

Overseas Scout Jamborees

(From a South African perspective)

The purpose of the following narration is to document from a South African view point, the experience of attending an overseas Jamboree. Sourced from old reports, personal scrap books and logbooks, the links provide a never before published account by the South Africans that were there to witness these events.

1920 - 1st WORLD JAMBOREE - *Develop World Peace*



Olympia, London, England

30th July to 8th August / Participants 8,000 / Countries 34 / South Africans 186

The South African contingent camped at Richmond, on the outskirts of London, in the Old Deer Park and the boys considered it to be 'lovely spot indeed'. They slept in Bell tents, eight boys to a tent, although they found this a bit crowded, especially with all their kit as well. The Jamboree location was a huge glass-roofed

building covering six acres. The concrete floor was covered with earth for competitions. Baden-Powell was acclaimed the 'Chief Scout of the World'.

[Report1:](#) [Report2:](#) [Photos](#)

1924 - IMPERIAL JAMBOREE



Wembley, England

1 – 8 August / Participants 12,500 / South Africans 185

A 17 day voyage by 'Mailship' to Southampton, by train to Waterloo and then 'Motor Trolleys' conveyed them and their equipment to the Wembley Paddocks where they pitched camp in the pouring rain. Sightseeing in London and tour of France was included in the tour.

This Jamboree came about when the organiser of the stadium events for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition suggested to BP that a 'great gathering of Scouts of the Empire' should be held to coincide with the exhibition. BP had in mind that this could be used to 'develop goodwill amongst the different States of the British

Commonwealth'. A commemorative book was published after the event.

[Report1:](#) [Report2:](#) [Photos](#)

1924 - 2nd WORLD JAMBOREE - *World Citizenship*



Ermelunden, Copenhagen, Denmark

18 – 28 August / Participants 4549 / Countries 33

Note: The writer can find no 'hard' evidence that South Africa participated in this Jamboree, although one document did mention that "some South Africans attended this event".

Innovations: a week's home hospitality for Scouts after the event; the World Scout Championship. B-P named 'Baden Meister' (Danish for 'bathing master') due to a deluge of rain. Awards for different contests distributed by B-P at the Copenhagen Stadium. This Jamboree showed that Scouting was not just a game, but that it made a significant contribution towards education in world citizenship.

1929 - 3rd WORLD JAMBOREE - *Coming of Age*



Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, England

31st July to 13th August / Participants 50,000 / Countries 69 / South Africans 405

The largest ever South African contingent and some of the highlights were; Rotary Club taking Scouts sightseeing around London; plenty of rain and tours of Scotland and France. The Jamboree was called the "coming of age Jamboree" celebrating Scouting's 21st anniversary, but also became known as 'Jamboree of Mud'. B-P became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. Gilded wooden arrows were presented to national contingents. B-P said, "Now I send you forth to your homeland bearing the sign of peace, goodwill and fellowship to all your fellow men. From now on the symbol of peace and goodwill is a golden arrow. Carry that arrow on and on, so that all may know of the brotherhood of men."

[Report1:](#) [Report2:](#) [Photos](#)

1933 - 4th WORLD JAMBOREE - *Face New Adventures*



Gödöllő, Hungary

2 – 16 August / Participants 25 792 / Countries 48 / South Africans 59

The South Africans spent a few days in London, then across Europe by train to Budapest for the Jamboree. They and all foreign contingents were provided with a 'cousin', a local Scout who could help them with the Hungarian language. The Jamboree badge was the white stag of Hungary and B-P said, "You may look on that white stag as the pure spirit of Scouting, springing forward and upward, ever leading you onward and upward, to leap over difficulties, to face new adventures." After the Jamboree they returned to England where there were organised tours of Wales and Scotland and time to visit relatives and friends.

