

## “FOR THE TIME BEING WE KEEP HIM WITH US HERE”

IT would be difficult to discover a more fitting record of the laying to rest of the World Chief Scout than the spontaneous eye-witness account written by the Editor of the “East African Standard.” It is reproduced as it was published on the following morning.

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Nyeri, Thursday, January 9th, 1941.

The Chief Scout, Lieut.-General the Right Honourable Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, O.M., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., was buried at half-past three to-day in the tiny cemetery at Nyeri beside the graves of some forty of the people of the district.

The Chania River circles the foot of the cemetery hill and from the top of the ridge you can hear the sound of the waters. Two sides of the little cemetery are screened by *Macrocarpa* trees, well grown like a Scotch fir, a background for the Christ's Thorn among the graves. But the other two sides of the cemetery are open wide like a window to the valleys and the ridges and the snow on the peak of Mount Kenya.

It is one of Africa's lovely vistas and the Chief Scout has been buried with his head to the Mountain which meant so much to him in the past three years. He has seen it in all its moods, in the clear days when the sun shone and the sky was bright and blue and the glaciers sparkled and glittered. Those were the days he loved, for the sunshine was in accord with his own mood and with that spirit of youth which served him for four score and three years and has passed on into the hearts of millions of young people all over the world in the fine comradeship of the Scout Movement.

He saw the Mountain, too, on those other days when the sky was sullen and grey and overburdened with gloomy clouds and though the artist that was in him may have recorded the dull days, he loved best to picture Kenya and its Mountain in all their bright and cheerful beauty; the animals at peace in their natural habitat and the humble African peasant in the full enjoyment of the simple ways of life. The Mountain was the last of Nature's lovely visions he saw. He looked out on it from his bed in the little thatched cottage, Paxtu, in a Nyeri garden bright with the glowing reds and yellows of cannas, golden shower, and all the beauty of lawn and flower. It was a peaceful place for him in the last years and the trees had been cleared to give him an uninterrupted view.

Long ago, before he came back to Africa, he had arranged in London for the continuation in capable

hands of the Scout Movement and for his successor. But out at Nyeri he was always with those millions of young people, writing Nature stories for them, sketching the life around him for their pleasure, joking, encouraging, advising those great forces of youth to the vast majority of whom he was a living legend. Just before he died he was busy with another Kenya book for the Scouts of the world and his last painting of one of Africa's wild animals was unfinished.

“Honour all men. Love the Brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King.” These words concluded the lesson to which he listened at the Jamboree Service in Liverpool Cathedral in 1929 when he was surrounded by his friends from all over the world. The enemies of the civilization which has benefited so much from his simple and vigorous faith have done damage to that great cathedral with their bombs and their hate. But they can do nothing to those words around which the Chief Scout built up the strength and the purpose of the Boy Scouts.

To-day I saw him laid to rest in the Africa which he loved best in all the world and one day, if his own wish is fulfilled, his own young people, the Scouts of a world at peace, will gather in Kenya in a great Jamboree. The British Government has offered him a place in Westminster Abbey among the great soldiers, the sailors the statesmen and the poets of the people and one day he may rest finally there. That is a decision which will be taken after the war is over. But Africa was his own love and for the time being we keep him with us here.

He was buried with the full military honours accorded to his rank of Lieutenant-General, and the service was conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon W. P. Low, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, assisted by Canon N. A. Lesser, the Rev. K. Driver, and the Rev. J. Campbell Morgan. The funeral had all the solemn pomp and circumstance of a military occasion. It was attended by His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Kenya, Sir Henry Moore, Chief Scout of the Colony; and Lady Moore, Chief Guide Commissioner. The pall-bearers included the General Officer Commanding the East Africa Force, Lieut.-General A. G. Cunningham, D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier-General Sir Godfrey Rhodes, C.B.E., D.S.O., in uniform as Chief Scout Commissioner for Kenya; the late Captain the Right Honourable the Earl of Erroll; the Air Commodore commanding the Air Force in East Africa; and two Brigadiers. The bearer party numbered eight—every one of whom was an acting or ex-Scout: the Rev. J. Gillett, Kenya Colony Headquarters Commissioner for Scouts; F. A. Bailey, D.C., Nairobi; G. E. Gordon, D.C., Nyeri; L. Mortimer, 12th Nairobi Rovers; Capt. L. A. Macpherson, D.C.; N. E. Johannesburg; O. A. S. Vorster, 1st Kitale;

