

The Scout & Guide Spirit Flame

22nd February – 7th August 2007



“Walking with the Flame is running with your Heart”

REPORT

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The Scout & Guide Spirit Flame A Report on an Unprecedented Operation

1. The launching of the Flame project

The launching of the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame took place in March 2006 with the first ISGF circular to the Flame countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Greece, Italy, France, Belgium, United Kingdom), which had been preceded by a more general notice given by a joint WOSM-WAGGGS circular. Support provided by the two world organisations throughout the project was crucial, particularly in countries where ISGF had no National Scout and Guide Fellowship (NSGF) yet, or the existing NSGF did not have enough members to support the project.

It took up to two months to establish a direct communication with some of the countries. All countries set up a Flame Committee and started to work with varying speed and intensity. The e-mail correspondence, though it was used by all countries, remained slow and unsatisfactory with some of them, showing yet another sign of the "e-divide" between the North and the South of the world. This fact, while making the organisation of the Flame more difficult, did not detract from the enthusiasm and personal warmth of the local organisers, when they belonged to a culture where personal contacts and oral communication count far more than the written sign.

2. The Flame Route through the nine countries

➔ A) KENYA : FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 9, 2007

Kenya was rather slow in getting organised. One of the problems was the insufficient communication between the Kenya Boy Scouts Association (KBSA) and the Kenya Girl Guides Association (KGGA), which made the working of their joint Flame Committee very cumbersome. Things forged ahead in the very last days when Martine Lévy, our Chair, plus Rigmor Lauridsen and Mario Sica, two members of the ISGF Flame Team and members of World Committee were there. The Lighting Ceremony in **Nyeri** was well organised and solemn, as it also coincided with a regular event Scouts hold every year for Thinking Day. A procession preceded by the ISGF flag followed by the band went from B.-P.s last home, Paxtu, to Nyeri's Cemetery. There the Flame was lighted on the Founder's grave in the presence of about 200 people. Several hundreds more gathered outside simply because there was not enough room for them at the grave.

From Nyeri, the Flame was taken to **Nairobi**, where it took place in a Guide Thinking Day in Nairobi's Anglican Cathedral and in the Inauguration Ceremony of the WAGGGS Africa Region Committee meeting, which had purposely been organised to coincide with the start of the Flame. As the Flame was kept at the Girl Guides Association Headquarters, it was also shown at a couple of training events held there. In all these occasions the Flame lit on the Founder's grave was given an honourable and prominent place.

Security objections were raised against the overland trip to the Moyale border (the only border post with Ethiopia), and for a time it looked as though the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame, ignited with great fanfare on 22 February, would remain stuck within Kenya. At one point a contingency plan to put the Flame at Mombasa on a boat bound for the Suez canal was considered, but ultimately it was given up because that would have meant bypassing Ethiopia altogether, and possibly Sudan as well. In the end, two brave and energetic Leaders – a Guide and a Scout – took it in their hands to take the Flame

overland from Nairobi through **Isiolo** and **Marsabit** to **Moyale** – an 850 km trip, 500 of which over a dirty road in poor shape. This small Flame party boarded a hired car which was given a police escort and took two full days to get to the border and three to get back to Nairobi: an enterprise in itself, carried out in true Scout spirit, plagued by the state of the roads ("the road was just stones, sand and dust", said their report) and mechanical failures ("we kept stopping in the middle of nowhere to fix the car but we were courageous and cheerful under all those circumstances"), but successful in the end.

At the Moyale border, the Handover Ceremony took place with the full co-operation of both border authorities.

➔ *B) ETHIOPIA: MARCH 9 – APRIL 3 2007*

The Ethiopian Scout Association, comprising both boys and girls, turned out to be a punctual and correct organiser of the Flame. Aniley Haile, the ISGF Representative (IR) directed the Flame along the route. From **Moyale** the Flame travelled to **Yabelo**, **Awassa**, **Mojo**, to the capital **Addis Abeba**. A lot of cyclists, runners and horse riders were involved. Since our Chair, Martine Lévy, was only able to be with them in the last part, they had to ensure most of their very long route alone, under the guidance of Aniley.

The Scouts and Guides were very proud to wear the orange running singlets when walking with the Flame. Those that lined up along the Flame route were many more than the 1,827 declared by the Ethiopian Association on the occasion of the last WOSM census (they have no WAGGGS members). In Addis Abeba, thousands of schoolchildren watched the Flame. Also the President of Ethiopia and patron of Ethiopian Scouts presided over the ceremony, and the Mayor of Addis Abeba, Ministers, Ambassadors and representatives of Regional and International Organisations also observed the event; more than 1,500 Scouts and the Federal police band were also on hand. The Flame visited the ancient capital of **Axum** dating back from 500 BC to 900 AD, the towns of **Debra Marcos**, **Bahardar**, **Woldya**, **Mekele** and **Adowa**, and the historical city of **Gondar** (declared Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO).

Martine Levy went to Addis Ababa and then to Gondar in the North-West where she met the Flame. A parade took place in the town up to the Castle, a beautiful building whose construction was started in the 17th century by the Portuguese.

After a short trip of 4 hours, in a terribly poor and terribly hot region (temperatures close to 50°C), the Flame arrived in **Metemma**.