[Report1:](#) [Report2:](#) [Photos](#)

1936/7 - AUSTRALIAN JAMBOREE/CORROBOREE (*South Australia's Centenary*)



Belair National Park, Adelaide, Australia

26th December 1936 to 4th January 1937 / Participants 4,000 / South Africans 8

The S A Contingent consisted of only 8 Scouts under the leadership of Scoutmaster C. Groom and it was reported that they were "the first to wear the Springbok emblem on their uniform to an overseas event". The Contingent was away on tour for five months from the 18th November to 5th May.

[Report: Photos](#)

1937 - 5th WORLD JAMBOREE - *Lead Happy Lives*



Vogelensang, Bloemendaal, Netherlands

31st July to 8th August / Participants 28 750 / Countries 54 / South Africans 49

The S A Contingent spent 11 days touring England before departing for Holland and the Jamboree. These were 'High Profile' tours and at many of the places they were entertained by the Mayors or factory Managers. Some of the places visited were: - Stonehenge, Oxford - Morris Car factory, Bourneville for free chocolates, the Lake District and the Newcastle - Iron works. At the Jamboree the South African camp had a surprise visit from Baden Powell and Lady BP, who stayed and chatted for quite some time. B-P was now eighty years old and on presenting the Jamboree emblem, a Jacob staff, B-P said, "Now the time has come for me to say good-bye. I want you to lead happy lives. You know that many of us will never meet again in this world."

[Report1: Report2: Photos](#)

1947 - 6th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Jamboree of Peace*



Moisson, France

9 – 20 August / Participants 24 152 / Countries 42 / South Africans 1

South Africa did not send a contingent to Moisson as "no steamer could be obtained so soon after the Second World War". The sole SA representative was ADC Archie Pringle of Johannesburg Eastern District. Unfortunately no documentation unique to his trip has been found by the writer for publication. It was ten years since the last Jamboree due to World War II and B-P had died in 1941.

1951 - 7th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Jamboree of Simplicity*



Salzkammergut, Bad Ischl, Austria

31 July – 8 August / Participants 12 884 / Countries 37 / South Africans 83

The Scouts spent just a few days in London before the train journey to Austria. The Jamboree excursions were exciting and the scenery spectacular. Then back to England for a ten day coach tour of Britain. Simplicity was the keynote of this Jamboree. Seven towers were erected, each recalling a previous Jamboree. As the name of each was announced, a flag was hoisted on one of the towers and the song of that Jamboree sung. It was the first time that German Scouts were able to take part in a World Jamboree as full members of the World Organization.

[Report Photos](#)

1955 - 8th WORLD JAMBOREE – *New Horizons*



Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada

18 – 28 August / Participants 11,139 / Countries 71 / South Africans 18

The contingent left Cape Town as usual by 'Mailship' for Southampton and Britain, but for their trip to Canada they joined the British contingent and were flown to Canada onboard 14 then 'state of the art' "Stratocruisers" (Boeing 377) and Lockheed "Constellations", (both propeller-driven). The most photographed Scout was 74-year-old "Grompie" Groom, from Middelburg. It was the first World Jamboree to be held outside of Europe and had many firsts: all cooking done over charcoal; television came to a World Jamboree; so did Hurricane Connie! The greatest impact: Canadian hospitality.

[Report1 Report2 Photos](#)

1957 - 9th WORLD JAMBOREE – *50th Anniversary of Scouting*



Sutton Park, England

1st – 12th August / Participants 28 750 / Countries 54 / South Africans 380 / Cost £220 (R440) / 98 days

The Jubilee Jamboree celebrated Scouting's 50th anniversary, the year of B-P's centenary, and incorporated a Rover Moot and an Indaba. South Africa was represented at all the events. Colin Ingles organised our Arena pageant and Impie Bryant the Theatre event. Before and after the Jamboree the Scouts camped at Gilwell Park and there was an 8 day British and 10 day Continental tour. Traditionally one might say - there was the night of the great storm – 'Jamborain'. An obelisk was erected at Sutton Park to commemorate this anniversary of Scouting and remains to this day. Olave Baden-Powell concluded the Jamboree with, "The end is only the beginning." Yes, the beginning of many things.