C. J. Dawkins, 16th Salisbury (S. Rhodesia); and H. R. Field, 1st Coulsdon (Surrey). Four Brigadiers, two Colonels, four Lieut.-Colonels and a Captain, representing almost every section of the military organization, were the official Military mourners. The Senior Naval Officer was represented and there were four officers of the Royal Air Force and four of the South African Air Force.

Scouts under Dr. P. G. Preston, Travelling Commissioner, E. U. Peel, Headquarters Commissioner for Cubs, and C. Hooper, S.M., 2nd Fort Hall Troops, flanked the gunners bearing the gun lead.

The procession came slowly down the avenue of Macrocarpa and gum trees from his home, through the little township in the bright afternoon sunshine, through crowds of all races, to the green and tree-shaded ridge overlooking the valley of the Chania and the Mountain. It slowed down as it passed the headquarters of the Provincial Administration and the minute gun began to fire the fifteen rounds of the salute to a Lieut.-General. The King's African Rifles provided the first escort and the leading detachment, followed by the band of the South African Permanent Force. Then came the gun carriage, provided by the South African artillery, the coffin covered by the Union Jack, and the Scout Flag, the pall-bearers walking beside it.

Behind followed D. Somen, Hon. Secretary of the Kenya Branch of the Boy Scouts Association, carrying the Chief's medals and decorations on a cushion: some years ago he attended the Jamboree in Australia on behalf of the Scouts of Kenya. Then came His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Moore, K.C.M.G., in the uniform of C-in-C. of Kenya, with Brigadier-General A. C. Lewin, who is one of His Majesty the King's A.D.C.s. After them followed the family mourners, represented by Captain Eric G. Sherbrooke-Walker and Lady Bettie Walker with the Chief's niece, Miss Christian Davidson.

Lady Baden-Powell was not present. She is suffering from the strain of nursing her husband during these anxious months when his health has been failing and when he died she was advised to go away into the country to rest. The Military mourners, the Naval representative and the Air Force officers were next in the procession, followed by the Chief Justice of Kenya, his Lordship Sir Joseph Sheridan. After him came the members of the Governor's Executive Council, the Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Tomkinson, and other official Civil mourners.

Closing the procession were fifty Boy Scouts in uniform—European, African and Asian—and the rear escort, two platoons of South African Infantry and members of the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force. The Company of K.A.R. which formed the escort in front, and the South African infantry and the Air Force platoons in the rear, wore belts and side-arms.

The gunners who manned the ropes of the gun carriage were fully representative of the Forces in the Colony, including gunners from the Indian Mountain Battery; South African gunners; N.C.O.s from the East Africa Light Battery, on the brakes; and Indian officers,

on the spindles. A native member of the West African artillery was Orderly and the whole were under the command of a British artillery officer.

When the cortege arrived at the burial ground the leading detachment formed extended file on either side of the path leading to the entrance and the procession, led by the clergy, gathered round the grave. The church of Nyeri is too small for so large a congregation and the whole of the service was therefore held at the graveside. The clergy moved forward in procession saying, "Lay hold of the hope that is set before us. . . . I am the Resurrection and the Life. . . ." Then came that most beloved of all the Psalms, the psalm of comfort and hope—"The Lord is my Shepherd." When the words of the psalm had died away there was read the lesson to which the Chief Scout had listened eleven years ago at Liverpool, and the Committal: "We commend into Thy hands of mercy, most merciful Father, the soul of this brother of all the world. . . . Blessed are the dead. . . . their works and their love follow them. . . . Let us give thanks unto our Father for the the unselfish life of love and joy. . . . For the gifts of insight, knowledge and wisdom, for the grace of the spirit of brotherhood, for clear vision and tenacity of purpose, by which Thou didst enable that servant to set forward self-respect, mutual understanding and the love of home and above all the love of Thyself."