The Flame was handed over to the Sudanese at the Metemma/Gallabat border, in a well-planned ceremony in the presence of Martine Lévy and Bart Dijkstra, a Dutch former Sea-Scouts leader and IR for the first part of Sudan.

Ethiopia's problem is her great isolation. Therefore the Scout leaders were extremely glad and excited to see the Flame come to their country: to them it was more than a symbol, it was a link with the outside world and a means to mobilise public opinion in support of the Movement. This is why they worked so hard to have it. The photographs and the Flame Logbook both show the Flame was a great success.

➔ *C) SUDAN: APRIL 3 – MAY 2 2007*

In Sudan, both a WOSM National Scout Organisation and a WAGGGS Member Organisation are present (no ISGF). Despite our repeated invitation and encouragement, however, Girl Guides were never invited to take part in the management of the Flame, though they were occasionally present at Flame rallies and ceremonies. The organisation itself was very uneven: at times it was fairly adequate and solemn, at some other times haphazard and scanty. Goodwill was invariably there, as was an obvious lack of means. The IR had to sleep in huts without a proper bed and even drinking water was a problem.

Few people spoke English on the way to Khartoum. The Flame party was often dependent on private accommodation provided by the local Scouts and Guides. Contrary to Ethiopia and Kenya, the organisation was rather delegated to local leaders, some of whom (in particular those who took the Flame from Khartoum to Wadi Halfa) were very capable and enthusiastic.

Again, tens of thousands of young people lined up along the very long route and participated in ceremonies. The Flame went from the border town of **Gallabat** through **Doka**, **Gadaref** and **Medina** to the capital **Khartoum**. Marching with the Flame were also two popular Disney figures such as Pluto and Goofy. Even weddings were inserted as part of the Flame festivities. There was also a show on the river Nile. Scouts were swimming with flags in the water and safety demonstrations were given. The Flame travelled the last part of the route, across the Nubian desert, by railway, all the way accompanied by Scout leaders Magdi and Adam (IR for the second part of Sudan) through **Atbara** to the **Wadi Halfa** railhead and harbour. Here the Flame was met by an Egyptian delegation which had travelled 16 hours in the Lake Nasser steamer from Aswan. In Wadi Halfa the Handover Ceremony with the Egyptians took place, in the presence of the Egyptian Consul and the local leaders.

➔ D) EGYPT: MAY 2 – JUNE 7 2007

In Egypt the Flame was organised by the Egyptian Scout and Guide Federation. Although an NSGF is nominally present in the country, its role in the organisation was very limited. The Guides were also less prominent in a general way, though the whole Flame project was put under the patronage of First Lady Suzanne Mubarak. The Egyptian organisers, led by the President of the Scout and Guide Federation, showed a considerable capacity to mobilise the authorities, in particular the governors of the 14 governorates crossed by the Flame.

The Flame crossed Lake Nasser from Wadi Halfa to **Aswan**, briefly paying homage in the night to the majestic Abu Simbel temple. Then from Aswan the Flame followed the Nile Valley through **Esna**, **Luxor**, **Qena**, **Sohag**, **Asiut**, **El-Minya** and **Beni Suef**. At Qena the Flame was caught up with by Abdeslam Benmoussa, World Committee member from Morocco, who accompanied it all the way to Alexandria as IR. The Flame moved mostly on bicycles, but also on a calash, and on the back of donkeys and camels. At El-Minya, a newly-born little girl was given the name of "the Flame of Peace" (the way the Egyptians had dubbed the Scout&Guide Spirit Flame).

Popular response was everywhere exceptional in the crowded Nile Valley and Delta, and tens of thousands of people lined up to see the Flame. Historical pageants celebrating the era of Pharaohs were held in several places. Whoever saw the Flame being carried with the Great Pyramids of Giza in the background could not but be inspired by that symbol: 15,000 thousand Scouts and guests turned up for the event. From **Giza** to **Cairo** the Flame travelled on the Nile. The Nile delta was crossed through **El-Kalyubia**, **El-Manoufia** and **Tanta**. At **Alexandria**, great reception in the Library, with many ministers, governors, ambassadors, as well as the Greek Consul. World Committee Member Leny Doelman was also there, having joined the Flame party. The send-off ceremony at Alexandria, attended by 30,000 people, was grandiose and impeccable.

The Egyptian organisers put up a number of grandiose events, sometimes relegating ordinary Scouts and Guides in the background. TV and radio coverage was outstanding. It should be noted that the timing of the Flame project in Egypt was not ideal, since May and June are examination months for students in Egypt. This undoubtedly affected the turnout at the festivals. Numbers could easily be tripled if the Flame has passed at a more suitable time.

➔ E) GREECE: 7 – 20 JUNE, 2007

On 7 June the Greek Delegation (Adults, Scouts and Guides) received the Spirit Flame from the Egyptians at Alexandria. From that harbour the Greek yacht *Carpe Diem* crossed the Mediterranean and carried the Flame to **Crete**.

On 10 June while the *Carpe Diem*, was battling to reach Crete in difficult weather conditions, at the port of **Sitia** the Scouts and Guides of Southern Crete celebrated the Flame – in spite of its delay - with an unforgettable and very touching ceremony.