[Report: Photos](#)

1959 - 10th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Building Tomorrow Today*
Los Baños, Laguna, Mt. Makiling, Philippines



South Africa did not send a contingent to this jamboree as "the cost was prohibitive".

The first World Jamboree in the Far East. 12,203 Scouts from 44 countries present. Theme: 'Building Tomorrow Today'. 'The Bamboo Jamboree', Western world met Eastern world, a revelation to both. The Filipino smile was unforgettable. The good weather conditions as opposed to previous Jamborees rain.

1963 - 11th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Higher and Wider*
Marathon, Greece



1 – 11 August / Participants 14,000 / Countries 86 / South Africans 77 / Cost R500

This was the first time that the S A contingent did not sail by 'Mailship' from Cape Town. This time a plane was chartered and they flew from Johannesburg to Turin, Italy. Their itinerary consisted of a tour of Italy, the Jamboree and ended with a tour of Greece and the island of Crete.

Theme: 'Higher and Wider'. The Greek Crown Prince and Chief Scout opened the Jamboree. Classical history came to life: the Marathon runner, the labours of Hercules, the triathlon. At the closing, the Marathon torch was handed to an American Scout to be rekindled at the opening of the Twelfth World Jamboree.

[Report1](#): [Report2](#): [Report3](#): [Photos](#)

1967 - INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE



Lourenco Marques (Maputo) Moçambique

January 1967

The editor could not find much information on this event but it was reported that the South African contingent assembled in Johannesburg and that there must have been quite a good number of Scouts as 'the train to Lourenco Marques was completely filled with Scout'. The programmes were not very strict so they had a fair amount of leisure time which afforded them the opportunity to go into town and see some places of interest.

[Report](#): [Photos](#)

1967 - 12th WORLD JAMBOREE – *For Friendship*
Farragut State Park, Idaho, U.S.A.



1 – 10 August / Participants 12,000 / Countries 105 / South Africans 37 / Cost R1100

For the South Africans, the Jamboree was preceded by an exciting (and educational) 10 day 'Road Trip' across America from New York to the Jamboree site in Idaho, not far from the West Coast city of Seattle where after the Jamboree they experienced some very friendly 'Home Hospitality'.

Theme: 'For Friendship'. Arena shows, Skill-o-Rama, adventure trail, water activities on Lake Pend Oreille, the thrills and spills of a real Western Rodeo, all amid the splendour of the Rocky Mountains.

[Report](#): [Photos](#)

1971 - 13th WORLD JAMBOREE – *For Understanding*
Asagiri Heights, Fujinomiya, Japan



2 – 10 August / Participants 23,758 / Countries 87 / South Africans 47 / Cost R1300

The Pre-Jamboree Tour first took the contingent to Greece, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Taipei before landing in Japan. They then spent 10 days touring Japan experiencing some of the cultural and food traditions. Mount Fuji was the backdrop for the campsite. Perfect weather at the start and finish, but in the middle the fringe of a typhoon struck. Owing to flooding 16 000 Scouts had to be evacuated for 48 hours, but most of the South Africans were on high ground and 'batted down the hatches', staying in camp to experience the storm. The return trip was via Paris and Brussels.

[Report1](#): [Report2](#): [Photos](#)

1975 – 14th WORLD JAMBOREE - *Five Fingers, One Hand*
Lake Mjosa, Lillehammer, Norway



29 July to 7 August / Participants 17 259 / Countries 91 / South Africans 330

The 330 person South African Contingent would appear to be the largest FLOWN over to a Jamboree in a chartered Jumbo Jet. The Jamboree was popularly known as 'Nordjamb '75' and for the South African Contingent it was preceded by a tour through France, Belgium and Holland. Germany included a cruise down the Rhine and then it was on to Switzerland before a week's 'Home Hospitality' in Denmark. The theme was 'Five Fingers, One Hand', symbolizing the five joint Nordic hosts and the five world Scout regions in one brotherhood. The South Africans enjoyed hiking in the mountains in international patrols and the less strenuous fun at the Jamboree Country Fair.