And towards the close this prayer for the Boy Scout Movement: "O Lord our God, whose promises are true, continue, we pray Thee, the blessing upon this work of Thy hands, and grant unto all Thy servants in this brotherhood a steady perseverance in doing Thy will, that in our days the Boy Scouts may serve Thee and Thy needy ones, and the Brotherhood of Scouts grow in number and glad service, to Thy honour and glory. . . ."

The Lord's Prayer followed and the solemn service concluded with the blessing used at the Liverpool Cathedral Jamboree Service.

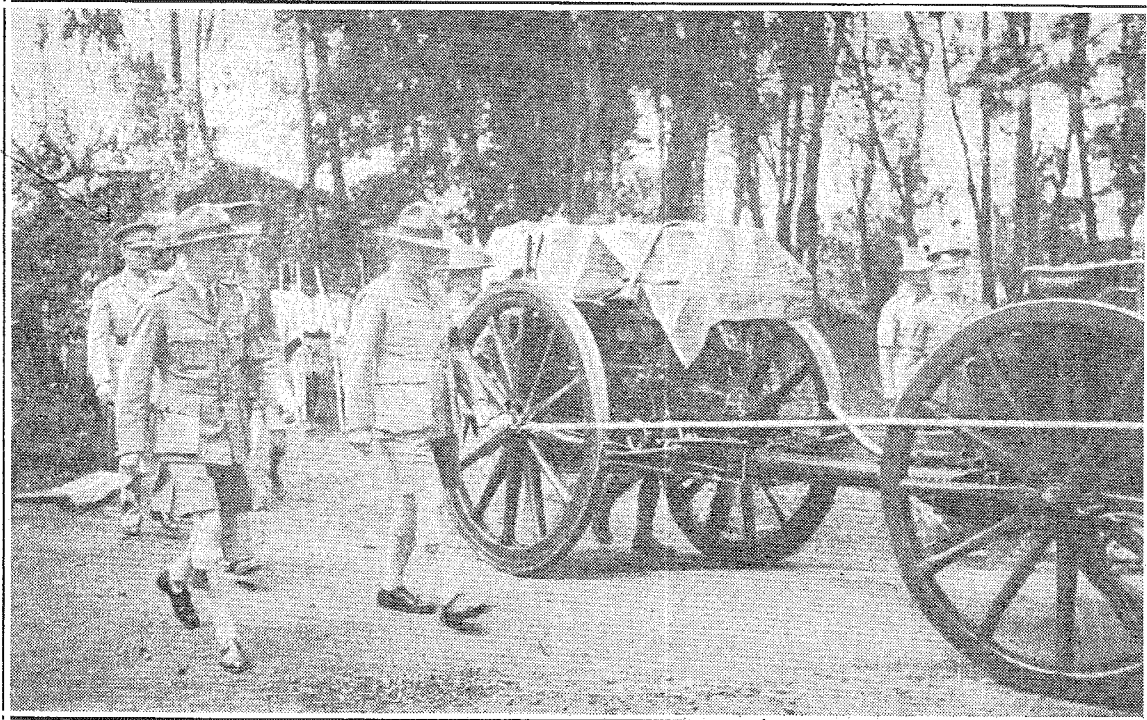
The little cemetery was crowded and over it all there was a quiet hush. Just behind the clergy I noticed a group of Girl Guides, Guiders and Brownies, with them, Lady Moore, President of the Kenya Girl Guides' Association. Tributes of flowers were laid round the grave, hundreds of these fragrant tokens grown in the gardens of Kenya. Official wreaths were placed by His Excellency the Governor, on behalf of the peoples of the Colony; by Captain Sherbrooke-Walker for the family; the General Officer Commanding in the name of the East Africa Force; by the representative of the Navy; by the Air Officer Commanding in East Africa; by Lord Erroll on behalf of the House of Lords; for the Boy Scouts by the Kenya Commissioner, Brigadier-General Sir Godfrey Rhodes; by Lady Moore for the Girl Guides; by Brigadier-General A. C. Lewin, A.D.C. to the King; by a high officer for the South African Forces; the Chief Justice in the name of the Judiciary; the Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Tomkinson, on behalf of his Department of Government; by Assistant Inspector Gribble for the Kenya Police; and by Lord Francis Scott, who arrived by air with H.E. and Lady Moore, for the unofficial community in Kenya.