It the early morning of 11 June the Flame finally reached Crete and was carried through **Ierapetra** and Sitia all the way to **Heraklion** city in Northern Crete. There all the Scouts and Guides of Eastern Crete welcomed it with festivities. During the night the Flame remained in a central square of the city. On 13 June the boat called at **Sifnos** island and by torch relay the Flame arrived in **Apollonia**, the capital of that small Aegean Sea island.

On 14 June the *Carpe Diem* arrived in the bay of **Faliron**. Hundreds of Sea Scouts and Guides in their boats or standing at the port greeted the arrival of the Flame in **Athens**: a most moving moment, as Leny Doelman, World Committee member and IR for Greece, described it. The Chief of the Greek Coast Guard – himself a Former Scout – received the Flame from a Sea Guide member of the *Carpe Diem* crew. From there torch bearers on bicycles carried it to the centre of Athens in Klathmonos Square, where it remained in a specially decorated stage until the evening of 17 June. All this time the Flame was guarded by Scouts and Guides.

On 16 June at 20h30 a great festivity took place at Kallimarmaro Panathinaiko Stadium, the 1896 revival of the Olympic Games venue. Older and younger Scouts and Guides from all over Greece gathered there for a unique celebration: people who once shared the "Scout and Guide Spirit" and people who believe in human values were also invited. Everyone welcomed the Spirit Flame, which symbolised the vision of Lord Baden Powell, apostle of brotherhood between peoples and world peace.

The Spirit Flame relay on the Greek mainland began with the first runner from Klathmonos Square. The Flame passed through the pedestrian street underneath the hill of Acropolis and via Iera Odos – one of the older roads in Europe - reached **Egaleo** city. There a short ceremony took place and then the Flame carried by Scouts and Guides continued its way to **Elefsina**, where a special event was also organised. From this point up to England the Flame was accompanied by two support Toyota Prius cars graciously offered by the Toyota Company (they are ecological cars with a hybrid, petrol-cum-electricity engine). On 18 June the Flame from Elefsina went through **Megara** and from there to **Korinthos**. A welcome ceremony was organized in the main square of Korinthos with the presence of local Scouts and Guides and other guests. The Flame spent the night in that historical city. On the morning of 19 June the Flame moved to **Xilokastro** town from where, after a short celebration, it continued its journey to **Egio**, a city situated on the northern coast of Peloponnese. The ceremony there was really unforgettable.

On 20 June the Flame set out for its last journey within Greece and from **Kiato** reached the port of **Patra**. The President of the Italian NSGF participated in the send-off ceremony organised by the local Scouts and Guides and received the Flame. The Italian crew and the Spirit Flame was waved goodbye by hundreds of Scouts and Guides at the port of Patra late that night.

Television and radio coverage as well as newspapers and magazines publicised the project in Greece. More than 2.500 former and active Scouts and Guides were actively involved in it, and more than 5.000 former Scouts and Guides and 60.000 Scouts and Guides in Greece were informed about it. All costs were covered by national sponsors and donations.

The Flame landed in **Bari** in the morning of June 24 after crossing the Mediterranean, in a boat whose skipper and most of the crew were either Scouts or former Scouts. In the last part of its voyage, the Flame boat was escorted by several smaller boats of a Sea Scout rally that was held in Bari to coincide with the arrival of the Flame.

The Flame was received by a 1,000-1,200 strong crowd massed on Bari's seaside terrace and formed mainly by young and adult Scouts. The Flame immediately lit a brazier made up by pieces of wood brought in by each Scout Group. There followed the renewal of the Scout Promise and a few speeches. The temperature was so high that the local fire brigade arrived and with their fire hydrants proceeded there and then to give the Scouts a good shower – quite a sight! A few dozen torches were then lit from the brazier and the Chief Scout read a beautiful quotation from the last page of *Scouting For Boys*. Then the procession of the torchbearers, most of whom were future Jamboree participants, moved on through the city's main streets to the Cathedral, in the heart of the old city, for another brief ceremony, and then the Flame started being carried up the Adriatic coast through **Barletta, Foggia, San Severo** by bicycle. The riding was hard as the temperature was about 40° C., one of the torchbearers fainted, but the Scouts insisted to go on and managed to keep the schedule.

In the region of Molise the Flame sailed on a raft built by the boys themselves to get across the Biferno river. On to **Pescara** through **Termoli** and **Lanciano**. Then the Flame left the Adriatic Sea and crossed the Apennine at the historical pass of Forca Caruso, 1,107 m above sea level. Still on bikes the plain of the reclaimed lake Fucino was crossed, and finally, through **Avezzano** and **Guidonia, Rome**, the Eternal City was reached. Here two important events took place: a ceremony at the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier in the presence of Scout and Guide Leaders and of Mrs. Calipari, the widow of an Italian official killed in Baghdad on 4 March 2005 to save an Italian hostage. The second event was the welcome given to the Flame by His Holiness Benedict XVI in his speech at St. Peter's Square.

