

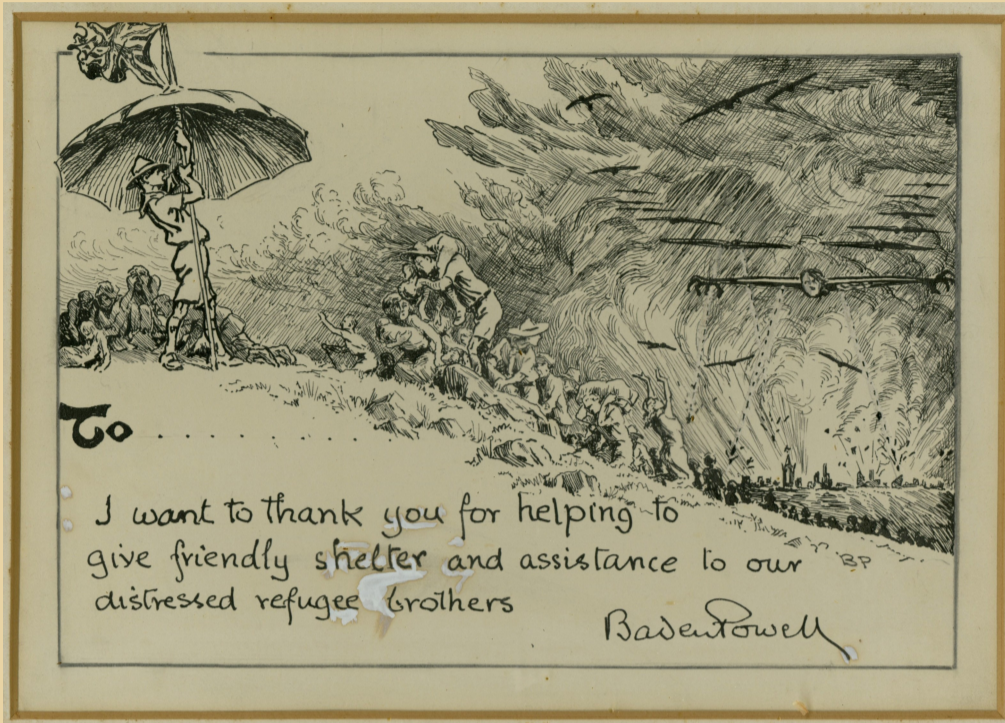
# Scouting supports displaced people



**UK Scouting has a long history of supporting displaced people dating back to the earliest days of the Movement and continuing to this day.**

## FIRST WORLD WAR

In August 1914 thousands of Belgians came to Britain to seek refuge from the First World War. Scouts were instrumental in supporting other civilian organisations with this influx of people. Scouts in Folkestone, one of the main arrival points, acted as guides for the newcomers leading them to centres where they could seek support.



## KINDERTRANSPORT, 1938 – 1940.

**Scouting supported Jewish children who escaped Nazi Germany through the Kindertransport scheme.**

Settling these uprooted children into their new homes was a difficult process, but Scouting was there to help. Some children were welcomed into existing Scout Groups, and in areas where a large number of Kindertransport children were rehomed specific groups were set up for them.

Robert Baden-Powell was moved to capture the kindness of Scouts in one of his characteristic drawings. The picture, which was then turned into a thank you card, hauntingly shows refugees fleeing the brutality of Nazi Germany, identified by the face of Adolf Hitler on the nose of a plane.

## SECOND WORLD WAR

### Evacuees

**In 1939 the threat of air raids and gas attacks on British cities led to over one million children being sent to the countryside for safety.**

Scouting helped give the evacuees a sense of normality as they tried to settle into their new homes, many Packs and Troops moved with the children. Scouts also helped with the evacuation process by helping to organise groups of children, carry luggage and offer comfort.



### Prisoners of War

**Scouting also played an important role in prisoner of war camps. It provided support for both adults and children.**

In the Japanese civilian prisoner of war (POW) camps in Singapore, Cub Packs and Scout Troops were set up to give children a sense of structure and purpose. The programme was delivered using the scant resources available and the ingenuity of pre-war leaders.

In both German and Japanese POW camps men from the allied armed forces set up Rover Scout Crews, spending meetings learning from each other and even completing leader training courses. Activities had to be conducted with complete secrecy, as all organised meetings of these types were banned and participants would be punished if discovered. The men made their own pieces of uniform, such as this wristband from pieces of stolen canvas and scrap metal.



## TODAY

Scouting is working with diverse communities to support cohesion through projects such as *“Better Prepared”*. Provision such as that set up in Page Hall, Sheffield, has supported young people, providing them with structured out of school activities which integrate individuals from differing communities, helping them develop commonalities to overcome differences.

On the 27 October 2016 The Scout Association released a blog entitled, *“Living our Promise: responding to the refugee crisis”* which summarised the ways UK Scouting could support the refugee crisis and the young people and families arriving in the UK. It was one of the most popular blog posts ever published by The Scout Association.