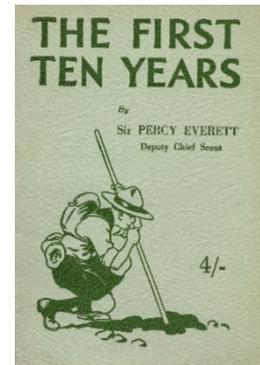


HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH of August 2020.

This month I am writing about one of our County Commissioners, **Percy Winn Everett (PWE)** up to the time he was knighted in 1930. Then about his "Going Home" in 1952 and exhibitions about him following his death. I have nearly 100 items of interest in my files but can only include a few here.

PWE was the first County Commissioner of Hertfordshire and the first invested Scout in the World. Professionally he was a senior editor for Pearson's the Publishers. He first met **B-P** at the home of his employer **Sir Arthur Pearson (1866-1921)** in 1906. **B-P** was present because **Pearson** (who was blind) invited men of stature in the World to his week-end house parties. For some years he had already been involved in providing a scheme for the poorer children of the City of London to spend a holiday by the sea. It was called "Pearson's fresh Air Fund." He was therefore interested to learn about **B-Ps** ideas to train young people to become good citizens.



In his book, *The First Ten Years* that he wrote later in his life, **PWE** described how he attended the experimental Camp on Brownsea Island in 1907. This was to evaluate what ideas **B-P** had and how he was coping. **B-P** had asked Pearson's to publish a book, *Scouting for Boys*. In chapter 8, (of *The First Ten Years*) **PWE** writes about the appointment of Commissioners, "I was honoured by an invitation to become County Commissioner for Hertfordshire in August 1909."

Using his organisational skills it took **PWE** over two years to plan and expedite the project of setting up Hertfordshire as the first Scout County in the World. He wrote at some length about how he was already running a Troop, (the First Elstree), and how he passed over that responsibility to one of his assistants. This was so that he could concentrate on organising Hertfordshire into a Scout County. He initially decided to split the County into 16 areas or Districts as we now call them. He only signed these off when they were self-supporting with a President, VPs, a DC, Secretary and other supporters. He also organised the first County Rally in the UK. This was reported fully in the *Headquarters Gazette*.



In 1917, **PWE** featured in a film *Boy Scouts Be Prepared*. This was shot in St Albans at the Marshalswick home of the DC, **Charles Dymoke Green**, and at other locations locally. It also featured **B-P** as a member of the cast. The film was made as a series and shown over seven weeks in Cinemas throughout the UK. The series mainly featured two boys from different backgrounds who were allocated to the same Patrol and met the same dangers and difficulties in life.

Later that year **B-P** and his young wife Olave were invited to spend the weekend with the **Marten** family who were the owners of Marshalswick House and Park in St Albans. They also attended a Rally of the 200 Scouts that made up the five Troops, (1-5 St Albans). **B-P** spent some time talking to the P.Ls, as many of the Scoutmasters had been called for active war service. **PWE** can be seen in the photo just behind **Charles Dymoke Green**. In subsequent years the estate was developed. The original house was pulled down and replaced and in 2020 is currently being modernised. The only remaining original building is where beer was produced and now forms part of a separate house. The original access road has been widened and is now a through road. The original Lodges at each end remain.

At the end of the War in 1919, **PWE** made a report to the National Scout Committee of the Council in London. He highlighted the work that Hertfordshire Scouts had carried out, stressing the

lead the County had taken in establishing "Home Front Work." This was an initiative that spread throughout the UK. He also specifically mentioned the high number of War Service Badges gained (996). These included 107 of 100 days service, 15 Coast Watching Badges of 84 days, 2 of one year and 1 of 2-year status. Of the three Silver and two Gilt Crosses for bravery, he made the point that during 1918 only 35 Silver Crosses were gained in the whole of the Empire and three of these were awarded to Scouts from Hertfordshire.

On 20 February 1908, **PWE** wrote in his diary "Five or Six Elstree boys approached me with a view to forming a Troop." The inaugural meeting of the First Elstree Troop took place on 13 March. **PWE** noted - "Eagle Patrol formed with **Robert Sands, H. Addington, Alfred Mason, Earnest Cooper, Charles Sharman, Herbert Crawley, Varley Everett, and Winn Everett**. **Winn** was his daughter aged 6 and is accepted historically as the first Girl Scout in the World. The Otter Patrol had **Alexander Hayes, A. Portsmouth, Reginald Naylor, Harry Evans, E. H. Clark, William Mason, George Simpson, and George Steer**. The diary also notes the date and the age of each boy on joining.

