Guide and Girl Scout organisation. In 1912 he married Olave St Clair Soames. He gave guidance to the Scout and Girl Guide movements until retiring in 1937. Baden-Powell lived his last years in Nyeri, Kenya, where he died and was buried in 1941. His grave is a national monument.^[10]

Early life

Baden-Powell was a son of Baden Powell, Savilian Professor of Geometry at University of Oxford and Church of England priest, and his third wife, Henrietta Grace Smyth, eldest daughter of Admiral William Henry Smyth. After Baden Powell died in 1860, his widow, to identify her children with

The Right Honourable

The Lord Baden-Powell

OM GCMG GCVO KCB KStJ DL

Baden-Powell in his scouting uniform, c. 1910-20

Nickname(s)	B-P, Robin (by his wife) ^{[1]}
Born	22 February 1857 <div>Paddington, London, England</div>
Died	8 January 1941 <div>(aged 83)</div> <div>Nyeri, E</div>
Buried	St Peter's Cemetery, Nyeri, Kenya <div>0.418968°S36.950117°E</div>
Allegiance	United Kingdom

her late husband's fame, and to set her own children apart from their half-siblings and cousins, styled the family name *Baden-Powell*. The name was eventually legally changed by Royal Licence on 30 April 1902.^[11]

The family of Baden-Powell's father originated in Suffolk.^[12] His mother's earliest known Smyth ancestor was a Royalist American colonist; her mother's father Thomas Warington was the British Consul in Naples around 1800.^[13]

Baden-Powell was born as Robert Stephenson Smyth Powell at 6 Stanhope Street (now 11 Stanhope Terrace), Paddington, London, on 22 February 1857. He was called Stephe (pronounced "Stevie") by his family.^[14] He was named after his godfather, Robert Stephenson, the railway and civil engineer,^[15] and his third name was his mother's surname.^[16]

Baden-Powell had four older half-siblings from the second of his father's two previous marriages, and was the fifth surviving child of his father's third marriage:^[17]

- Warington (1847–1921)
- George (1847–1898)
- Augustus ("Gus") (1849–1863), who was often ill and died young
- Francis ("Frank") (1850–1933)
- Henrietta Smyth, 28 October 1851 – 9 March 1854
- John Penrose Smyth, 21 December 1852 – 14 December 1855
- Jessie Smyth 25 November 1855 – 24 July 1856
- B–P (22 February 1857 – 8 January 1941)
- Agnes (1858–1945)
- Baden (1860–1937)

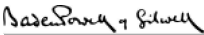
The three children immediately preceding B–P had all died very young before he was born, so there was a seven year gap between him and his next older brother Frank; so he and his two younger siblings were almost like a separate family, of which he was the eldest.^[14]

Baden-Powell's father died when he was three. Subsequently, Baden-Powell was raised by his mother, a strong woman who was determined that her children would succeed. In 1933 he said of her "The whole secret of my getting on, lay with my mother."^{[14][18][19]}

He attended Rose Hill School, Tunbridge Wells and was given a scholarship to Charterhouse, a prestigious public school named after the ancient Carthusian monastery buildings it occupied in the City of London.^[20] However while he was a

Service/branch	<u>British Army</u>
Years of service	1876–1910
Rank	<u>Lieutenant-General</u>
Commands held	<u>Inspector General of Cavalry</u> (1903) <u>5th Dragoon Guards</u> (1897)
Battles/wars	<u>Anglo-Ashanti wars</u> <u>Second Matabele War</u> <u>Siege of Mafeking</u> <u>Second Boer War</u>
Awards	Member of the <u>Order of Merit</u> Knight Grand Cross of the <u>Order of St Michael and St George</u> Knight Grand Cross of the <u>Royal Victorian Order</u> Knight Commander of the <u>Order of the Bath</u> Boy Scouts Association <u>Silver Wolf</u> Boy Scouts of America <u>Silver Buffalo Award</u> ^[2] Boy Scouts International Committee <u>Bronze Wolf Award</u> ^[3] <u>Wateler Peace Prize</u>
Spouse(s)	<u>Olave St Clair Soames</u>
Children	<u>Arthur Frederick Baden-Powell</u> <u>Heather Grace Baden-Powell</u> <u>Betty St Clair Baden-Powell</u>

pupil there, the school moved out to new purpose-built premises in the countryside near Godalming in Surrey. He played with dolls and learnt the piano and violin, was an ambidextrous artist, and enjoyed acting. Holidays were spent on yachting or canoeing expeditions with his brothers. Baden-Powell's first introduction to Scouting skills was through stalking and cooking game while avoiding teachers in the nearby woods, which were strictly out-of-bounds.^{[14][21]}

Other work	Founder of the international Scouting Movement; writer; artist
Signature	

Military career

In 1876 Baden-Powell joined the 13th Hussars in India with the rank of lieutenant. In 1880 he was charged with the task of drawing maps of the Battle of Maiwand. He enhanced and honed his military scouting skills amidst the Zulu in the early 1880s in the Natal Province of South Africa, where his regiment had been posted, and where he was mentioned in dispatches. Baden-Powell's skills impressed his superiors and in 1890 he was brevetted Major as military secretary and senior aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief and Governor of Malta, his uncle General Sir Henry Augustus Smyth.^[14] He was posted to Malta for three years, also working as intelligence officer for the Mediterranean for the Director of Military Intelligence.^[14] He frequently travelled disguised as a butterfly collector, incorporating plans of military installations into his drawings of butterfly wings.^[22] In 1884 he published *Reconnaissance and Scouting*.^[23]

Baden-Powell returned to Africa in 1896, and served in the Second Matabele War, in the expedition to relieve British South Africa Company personnel under siege in Bulawayo.^[24] This was a formative experience for him not only because he commanded reconnaissance missions into enemy territory in the Matopos Hills, but because many of his later Boy Scout ideas took hold here.^[25] It was during this campaign that he first met and befriended the American scout Frederick Russell Burnham, who introduced Baden-Powell to stories of the American Old West and woodcraft (i.e., Scoutcraft), and here that he was introduced for the first time to the Montana Peaked version of a western cowboy hat, of which Stetson was a prolific manufacturer, and which also came to be known as a campaign hat and the many versatile and practical uses of a neckerchief.^[14]

Baden-Powell was accused of illegally executing a prisoner of war in 1896, the Matabele chief Uwini, who had been promised his life would be spared if he surrendered.^[26] Uwini was sentenced to be shot by firing squad by a military court, a sentence Baden-Powell confirmed. Baden-Powell was cleared by a military court of inquiry, but the colonial civil authorities wanted a civil investigation and trial. Baden-Powell later claimed he was "released without a stain on my character".^[27]

After Rhodesia, Baden-Powell served in the Fourth Ashanti War in Gold Coast. In 1897, at the age of 40, he was brevetted colonel (the youngest colonel in the British Army) and given command of the 5th Dragoon Guards in India.^[28] A few years later he wrote a small manual, entitled *Aids to Scouting*, a summary of lectures he had given on the subject of military scouting, much of it a written record of the lessons he had learned from Burnham, to help train recruits.^[29]

Mafeking

Baden-Powell returned to South Africa before the Second Boer War. Although instructed to maintain a mobile mounted force on the frontier with the Boer Republics, Baden-Powell amassed stores and established a garrison at Mafeking. The subsequent Siege of Mafeking lasted 217 days. Although