The Flame then called at the historical Scout training grounds of **Bracciano** and at a large Scout camping site known as "B.-P. Park". Here a street was inaugurated in the presence of a Roman Catholic Cardinal and a Deputy Minister, both former scouts. The Flame left the camp site on a horse-driven coach towards **Viterbo**, then on by bike through Umbria, **Siena** (where IR Mario Sica rode one 60 km bike relay), always escorted by road police. In **Pisa** a ceremony in a church was officiated by the local Archbishop in the presence of a huge crowd of Scouts and Guides.

On the following day the Flame went up the Tyrrhenian coast up to **Lerici** stopping at the local sailing club and spending the night at a Scout farm. Then on to **Genoa** through the Bracco pass. A great ceremony took place in Genoa harbour with the departure of the Flame on a sailing boat calling at **Pietra Ligure** and **Loano** and landing at **Albenga**, with a great number of Scouts, Guides and Cubs, as well as the Secretary-General of the Italian NSGF.

On 9 July the Handover Ceremony took place with the French brothers and sisters at the **Ventimiglia** border. The Italians followed the Flame up to the Principality of Monaco.

The Flame in Italy was a great success. It received an overwhelming welcome everywhere. It acted as a revealer of the Scout heritage existing in the country, with many actors, from Carabinieri to Prefects to road police, openly declaring their past Scout membership. It provoked important speeches. It reminded everyone that Scout ideals are relevant to-day and for the future, as long as we continue to carry them in our hearts.

➔ G) FRANCE: 9 – 25 JULY, 2007

The passage of the Flame through France (9-25 July) corresponded to the camping season for Scouts and Guides. It was then decided to meet the young people in their camps, and also to visit some symbolic or historical places. The Flame route was as follows.

From **Menton**, border town with Italy, where the Handover Ceremony from Italy to France was held in the presence of the local authorities of both countries, the Flame reached the **principality of Monaco**, an independent State, on a sailing boat surrounded by 8 deep sea kayaks manned by Scouts and Guides. After landing the Flame was blessed by the Archbishop of Monaco and was paraded up to the Place du Château and Fort Antoine. Many young Scouts and Guides of Monaco and many onlookers participated in the ceremony; a message of Prince Albert was read. The Flame left the Principality of Monaco on a bike: two Scouts escorted by the Monaco road police took it to Nice, where the handover of the Flame from Monaco to France took place.

After a stop at **Malamaire** for a meeting with about 200 Cubs and Brownies, the Flame was welcomed by the "Réseau des amis" (Former Scouts and Guides) some 30 km before Mélan: a relay run of torch bearers had been organised on a 20 km route which was difficult because of strong wind. With the Toyota cars procession and all the flags (ISGF, Flame, WAGGGS, WOSM) waving, the Flame got to **Mélan**, a small village in the Hautes Alpes, well-known as a camping region for French Scouts and Guides. A welcome by the Mayor of Mélan was followed by an evening show given by the hundreds of Scouts and Guides present.

At **Sisteron**, small historical town, the Flame paid a visit to the Baden-Powell Museum created by Georges Lorenzi, and lit a candle which was left at the Museum. A long road took it to **Bécours**, the site of an estate of "Eclaireuses et Eclaireurs de France" (EEDF). The Flame travelled some kilometres on dromedaries, followed by dozens of young people. Photos were taken with the Millau bridge in the background. Trapper-style dinner for hundreds of people.

The Flame then started for **Clermont-Ferrand** by a two-hour kayak trip on the Allier carried out by Scouts and Guides. It was then carried by bicycle by young people assisted by cyclists of a local club. There followed a long parade through the city up to Cathedral Square, on the theme "Scouting through the ages". Splendid ceremony on the Square, then reception at the Mayor's office, with an exhibition organised by the Scouts and Guides de France. The following day, celebration of the so-called "Oradou Charter", which established the Federation of French Scouting in September 1940: the then organisations of Scouting in France decided to get together to fight jointly against the Vichy regime. The five associations of "Scoutisme français" were there, as well as Mr. Michelin, since the fountain where the plaque is placed is in his family estate. In the afternoon, while the Flame visited a park, some kids decided to join the Scouts. Following a night show, rockets sent the Flame symbolically up in the air.

The Flame paid homage to **Chambon sur Lignon**, named "Village of the Just" by the State of Israel, because during the war it saved more than 4,000 Jews (mostly children), or more than twice its population. At the ceremony, presided over by the Mayor, a big delegation of "Eclaireuses et Eclaireurs Israélites de France" and a dozen of young Israelis were present. It was on 16 July, the anniversary of the Vel d'Hiv roundup (1942), when thousands of Jews were arrested in Paris.

Not many people were around in **Lyon** as most of the Scouts were in camp. A more than 90-year-old Former Scout was present. The Flame went through the city, then had a very beautiful ceremony at the Mayor's office, presided over by one Mayor's aide, a former "Eclaireuse Israélite". Presentation of the Scouts and Guides de France exhibition. Night show at Notre Dame de Fourvière on the theme of peace. At **Mâcon**, small ceremony and EEDF exhibition.

Chardonnay: the Flame was welcomed by the Mayor and carried on foot by a few young people. Lunch at the EEDF estate with some non-Scout young people. At **Châlon sur Saône** a few Scouts carried the Flame through part of the town. Reception by the Mayor in front of the Townhall. At **Le Creusot**, after the reception by the Mayor, some Scouts and Guides de France and d'Europe relayed to carry the Flame up to Breuil, an estate of the Scouts and Guides de France. At **Arcenant**, an EEDF estate, a ceremony took place with the former President of Scoutisme Français, the former President of FAAS and a number of Guides camping there.