[Report](#): [Photos](#)

1977 - CANADIAN JAMBOREE



Cabot Beach Provincial Park, Prince Edward Island

5 – 12 July / Participants 16 000 / South Africans 6

For 6 members of the 1st Pinelands Scout Group the correspondence kept up with a Canadian Scout Group (by Tony Richardson who attended the Nordjamb), was rewarded when in August 1976, there came an invitation to be hosted in Canada and take part in the Canadian National Jamboree.

[Report](#)

1979 – WORLD JAMBOREE YEAR



After much deliberation the 15th World Jamboree in Iran was cancelled due to the uncertain political situation and 1979 was declared 'World Jamboree Year'. It was decided to holding several World Jamboree Year camps and countless Join-in-Jamboree activities all over the world. The South African contingents were offered the following 3 alternate trips.

1979 – WORLD JAMBOREE YEAR – AUSTRALIA



Perry Lakes, Perth

30 December 1978 to 11 January 1979 / Participants 12 000 / Countries 34 / South Africans 45

Forty-five South African Scouts attended the 12th Australian / 4th Asia Pacific International Scout Jamboree at Perry Lakes outside Perth from the 30 December to 11 January and the Jamboree was preceded by a three week tour of Australia.

[Report: Photos](#)

1979 – WORLD JAMBOREE YEAR – AMERICA



Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico

4 – 16 July / South Africans 120

This tour started in Rio de Janeiro and from there the contingent flew to the 'wonders' of New York. There was 'Home hospitality' in Denver before arriving at the Philmont Scout Ranch where they spent twelve days camping, hiking and attending various activity bases. This was followed by visiting a number of National Parks and Sites like the Grand Canyon before returning to South Africa.

[Report1: Report2: Photos](#)

1979 – WORLD JAMBOREE YEAR – SWITZERLAND



Kandersteg Scout Chalet, Switzerland

22 – 31 July / Participants 1 200 / Countries 42 / South Africans 73

South Africa was one of the 42 countries represented at the World Jamboree Year camp "Kristal'79" that was based at the Kandersteg Scout Chalet in Switzerland during July 1979. The pre-Jamboree tour included Paris, London, Amsterdam and a cruise down the Rhine before heading off to Kandersteg. At the camp many entered the mountaineering and hiking challenge and earned the High Adventure award badge.

[Report: Report2: Photos](#)

1981 – CANADIAN and AMERICAN JAMBOREES



Canadian: Kananaskis Country, Alberta 2 – 10 July / Participants 19 000 / South Africans 6

USA: Camp AP Hill in Virginia, 28 July to 4 August / Participants 28 000 / South Africans 8

In 1981 South Africa sent two small contingents to both the Canadian and USA Jamborees. Their itineraries were such that on two occasions they met up with each other. The first for a combined canoeing expedition and then later at the USA Jamboree.

[Report](#)

1983 - 15th WORLD JAMBOREE – *The Spirit Lives On*



Kananaskis Country, Alberta, Canada

5 – 15 July / Participants 14 752 / Countries 102 / South Africans 226

The SA Contingent leader Colin Inglis organized a truly amazing pre and post Jamboree tour of Canada and America. The Jamboree was held on the slopes of the great Rocky Mountains near Calgary, in Kananaskis Country. The Theme was 'The Spirit Lives On' and the Jamboree activities took full advantage of the rugged mountains with all the excitement of the Wild West and included visit to the famous Calgary Stampede.

[Report Photos](#)

1983 - NORFOLK JAMBOREE



Norwich, England.

July / Participants 2 300 / Countries 8 / South Africans 18

Led by Contingent Leader Doug Drysdale, 18 Scouts and 4 Scouters toured France, Italy, Switzerland - Kandersteg, Holland and hiked in Luxembourg and spent some time in London before attending the Norfolk Jamboree.