After the official wreaths had been placed the official mourners of the Fighting Services each passed the grave and stood for a moment at the salute. Not the least impressive memory were the notes reaching out over the valleys and the hills, echoing against Mount Kenya itself, of the trumpet call of the Chief's old Regiment the 13th/18th Hussars.

As the procession reformed and withdrew, the band and drums at its head, I saw two South African Nursing Sisters—Sister Robertson and Sister Harper—among the mourners. They had with great devotion nursed the Chief in his illness two months ago and helped for a time to restore his health.

Kenya Troops represented at the funeral were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 24th Nairobi, 2nd and 3rd Fort Hall, and the 1st Nyeri Troop and Pack.

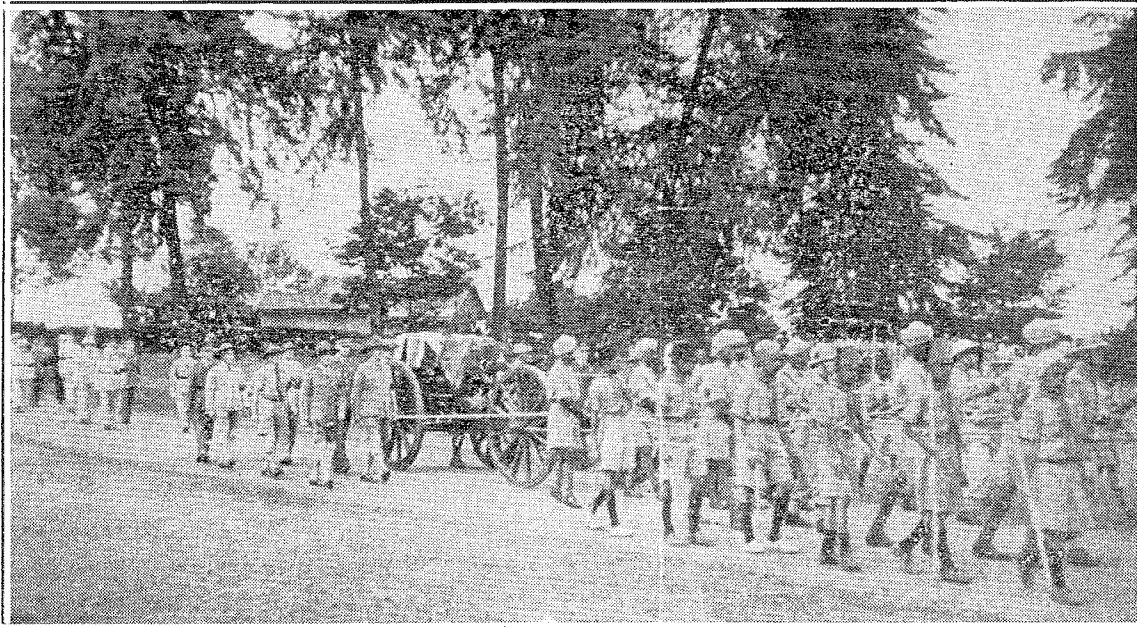
In addition to those already mentioned, the following officers of the Movement were also present: H. P. Gibbs, Chairman, North Kenya Local Association; F. C. Goodyear, S.M. 1st Nairobi; G. Spence, A.S.M. 2nd Nairobi; Yusaf Ahmedi, A.S.M. 24th Nairobi; Mrs. K. Sinclair, Cubmaster 9th Nairobi; and Mrs. E. U. Peel, Cubmaster 20th Nairobi. Among ex-Scouts were Col. Rose; Sergt. J. Branford, Cornwell Scout and member of the late Sir E. Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole; and Capt. N. Meneachemson, Chaplain to the Judean Scout Troop, Durban.