The Flame then travelled through the route of the Great Wines and was welcomed in Dijon in the garden of the Bénédictins. The person representing the Mayor was a former "Eclaireuse Israélite". At **Courteron**, a little village on the Troyes road, the Flame was welcomed by the Mayor, but especially by Dutch Cubs and Brownies who were in camp with those of Troyes. The children danced in their national dresses. The Cubs left by bike towards **Balnot**, an estate of the Troyes Scout Group. Then the Flame moved to « La Rosière », where it got on a gig, then on foot through two lines of people in uniform. After a ceremony with the local Bishop a huge feast took place, with more than 600 people and "méchoui". At **Troyes**, huge ceremony on Townhall Square. Midday campfire lit by the Flame, with many onlookers, then reception at the Townhall. An old lady was delighted to be able to touch the Flame.

Paris-Trocadéro: the Flame got at the foot of the Esplanade des Droits de l'Homme, where a tent had been pitched by the Troyes Scout Group (exhibition of the Scouts and Guides de France and others); a Scottish bagpiper opened the parade. Great feast with plenty of people (some came on purpose from Uganda and Koweit). Quite a few personalities were on hand, among whom Malick M'Baye of UNESCO and Bronze Wolf of WOSM, Mr. Taittinger, the Mayor of the 16th "arrondissement" and a former Minister, and officials of various Ministries and Embassies. A few choirs, among which "À Cœur Joie", and the Versailles Scout and Guide orchestra.

Paris-Sénat: Round Table, with Marie-Ange Lescure, former well-known reporter on several TV channels, now an official of UNHCR, as moderator, and Charles Edouard Harang, historian, Jacques Delobel, President of FAAS, Martine Lévy, Chairman of ISGF, and Mario Sica, member of the ISGF World Committee and historian of B.-P.: an interesting meeting ably interpreted by Jean-François Lévy.

Paris-Arc de Triomphe: extraordinary ceremony of the Reviving of the Flame at the Unknown Soldier Memorial, in remembrance of all the Scouts and Guides who fell on all the world's fronts in 100 years, in the presence of about 600 young people or former Scouts and Guides from the whole world. This was followed by a night show at the **Jambville** estate of the Scouts and Guides de France, with many young people about to leave for the Jamboree.

At **Moisson**, site of the 1947 Peace Jamboree, a memorial plaque was unveiled. Walks through the 1947 camping grounds. Meetings and discussions on the big meadow, and visit of the camp built by the Scouts camping there. Fine campfire.

From a meeting at **Béthune** some young EEDF started on their bikes to take the Flame to Lambersart and then to Péruwelz, where the Flame is handed to Belgium.

A wonderful adventure : 1,800 kilometres, 20 localities, meetings with several townships, speeches in every place, radio and TV interviews. A fine team that travelled through France; many people making this project their own to carry it out.

EEDF cyclists appeared in the **Bonsecours** wood, in a fine afternoon of 25 July, carrying the Flame. An important crowd had gathered around the Basilica and escorted the party to the Cellier du Château. As Chairman of the ISGF, Martine Lévy handed over the Flame to Anne Dupont who in turn handed it to the President of the Chaîne, then to the oldest Scout in the region.

The Flame continued towards **Leuze** for a nice ceremony. Then the party proceeded to **Ath** where a Giant B.-P. was dancing. The Flame paraded through the main road and was welcomed by the authorities who underlined the role of Scouting in society. Visit of the exhibition prepared by a Scout Group. The party left for **Bruxelles** where a night show had been prepared. The songs and a splendid fire conveyed the values represented by the Flame: working for Peace, burn out our prejudices, open up ourselves to others, unite all generations to create *together* a better world.

On 26 July the crowd invaded Brussels' Grand'Place from 9 a.m. 650 Finnish Scouts joined the party which watched the Giant B.-P. in this grandiose framework. The township authorities welcomed the Flame, and a special Flame scarf was donated to Manneken Pis in the presence of all his confraternity. Reception at the Townhall with a great number of Former Scouts and Guides. A delegation of ISGF, with Martine Lévy, and of the Belgian NSGF was received at the European Commission by the chief of cabinet of Commissioner Figel, to whom it explained what ISGF is all about and what an ISGF role could be within the European Youth Forum. The delegation also handed him a message for Peace.

In **Liège**, the Flame got down from the Citadelle to the Perron. Reception at the Townhall, where the alderman reminded the audience of the ten points of the Scout Law. Very fine exhibition of 100 years of Scouting in Liège. The Flame reached **Hasselt** amid a crowd of young people and Former Scouts and Guides, and continued towards the Scout Museum of **Leuven** where it was waited for, among others, by about 50 British Scouts rescued from the flood, and welcomed by the Director of the Museum and the Mayor. Then it continued its journey towards **Malines** and, for the first time, a heavy downpour fell upon the cyclists, who however managed to make it without great problems to the monument jointly dedicated to the local Scout and Guide associations.

