In the 1890s, Baden-Powell fought in the Matabele campaign in what is now Zimbabwe. The Matabele warriors had a unique method of military signaling, using the deep note of a kudu horn to carry coded signals over long distances. After the campaign, B-P took one of these horns home as a trophy. At the Brownsea Island camp in 1907, the first Scouts were woken every morning by the sound of B-P’s kudu horn. The Brownsea Camp led on to the birth of the Scout movement, and later B-P gave his kudu horn to the new Scoutmaster training ground, Gilwell Park outside London. In 1929, the 21st birthday of Scouting was celebrated in a World Jamboree at Arrowe Park. Baden-Powell used the same kudu horn to call the Jamboree together.

The kudu is one of the largest and most beautiful antelope in Africa. It is also the origin of an obscure tradition in Scouting: all over the world, the elegant spiral horns of the kudu, hollowed out as a wind instrument, are used as signal horns to call Scout camps and training courses together.

Collectors’ Corner: World Bureau and World Crest Insignia

10 June 2014
Venture Scout Phurba Tenjing Sherpa (first on the right side, wearing the scarf of Vienna’s 8th Scout & Guide Group) and fellow mountaineers proudly displaying the flag of the Venture Scouts and Guides of Wiener Pfadfindergruppe 8, in the base camp shortly after having returned from the top of Mount Everest.
Scouting in Lebanon:

The Lebanese Scouting Federation (LSF), the national federation of 28 Scouting organizations of Lebanon, was founded in 1961. Lebanon became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1947. Scouting was introduced in Lebanon by two teachers, Abdul Satar and Mohammad Abdul Jabbar Khairy who received support from Toufik El Hibri. They came to Lebanon from England in 1912 and established the first Scout troop in the school owned by El Hibri, where they worked. In 1973, Muhammad Toufik El Hibri was posthumously awarded the Bronze Wolf, the only distinction of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, awarded by the World Scout Committee for exceptional services to world Scouting.

During the years of war in Lebanon, Scouts, from all association played an important role in helping civilians. They distributed food, medicine, and other forms of aid to refugees. Some Scouting associations formed First Aid groups that helped the wounded. Scouts also participated in peace campaigns to help put an end to that war. During the war, Scouts from all sides of the conflict remained brothers and remained in contact with each other. Their unity was a good example for all Lebanese. All this helped create a good image for Scouting in Lebanon. People here tend to respect Scouts and encourage their children to join the Scouting movement.

Today, years after the war had ended, Scouting in Lebanon still faces great tasks. Lebanon is now involved in a large reconstruction plan aimed to erase all the effects of the war and to enable it to regain its advanced role in the world. Scouting organizations around the world teach children about unity, service, and country. While they also do so in Lebanon, Scouting groups here perpetuate sectarian divisions under one unified entity. “Each political party has Scouts because, to continue their party, they need young people to grow up with the spirit of their group,” says Sami Abou Jaoudi, former president of the LSF which oversees the associations.

18 June 2014 – The World Scout Bureau opened its new office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Scott Teare, Secretary General, said at the opening: “We are delighted to be here in Brickfields, in a modern office connected to easy and fast moving means of transportation to the city and to the KL International Airport. This is very important for us as we will welcome our volunteers and staff from across the globe more or less on a daily basis.”