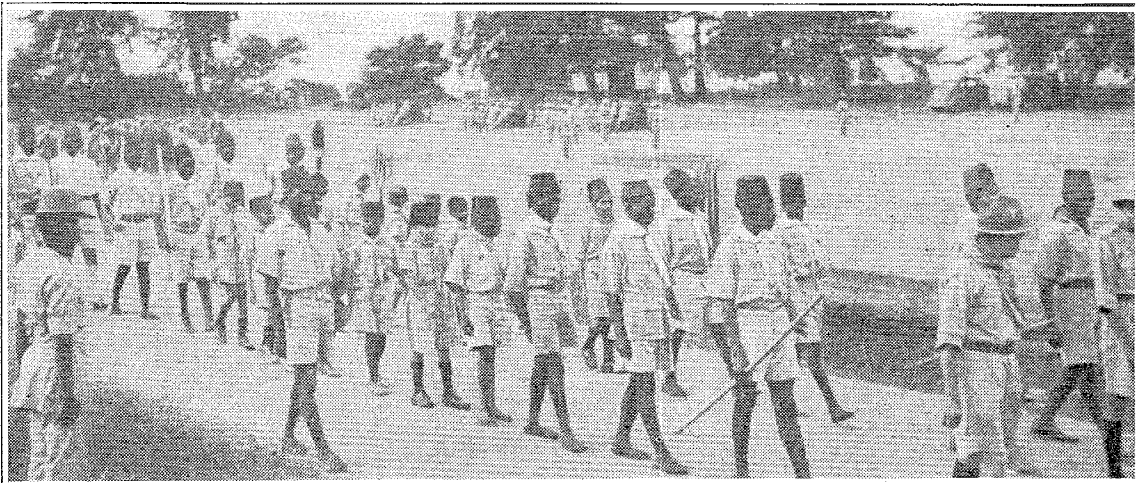
*"The gun-carriage, provided by the South African Artillery, the coffin covered by the Union Jack and the Scout Flag, the pall-bearers walking beside it."*

*Behind, on the extreme left, is Lieutenant-General A. G. Cunningham, General Officer Commanding the East Africa Force.*

*In the foreground are Mr. F. A. Bailey, District Commissioner for Scouts, Nairobi; Brigadier-General Sir Godfrey D. Rhodes, Chief Colony Scout Commissioner; and on the extreme right, the late Captain the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Erroll, Assistant Military Secretary to the East Africa Force.*