[Report](#)

1984 - CORAL REEF SAILING ADVENTURE



Florida Sea Base Florida Keys

2 - 24 July / South Africans 8

The efficiently run High Adventure Base on the Florida Keys was the starting point for the eight South African who set off on a six day coral reef sailing trip and this was followed by a 12 day tour of the USA East Coast.

[Report](#)

1985 - 11TH AMERICAN NATIONAL JAMBOREE,

Camp AP Hill, Virginia, USA.

22 - 31 July / Participants 32 615 / South Africans 16



Snorkelling the spectacular world of the coral reefs, the endless rush in the Big Apple the exciting attractions of London, the magic of Walt Disney World, Epcot and, a week at sea aboard 40 foot yacht. Plus the amazing realities of the Air and Space Museum, the thrills and spills of white-water canoeing

[Report](#)

1986 - 6th NATIONAL CHINESE JAMBOREE

30 Oct - 4 Nov / Participants 14 000 / South Africans 5



Five South African Scouts were invited by the Boy Scouts of China to attend their 6th National Jamboree in Taiwan. The Contingent Leader was the ex-Chief Scout of S.A. Colin Inglis and the pre-Jamboree tour included Hong Kong and Thailand where they did a 3 day trip to the Bridge on the River Kwai, River Kwai Resort and infamous "death railway".

[Report](#)

1986/87 – HONG KONG DIAMOND JUBILEE JAMBOREE

27 Dec 1986 to 1 Jan 1987 August / Participants 5 143 / Countries 13 / South Africans 3



The Hong Kong Diamond Jubilee Jamboree was held at the Kohima Camp with the theme March On. For the South Africans the visit to the National Jamboree was combined with tours of Hong Kong, Thailand, and Taiwan.

[Report](#)

1988 - 16th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Bringing the World Together*

Cataract Scout Park, Sydney, Australia

30 Dec 1987 to 7 Jan 1988 / Participants 14 434 / Countries 84 / South Africans 176



For many of the South African Scouts it was a 'first' spending Christmas in a foreign country. The pre-Jamboree tour was however arranged so that the Scouts were taken in for 'Home Hospitality' over this period. This was the first World Jamboree to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. Some of the highlights were: Challenge Valley obstacle course, the most gruelling and the most popular activity at the Jamboree; the Great Aussie Surf Carnival, for which all Scouts were shuttled in over 50 buses to Thirroul Beach.

[Report](#)

1989 - USA NATIONAL JAMBOREE

Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia.

2 - 8 August / Participants 33 000 / Countries 32 / South Africans 13



The South African Contingent left Johannesburg on Wednesday 12 July for Orlando, Florida, via London and then toured overland through Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington DC, Pennsylvania and New York State before attending the Jamboree.

[Report](#)

1991 - 17th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Many Lands, One World*



Mt. Sorak National Park, Soraksan, Korea

8 – 16 August / Participants 20 000 / Countries 135 / South Africans 84

Before the start of the Jamboree the South African contingent toured Thailand and Korea. The Jamboree site was set at the foot of beautiful mountains and was the largest representation in World Jamboree history. Scouts from Czechoslovakia and Hungary participated as members of the World Scout Movement for the first time since

1947 and there were many Contingents from East European countries where Scouting was restarting. The Jamboree was visited by Korean President Roh Taw-woo, His Majesty the King of Sweden and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid of Morocco.

[Report](#)

1992 - INTERNATIONAL CAMPOREE



Camp Sequassen, Connecticut, USA

2 - 10 July / Participants 830 / Countries 27 / South Africans 13

The Camporee was held to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus founding the new world. The South Africans also enjoyed very active Home Hospitality and the tour included sightseeing in New England, Washington, Philadelphia and a quick tour of New York.

[Report](#)

1993 - 13th AMERICAN NATIONAL JAMBOREE



Fort A.P. Hill Military Base, West Virginia, USA

4 – 10 August / Participants 34 449 / Countries 48 / South Africans 2

Unfortunately not much more than a few photos and badges could be found about the South Africans who participated in this Jamboree.