On 26 July the Flame was welcomed by the playing of bagpipes before the **Antwerpen** Townhall entirely decorated with flags. A procession of old cars completed the cortege which was opened by the young Scouts of the 12th Troop "Prins Albert". A group of VOSOG forms the figure 100. Reception at the Townhall where a former Mayor underlined Scouting's peace-loving role and warned against the Movement's deviations. The Flame left for the left bank in a boat, then towards **Gand**, where it was welcomed with the ISGF song sung by a very fine VOSOG choir. The Flame party went through the town on foot and at the Graslei formed a human chain where the Flame was transmitted from hand to hand. Departure by bus for **Lichtervelde**, a small village full of broadly smiling young Scouts in a far corner of Flanders. Sausages and hot-dogs, an exemplary Scout camp, a warm welcome by authorities. The Flame party went on to **Ypres** where its journey in Belgium came to an end. André Vanderlinden, President of VOSOG, lay a wreath at the monument of the Porte de Menin: a moving ceremony, followed by many British tourists and other people, which reminded everyone of one's commitment as citizen and of the duty of loyalty towards one's own country.

The Flame was a great challenge of visibility for ISGF and forced all Adult, Scout and Guides associations to communicate with one another, whereas sometimes they work in the same town without knowing each other. The three Belgian associations mobilised for this "great game", each with its own style, resources and creativity. Communication among the teams and team spirit proved essential elements of success. The Flame was able to put together and unite the efforts of all.

Saturday 28 July: The Flame reaches the UK in the official Toyota Flame car transported from Dunkirk to **Dover** courtesy of Norfolk Lines Ferry. Allan & Sue Page of UK Adult Scout Alliance were waiting in the Docks to guide them to Dover Marina.

At precisely 12 noon André Vanderlinden from Belgium handed over the Flame to Allan & Pam of the UK in the presence of Pam Makepeace of the UK Trefoil Guild. The Flame was added to the special lamp for cycles and at 3.30pm it left Dover for **Folkestone**. There the Flame was welcomed by the Mayor, and representatives from Scouting & Guiding. Allan spoke on behalf of the ISGF, many photos were taken and the local Guides served refreshments; the cycling party was waved off from Folkestone en route for the Imperial Hotel at **Hythe** from where the Flame was carried by canoe, escorted by Explorer Scouts from Gravesham, to its overnight resting point at Hythe.

Sunday 29 July: in the early morning the Flame left Hythe by cycle heading for **Newchurch, Bilsington, Ruckinge, Hamstreet, and Woodchurch to Tenterden**. Scouts from New Romney & Lydd cycled the first section, followed by Scouts from Kennington. Brownies on Pack Holiday lined the road at Ruckinge to greet the cycling party. The handover from Kennington to Dartford Scouts at Hamstreet involved a pageant on the village green, with at least 50 Scouts taking part. The Flame was cycled on to Woodchurch & Tenterden by Scouts from Woodford and 1st Dartford where it was greeted by a large crowd including a group from the local Trefoil Guild at Tenterden Town Station. The last Kent section from Tenterden to **Bodiam** was by kind permission of the Kent & East Sussex Railway, although they were unable to use the vintage train carriage as originally planned.

At Bodiam Castle a reporter from BBC South East filmed the handover of the Flame from Kent to Sussex. The Flame was received by the 1st Hastings Scout Group who accompanied the 1st Henfield, Scouts, Guides & Brownies to **Burwash**, where the Flame was paraded through the main street. At **Newick** the ladies of Lewes Windmill Trefoil Guild had decorated the roadside verges and laid on a big welcome with the local Rainbows, Brownies & Guides. There was a big welcome for the Flame at **Heathfield** before it was joined by a marching band to parade to a big celebration, with Morris Dancers, a Samba Band and finally a camp fire. The Flame spent the night in Henfield Scout Headquarters.

Monday 30 July: The Flame went from Henfield to **Billingshurst** where the Flame was paraded through the town by Cubs, Scouts & Guides from the 1st Billingshurst groups, supported by the 2nd Billingshurst Brownies, the Wealden Trefoil Guild & local members of the Scout Fellowship. At **Petworth** the local Scout Group helped the Flame on its journey on a trek cart and appeared on the regional lunch time news on television. The Flame was an hour late arriving in **Petersfield** due to the large numbers of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies & Guides who came out to greet it along the way. The Market Square was full with Scout Groups from Petersfield, Liphook, Sheet & Liss. They were joined by members from Chichester Harbour Trefoil Guild, Petersfield Scout Fellowship and a group of visiting Girl Scouts from Japan.