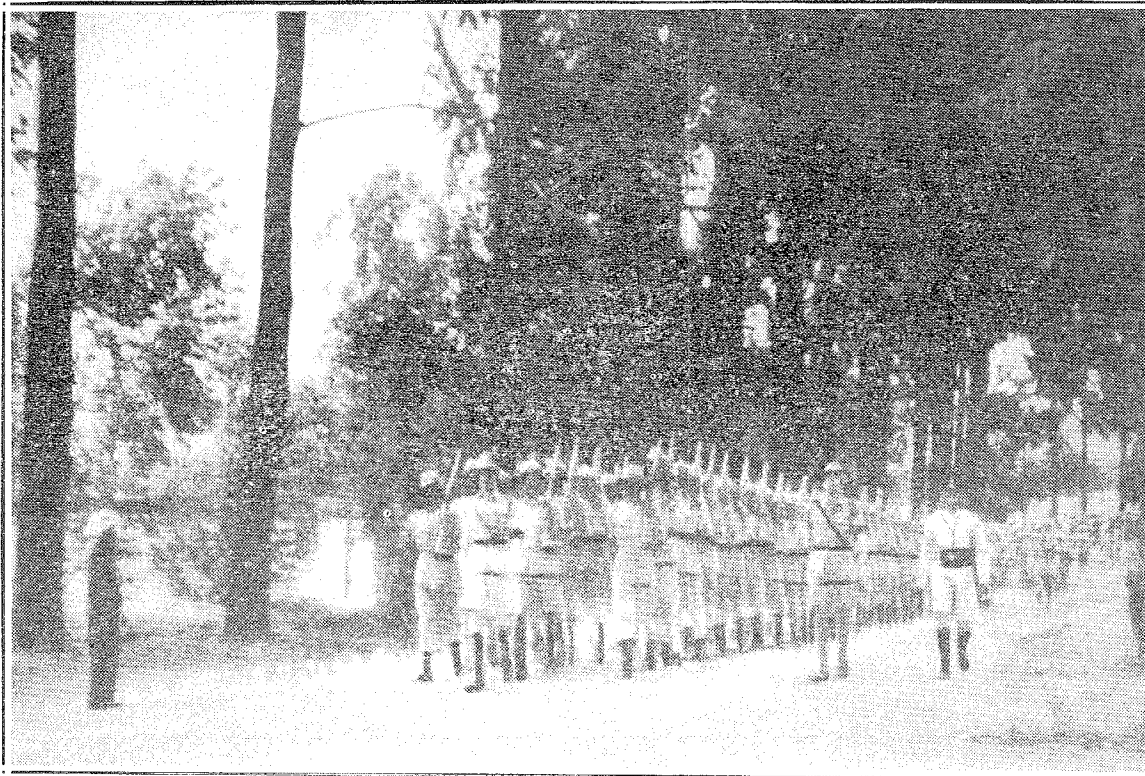
Kenya Scouts of all races took part in the procession. Above, in turbans and tarbushes, are the Indian Scouts flanking the gunners bearing the gun lead: and below, African Scouts headed by a European Scouter, passing the minute-guns at the approach to the cemetery.