[Report](#)

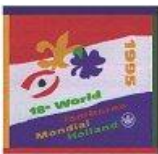
1994 - INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE, Luxembourg



The world had now opened up to South Africans and these Scouts sat on what remained of the Berlin wall and in Russia stood in red Square in Moscow and visited the Winter Palace of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg. The tour included Prague, then on to Germany and Luxembourg.

[Report](#)

1995 - 18th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Future is Now*



Flevoland, Netherlands

1 - 11 August / Participants 28 960 / Countries 166 / South Africans 135

A very informative and exciting two week tour of Germany and Austria and a few days 'home hospitality' with Scouting families in Bonn preceded the Jamboree. The number of countries represented at the Jamboree was the largest ever. The event was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her

husband Prince Claus.

Unfortunately the writer could not find a report on this jamboree, but did find the [Itinerary](#) and [Contingent List](#).

1999 - 19th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Building Peace Together*



Picarquin, Chile

27 Dec 1998 to 6 Jan 1999 / Participants 31 000 / Countries 157 / South Africans 90

The South Africans experienced the most beautiful scenery as they toured through Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile and Peru where they hiked to Machupicchu. In Santiago, Chile they had lunch with the SA Ambassador and were treated to 'home hospitality' over Christmas, before finally moving on to the Jamboree. The Andean foothills served as a backdrop for the first World Jamboree ever held in Latin America and was officially opened by Chilean

President Eduardo Frei..

[Report](#)

2002/3 - 20th WORLD JAMBOREE – *Share our World, Share our Cultures*



Sattahip, Thailand

28th December 2002 to 8th January 2003 / Participants / 25 600 / Countries 147 / South Africans 18

Scouts, Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world, camped together in a tented city at Sattahip, 50 kilometers east of Bangkok, on the coast with beautiful white sand beaches and clear sea water. 'Share our World, Share our Cultures' was the theme of the Jamboree, and the emblem depicted a Thai roof with the

World Scout Emblem centered on it. One of the highlights of many was when Betty Clay, daughter of B-P, spoke at the close of the Jamboree. "If you go out from here and remember my father's advice to you to live up to your Promise and Law always, then you will lead the happiest life possible, just like he did."

[Report](#)

2006 - AFRICAN SCOUT JAMBOREE



Maputo, Moçambique

21 -31 July

Although documentation found covering this event was minimal the writer was able to establish that; approximately 6 SA Scouters some in leadership roles helped with the organising and 6 SA Scouts some from Mafikeng participated. The opening speech was by former Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano and some of the activities included tours, crafts, games and literally surviving on an island.

2006 - PATROL JAMBOREE



Suncheon, South Korea.

9 - 14 August / Countries 32 / South Africans 2

This was an International Patrol Jamboree hosted by the Korean Scout Association (KSA).The various activities afforded them the opportunity to experience much of the oriental culture.

[Report: Photo's](#)

2007 - 21st WORLD JAMBOREE – *One World, One Promise*



Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex, England

27 July to 8 August / Participants 41 431 / Countries 155 / South Africans 174

This was the 100th Anniversary of Scouting since the Brownsea Island Camp and the logo represented the sunrise on the new century, the environment, our Movement's 100th year. This jamboree was the first where all 155 Scouting Countries in the World were represented and largest to date.

For the South Africans the event was preceded by a tour of Holland which included 'Home Hospitality' and sightseeing. After the Jamboree it was off to the UK for some more 'Home Hospitality' and sightseeing in and around London.

[Report: Photos](#)

2011 - 22nd WORLD JAMBOREE – *Simply Scouting*



Rinkaby, near Kristianstad, Sweden

27 July and 7 August / Participants 40 061 / Countries 143 / South Africans 134

Before attending the Jamboree in southern Sweden the Contingent toured Germany and experience Home Hospitality in Demark. It was not all Castles & Cathedrals and some of the places visited were Frankfurt, Bonn, Cologne, Berlin and a most pleasant cruise on the Rhine.

[Report](#)