The Flame was handed over from Sussex to Hampshire in the presence of the Petersfield Mayor. The local Scouts & Guides took the Flame all round the town and the organisers appeared on the regional television news. A group of local Scouts, Explorers & Network members cycled the Flame to **Cheriton**, where it was handed over to the Winchester Scout District. Carol Bowen, the local District Commissioner, had organised for the Flame to be pulled through the main street in **Winchester** on a trek cart accompanied by local Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Trefoil Guild and the Mayor. Outside the civic offices speeches of welcome were given under the watchful eye of the 'Hampshire Hog' statue. After a brief stop at Lainstone House, the Flame was taken to **Romsey** where it was welcomed by the local Mayor and taken all round the town. From **Copythorne** it was

taken by local Scouts on a trek cart to the Guide Headquarters at **Foxlease**. Local Sea Scouts appeared running with the Flame on the trek cart to a great welcome from the many Guides, Brownies and Trefoil Guild members. Also present were Jane Wardropper, the Chairman of the ISGF Europe Region Committee and Margaret Wellock, Trefoil Guild International Secretary, plus Anne Dupont of the World Committee and a party from the Belgian Guilds. The Flame left Foxlease in a horse and carriage, kindly provided by the British Driving Society, to travel with the New Forest Scouts along the Forestry Commission trails of the New Forest to the Hampshire County Scout Camp, where 6,000 members of Hampshire Scouting watched the Flame light that evening's Camp Fire.

Tuesday 31 July: the Flame was driven in a vintage Austin 7, courtesy of the Dorset Austin Severn Club, by the leader of Hampshire Scouts, who handed the Flame over to the leader of Dorset Scouts at **Sopley**. Then the Flame was handed to a runner who ran the 8 miles to **Hengistbury Head** with the torch. From Hengistbury, the Bournemouth Scouts walked along the sea front with the Flame all the way to **Boscombe Pier** and it was then taken on to **Branksome Chine** where it was handed over to the Lilliput Sea Scouts. Here the 'land train' that was to bring them to **Poole** was found to have just broken down, but Scouts, always ready to overcome any obstacle, ran to their Sea Scout HQ and got out their boats. A message was passed to Poole, and the Mayor and the welcoming party made their way to the other end of the Promenade to meet the Flame as it was sailed into Poole Marina – what a fantastic sight this was with all the boats coming round the harbour wall bearing the Flame. All the Sea Scouts disembarked and the Mayor led them in procession to the top of the Promenade where he welcomed the Flame to Poole and wished the Sea Scouts well on their journey to Brownsea.

The Flame party went to **Brownsea Island** by ferry. The Sea Scouts bravely rowed the Flame to Castle Quay, finally to reach its destination on Brownsea. A small party of Sea Scouts brought the Flame ashore, and a light was taken from the torch by the Patrol Leader of the Replica Scouts who then lit a candle in a large ship's lantern. The Sea Scouts returned to their boats and to hails of farewell sailed back to Poole. The Scouts from the Replica Camp carried the ship's lantern up the hill to the commemorative stone and on to the Camp Fire Circle in the Scout Camp at Brownsea. There the names of each of the original 20 boys were called and each Replica Scout in turn stepped forward to light a candle from the Flame. The accompanying Flame party then had to hurry back down the hill as the last ferry left the island at 6pm.

Back in Poole everyone hurried to their cars and drove to **Buddens**, the Dorset County Scout Camp. Here the Flame proceeded along the top of the Camp Arena to light that evening's Camp Fire. All this was shown on the large screen, so that every Scout present was able to see the Flame and the Camp Fire. The Flame stayed at Buddens overnight, in readiness for the Sunrise Ceremony the next day.

Wednesday 1 August, 'Scouting's Sunrise': the Flame Party were all up very early to be at Buddens before 7am. Soon everyone gathered to watch the Sunrise Ceremony, which was once again shown on the big screen and came from Brownsea Island. All 4,000 Scouts present joined in to renew their Promise. Afterwards Sue & Allan with the Flame, along with Martine and Mario, started on the long and very hot journey to Essex and the Jamboree at **Hylands Park**, where the Flame was handed over to Leny Doelman at the ISGF booth.

At the Jamboree, more than 1,300 visitors came to see the Flame. Here the Flame was officially extinguished after having accomplished its mission.

This was the UK Adult Scout Alliance first project as members of ISGF. Help from the Trefoil Guild executive and members was invaluable and proved that we can work together on projects such as this. All our ASA members worked well with Scouting & Guiding throughout the whole duration of the project. Overall we encountered much enthusiasm and a willingness to help and participate in this event. Those of our members who travelled with the Flame and the young people have said how much they enjoyed the event. Scouting & Guiding members have said how much they enjoyed working with ASA members. Much positive publicity was gained for Scouting & Guiding in the UK and all those involved agree that it was a great success.

3. The “side Flames”

Starting from the Italian section of the route, “side Flames”, or Flames that branched off from the main Flame to reach other countries, became a regular feature. From Italy a side flame went up the Adriatic coast all the way to Austria; from Bécours a side flame was handed to Pascal Lartigue to be taken to Senegal with the Peace Caravan; at Troyes a side flame was handed to a Dutch party; from Paris, flames went to Spain, Portugal and even Chili; at Moisson, Swiss, Portuguese and Luxemburgian parties lighted their own flames which they took back to their countries.

This was a spontaneous development. The ISGF Flame Team was too overworked to organise it in a systematic way. Had we done it, we could easily have “inflamed” the whole world.

4. The image of the Movement

Fears were expressed at one point that the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame might send the public a wrong signal, or at least one that was in some way at variance with the image that WOSM and WAGGGS were busy promoting for the Centenary.