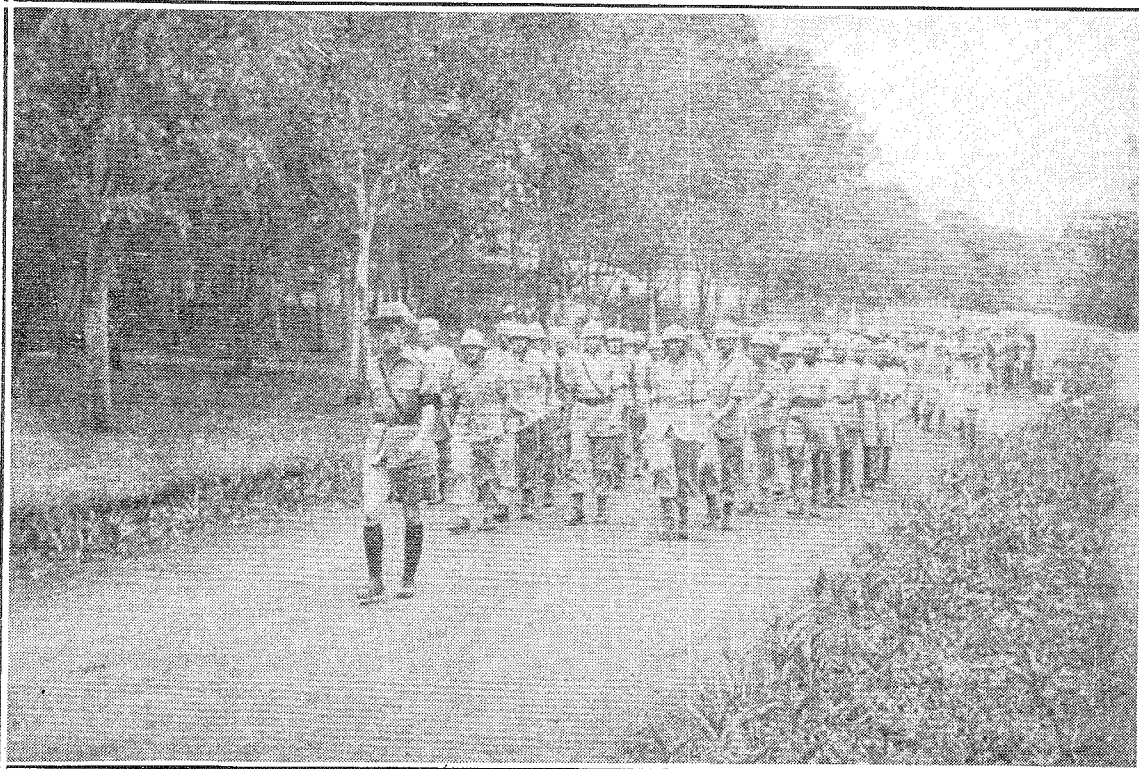
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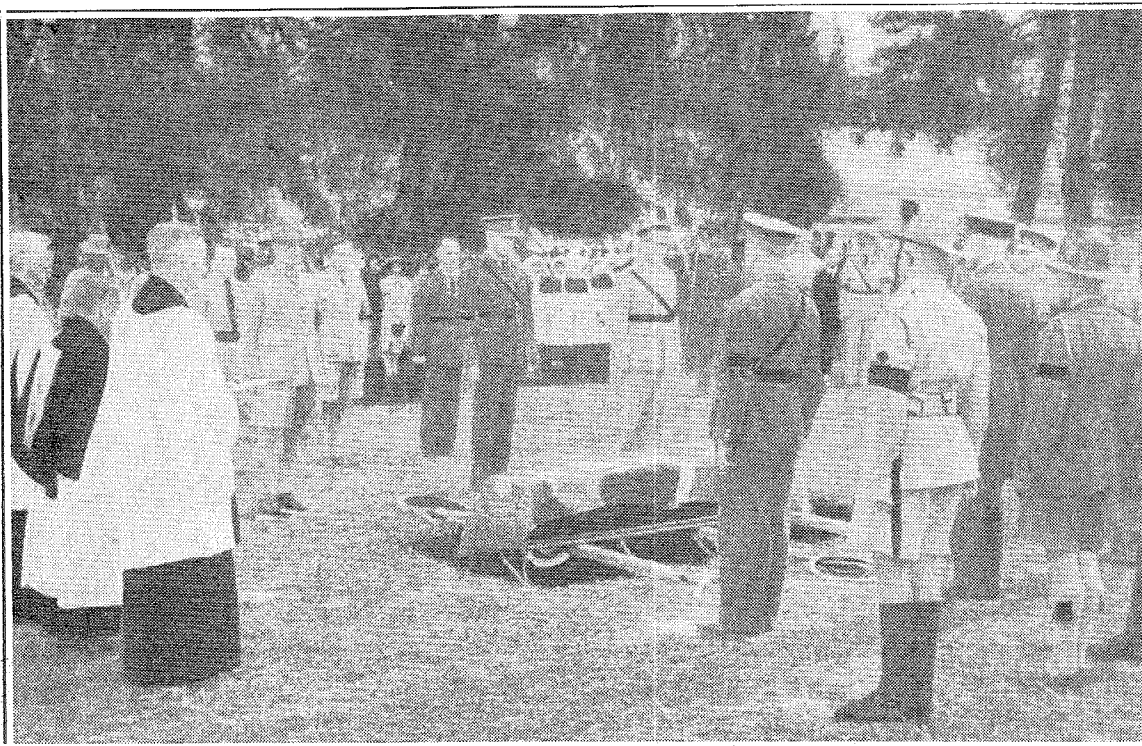




