

THE WORLD-WIDE BROTHERHOOD

By RICHARD A. FROST,

International Commissioner

LAST year the number of Scouts who went abroad from this country was greater than ever before, with the exception of the Vogelenzang and Gödöllő years; but contingents sent to World Jamborees are in a special category and cannot be compared with individual parties or single travellers. In 1938 we issued 543 letters of recommendation, which is a much larger number than in any previous year.

I cannot help thinking that more Troops would hold their summer camps abroad if Scouters realised that neither the difficulty, nor the expense involved, is anything like so serious as they often fear. Many a Troop travels a considerable distance in Great Britain to its summer camp site, and spends on train fares quite as much as would be required for a journey to Northern France or Belgium. The International Department at I.H.Q. has a list giving the cost of travel to various places on the Continent—and, as in England, great reductions are made for a party. I shall be glad to give this information to any Scouters who write to me about it.

There need be no difficulty about finding camp sites in any country to which a Troop wishes to go. We belong to a world-wide brotherhood, and the Scout Associations in other countries are able and willing to find sites for us to camp on. If you let me know where you want to camp, I will write abroad and ask about sites for you.

Quite apart from its importance as a means of helping towards international understanding and peace, the educational value of foreign travel, its use in broadening the outlook, and stimulating the intelligence of the individual, is so great that it is well worth the while of all of us Scouters to make it available to our Troops and Crews whenever possible.

Sometimes, however, camps have been held abroad which might almost as well have been held at home. I have heard of Troops who have gone abroad to camp and have come home without having met any foreign Scouts, or come into touch with any foreigners except the Customs officers and the proprietors of the shops from which they bought their food. Through the Headquarters of the Association concerned I could find out the name and address of the Scouter nearest to the proposed camp site and enable the visiting Troop to correspond with him before they left England.

In many ways the most enjoyable and profitable method is to arrange to camp with or near a foreign Scout Troop which is going to hold its summer camp at the same time as you are. When both lots of boys are away in camp side by side, the best possible conditions exist for their getting to know and understand each other and, if a Scouter is at all nervous about holding the summer camp abroad, the companionship of a local Troop will be a great help to him.

It is easy to imagine that arrangements of this kind with foreign Associations take some time to conclude; there is advice to be asked, suggestions to be discussed; and any Scouters who are thinking of camping abroad this summer should write to me soon. The District Commissioner's written approval is necessary for all trips abroad, and I cannot do anything until I have this. The more information I have about camps already held abroad, the better able shall I be to advise Troops which are thinking of going abroad this summer. I am always glad to receive

accounts of past camps and details of their cost, and if any Scouters who took their Troops abroad last year would let me have some notes about their experiences I should be very grateful.

We often hear of foreign Scouts who wish to come either individually, or with one or two friends, to camp with a British Troop. In past years Scouters have been very kind in offering to accept these visiting Scouts in their summer camps. I should be grateful to receive such offers this year, and it would be helpful if, when making the offer, Scouters would tell me the approximate date and duration of the camp, where it is to be held, and what the cost will be.

I have already had very welcome news from some Counties in which special financial efforts have been made to make possible the entertainment of foreign Scouts both in camp and in the homes of Scouts. In one County

arrangements are being made for entertaining fifty Rovers on their way home from the Moot in Scotland; in another a special international camp is being held to which Scouts from many countries are being invited.

I have no information yet about the possibilities of any National Camps or Jamborees being held abroad this summer, but if we receive any invitations I will publish the details in *The Scouter*.

I am grateful for the response to my appeal last month for hospitality for foreign Scout refugees, and in conjunction with the Secretary of Lord Baldwin's Fund I am trying to put all the offers which I have received to the best use. There are various Committees and Associations working, and the Secretary of Lord Baldwin's Fund is helping me to send each offer to the most appropriate Committee. The number of refugees in this country is so large that I can still use many more offers.

I should like to remind you of a play that has an international message. Many have no doubt seen it and at many Group performances it has been popular. It is called *Of One Blood*, and it can be obtained from the Scout Shop. I am sure that it will appeal to Groups that wish to stress the world-wide aspect of our Movement.

The S.O.S. Fund—now renamed "The S.O.S. Hubert Martin Memorial Fund"

The Acting Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau asks me to publish the following list of donations to the S.O.S.



Mr. R. A. Frost