Though we never clearly understood what was meant by this criticism, we of course kept it in mind. May we sum up the result by saying in the clearest terms that in all the nine countries the Flame operation was seen as embodying the Spirit of the Scout & Guide Movement, was welcomed as a legitimate part of the Centenary celebrations, and indeed literally fired the imagination of the Scout leaderships and the rank-and-file. The Flame was never seen as something which would hinder the ordinary activities of local Scouting & Guiding, but rather as a big boost for them in the eyes of public opinion. This was the reason why the national leaderships decided to invest so many efforts in it. They grasped the Flame project with both hands as a tool for their own Centenary celebrations.

In all nine countries the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame turned out to be a big promotion, not so much for ISGF, but for the Movement as a whole. Hundreds of thousands, perhaps over a million people, including many who had never heard about it before, were confronted with the Scout & Guide idea, asked about the Scout & Guide ideals, and received an emotional impression that is bound to remain with them for a long time. While most European borders have practically disappeared or are disappearing, in Africa a border is still a demarcation line that separates two cultures not always so friendly to each other. Yet those who witnessed the Handover Ceremonies at the African borders realised once more the Movement's capacity to devalue national boundaries: borders opened widely for the Flame and its party including for people whose “entry visa” was the Flame itself. Scouting, as also the Centenary Jamboree was to prove, is brotherhood across and above borders. Those who heard Baden-Powell's quotations being read at the ceremonies could not fail being impressed by their prophetic dimension and continued relevance. So far as WOSM and WAGGGS were concerned, this result was achieved at absolutely no cost.

Security was a point that was at heart both of WOSM and WAGGGS, and was one of our main concerns, since it could also reflect on the image of the Movement. We took a number of precautions, including insurance, emergency procedures and contingency plans. ISGF Representatives (IR) accompanied the Flame everywhere. Most of them were from Europe, except for most of the Ethiopian part of the route and some of the Sudan: they had a detailed instructions Handbook with them that they passed on to the next IR. Luckily no accidents occurred anywhere. Co-operation by the local police and security forces was invariably very good, as was that by the border police, particularly at the Kenya-Ethiopia and Ethiopia-Sudan borders, where not only “white” expatriates, but people of the neighbouring country were admitted temporarily without any problems – though, as we said, they had no entry visa – “because they were with the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame”.

5. Budgetary considerations

While we draw attention to the detailed Flame budget elsewhere, we wish to point out that the operation was carried out on a shoe string. Flame countries had to be self-sufficient, except the four non-European countries which received refund only for specific cost items approved by the Flame Team (in the end they received amounts ranging from 4,000 to 5,500 Euros each). ISGF Representatives from Europe had to make do with a lump sum: 600 Euros for non-European countries, 300 for European ones, 100 when it was their own country. In the end, all of them spent much more, and we considered that they were rightly paying “the Flame tax”: they paid for the fun the Flame gave them.

Globally, the operation cost ISGF about 50,000 Euros, of which approximately 30,000 was the amount spent in the four non-European countries. This amount was drawn from our Development Fund. The remaining 20,000 Euros were almost fully covered by donations or by the proceedings from the sales of Flame souvenirs. Further donations or sales will be used to replenish the Development Fund.

6. The follow-up

At world level we are now busy to exploit the “Flame drive” by promoting NSGFs in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan, where they do not exist yet, and to re-vitalise our Egyptian NSGF. We already received some applications for individual membership from some of these countries, but we aim for much more. We also believe we can work with the WAGGGS and WOSM African and Arab regions to develop the Movement further in those regions, especially in the four Flame countries which have a lot of potential.

7. Conclusion

As a great co-operative effort, the Flame was a powerful reminder of the spirit and values the Movement stands for. The Adult World Organisation ISGF, as part of the worldwide Scout and Guide Movement, feels proud to have organised such an unprecedented enterprise.

The Flame was a team work. Credit for its success goes to hundreds of people in nine countries. Mentioning only some names would not do justice to others. Suffice it to say that all of them put in not only their intelligence and capacity, but also that ingredient which remains the key to success: their hearts.

When it was first aired, the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame project was laughed off by some as being a crazy idea, a sheer impossibility or, worse, a waste of time and money.

Some – in the Centenary Sub-Committee of WOSM – were afraid lest it could divert attention and resources from the main Centenary celebrations. Still others said it would project the wrong image of the Movement: an image focused on the past rather than on the future.

Looking back, we do think it was money and time well spent, since, as we said, the Flame came quite naturally to be a part of the mainstream Centenary celebrations, mutually supportive with all other events. We maintained, and indeed felt throughout, and read in the eyes and enthusiasm of the youth of all the Flame countries, that the Flame was *not a commemoration of the past*, but rather the confirmation and strengthening of that “B.-P. Spirit” which will continue to guide the Movement in the years ahead.

However, now that the Flame has turned out to be a great success, we can readily admit that it was indeed a “crazy” idea. Like many other ideas in the history of Scouting & Guiding, starting with the 1907 Brownsea experimental camp itself, the 1920 Olympia Jamboree, and others, it was one of those unusual, but visionary projects that should perhaps be pursued more often and with greater courage in the Movement, because they appeal not only to people’s intelligence, but to their hearts and imagination as well, and in the end are bound to succeed.

Finally, concerning impossibility, we are glad to have kicked the “im” off that word!

Martine Lévy, ISGF Chair

and the ISGF Flame Team (in alphabetical order):

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