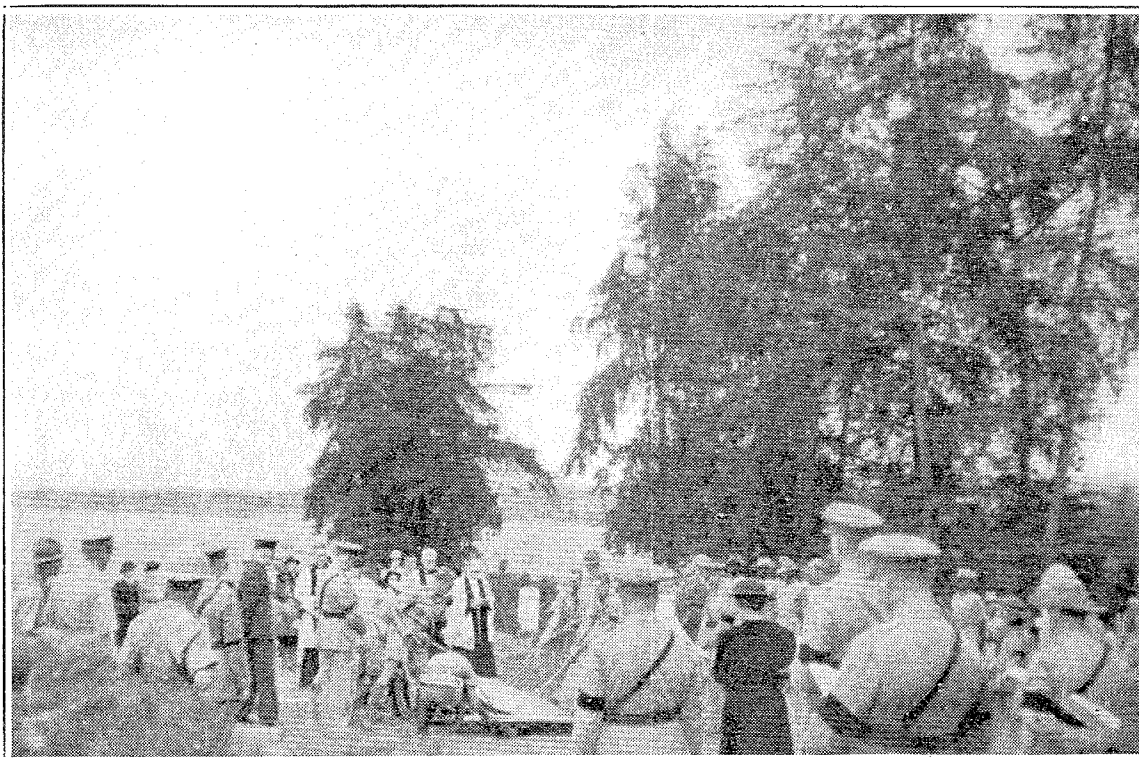
(Above) "The King's African Rifles provided the first escort and the leading deachment, followed by the band of the South African Permanent Force."

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*At the graveside. Facing the head of the coffin, His Excellency Sir Menry Moore, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Kenya Colony and Protectorate. To the left are the officiating Clergy. On either side of the coffin, the pall-bearers: Brigadier-General Sir Godfrey D. Rhodes, Chief Scout Commissioner for Kenya; the Director of Medical Services, East Africa Force; Lieutenant-General A. G. Cunningham, General Officer Commanding, East Africa Force; and (backs to the camera) the late Captain the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Erroll; and the Air Commodore Commanding the Air Force in East Africa.*



*"... Buried with his head to the Mountain which meant so much to him..." Every one of the eight members of the Bearer Party was an acting or an ex-Scout.*



*The last homage. Beside the grave ringed with wreaths from the four corners of the world, the officiating Clergy witness the placing of the last tokens of remembrance laid, in unstudied symbolism, by a soldier, and a scout.*