I.1 THE BIRTH OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

Central African Republic 1998

The founder of Scouting was Robert Baden-Powell, born in 1857 in London. An officer in the 13th Hussars, he was posted to India in 1876 where he successfully instructed small scouting units dispatched into the countryside on reconnaissance

South Africa 1982/1999

In 1899 Baden-Powell was sent to South Africa where the Second Boer War was taking place (Afrikaners).

Bophutatswana 1982

In 1899 Baden-Powell was the British officer in command of the town of Mafeking besieged by the Boers. To balance the low number of his troops, he recruited voluntary young boys, and set up The Mafeking Cadets. He trained them for observation, courier missions and various activities, which reduced the soldiers' workload, and gave the young boys an occupation during the long months of the siege.

The courage and the craft deployed by these young scouts impressed Baden-Powell. Each worthy cadet received an identification badge which represented the hand of a compass shaped as a fleur-de-lis; it would later become the Scout symbol.

Sierra Leone 1982, Uganda 1991

After Mafeking's victorious defence, Baden-Powell was looked upon in England as a national hero. His book «Aid for Scouting» published in 1899 and initially written for the training of military scouts, was used by youth instructors. Re-edited after many publications and renamed «Scouting for Boys», it became a great success within youth organisations.

Baden-Powell himself drew the illustrations.