

BOY SCOUTS AND WAR WORK

until relieved of this duty by the National Volunteers, which body had sprung into existence.

Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters immediately volunteered for active service, leaving their troops in the hands of their patrol leaders to carry on until they came home. Alas! the roll of honour of these men is heavy indeed, and nothing remains but the effect of their work and their memory to the troops so well and lovingly tended. The Navy, Air Service, and Army received large numbers of the older Scouts, and the general opinion of the authorities of their training and character is expressed in the terse request; "Send us more of them!" Many distinctions have been won by Scouts, the two most prominent being that of Scout Jack Travers Cornwell, V.C., the sailor boy who stuck to his gun, although himself mortally wounded, with the gun's crew lying dead and wounded round him, for the simple reason as stated by him: "In case I might be wanted!"; the other of Lieut. Reginald Haine, H.A.A., V.C., King's Scout of the Petersham Troop, of whom the official report says that: "Throughout these operations this Officer's superb courage, quick decision, and calm judgment were beyond all praise, and it was his splendid personal example which inspired his men to continue their efforts during more than thirty hours of continuous fighting."

The voluntary and semi-voluntary work taken up by the Scouts was the cause of two War Service badges being issued by Headquarters to mark their recognition of the boys' patriotism. We find them acting as messengers at the War Office, the Admiralty, the Red Cross, and most, if not all, of the Colonial and Government offices; the various patriotic societies were greatly indebted to them, and even private firms would have Scouts before any other boys. Then we have numberless reports of Boy Scouts who undertook such work as "Good Turns," as keeping gardens going during the absence of the men of the house at the front; of helping in the houses of such and looking after young children thus left alone; wherever and whenever there were charitable shows, bazaars, or what not, there were also found the Boy Scouts always busy—the handy men who