Clarence Park in St Albans was opened in 1894. On 13 June 1914 the first County Rally in the



UK was held there. It was attended by 2300 Scouts from the County and several hundred parents and guests. One of the most popular attractions for the public was modelling by **Patrol Leader Tussaud**, a son of **Madam Tussaud** who founded the Museum of Waxworks in London. He was a member of the First Rickmansworth Troop. The guest of Honour at the Rally was **Sir Ernest Shackleton** and he is seen here walking next to the **CC Percy Everett**. Immediately behind in his ceremonial uniform is **Lord Clarendon** the County President and Lord Lieutenant. Behind him is **Charles Dymoke Green Snr.**, DC of St Albans.

Receiving a letter from **B-P** in 1918, **Percy Everett** responded to a request for Scouts from Hertfordshire to attend a camp in Lincolnshire to help with the hand gathering of Flax. Flax was vital for the production of fabric for aeroplane wings. It was not possible to use machinery as this destroyed the roots. There were 16 camps employing a total of 1700 Scouts. The Hertfordshire Camp was at Deeping St James and was under the control of **Charles Dymoke Green**. A total of 73 Scouts from Hertfordshire attended for a period of between 3 – 5 weeks. No accidents were reported and there was practically no illness. Owing to the importance of the work, **B-P** consented to act as Commandant in Chief of all Camps in East Anglia. He attended the Hertfordshire Camp with **Percy Everett**.

In 1923 **Percy Everett** was appointed National Commissioner for Training at Gilwell Park after a falling out between **B-P** and "Skipper" **Francis Gidney** the first Camp Chief. **B-P** had introduced the Wood Badge in 1921 and on completion each participant was given 2 beads on a leather thong worn around the neck. **B-P** wore six beads and he gave **Percy Everett** a six beaded necklace as well. (**Francis Gidney** never wore six). **Percy Everett** was Commissioner for Training for only a short while but he retained his six bead necklace all his Scouting life, relinquishing them to Gilwell in 1950 "to be worn by the Chief National Trainer in succession." There were only ever two six-beaded Wood Badges. **B-Ps** is in the National Archives at Gilwell Park and the other that belonged to **Percy Everett** is worn by the current Executive Commissioner (Programme and Training).



In 1926 a County St George's Day Service was held at St Albans Cathedral. The County President **Viscount Hampden** took the salute outside the Town Hall in Market Place. At his side is **Percy Everett** and to his left by the low post is the DC **Charles Dymoke Green**.

In 1929 the third World Scout Jamboree was held in the UK in Arrowe Park, at Birkenhead. The Hertfordshire contingent (pictured) numbering 200 was led by **Commander Kent** and assisted by **George (Jim) Dymoke Green** and by **Revd. Ernest Scott**. **PWE** was a member of the National organising Committee. This was the "Coming of Age Jamboree" and was attended 40,000 Scouts from 41 countries.



In 1930, **Percy Everett** County Commissioner for Hertfordshire and Right Hand Man to **B-P**, was Knighted for his services to Scouting and Guiding. Soon after it was his privilege to open the new HQ of the **First Elstree Group** of which he had been Founder Member and was first Scoutmaster of the Troop. (*The Scout Group System* was established in 1927). In 1933 with **Graham Wallis**, a Rover Scout from Barnet District, **PWE** negotiated and established Well End as the County Campsite and Training Centre for Hertfordshire.



In 1952, **Sir Percy Everett**, The longest serving Scout in the World, died at the age of 81. For 36 years he led our County from a standing start at the very inception of Scouting. Many of his uniform items are held in the County Scout Museum at Well End Activity Centre.

For a fuller description of **Sir Percy's** life and activities as CC of Hertfordshire and Deputy Chief Scout, ask your Group or District if you could borrow a copy my book *Milestones of 100 or 105 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting*. This was published in 2008 and updated in 2013 where you will find 36 references to his life.

Sir Percy Everett

An interesting and moving ceremony was shown on BBC 1 TV “The Nation remembers.” This was to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and in particular mentioned members of the Burma Star Association. The programme was broadcast live from the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and featured a number of celebrities including **Prince Charles**, the Great Granddaughter of **Ord Wingate** and many others. The event reminded me of **Charles Murkin** (Hertfordshire County Secretary 1969-1986) who was a Member of the Burma Star Association, having served in Burma during the War.

I have made a number of visits to the Arboretum and as County Archivist was invited to attend the opening of the National Scout Memorial on 5 June 2016. I was allocated to the seated area with my guests, **Colin & Georgina McIntyre** and **Colin & Fran Walker** having spent a few days previously with them at Blenheim Palace. It was an important National event and there were several others from Hertfordshire who were casual visitors. They were allocated a standing area on the other side of the river. All were allowed into the memorial garden following the ceremony. This was conducted by **Wayne Bullpitt** from TSA. I will give a fuller report in my *Thoughts for the Month of September 2020*.



The seated VIP's and Guests



Wayne Bullpitt and Matt Hyde from TSA



The standing visitors



The veiled Memorial prior to the opening