



(BOOK 1)

Dib-Dib-Dobbing All The Way to the Fire! By John Craig

I love browsing through second hand book shops and stalls. Only a few days ago I stumbled across a book published in 1926 with the title *What Scouts Can Do—more yarns by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Bt.* Most readers will know that Baden-Powell is the man credited with starting the Boy Scouts movement that is still going strong worldwide.

The book is well-thumbed and, being only a paperback, it is showing signs of hard use over many years but I am delighted to have it, not least because it contains a chapter on **firemanship** as seen through the eyes of the great man himself. From studying this chapter, it becomes clear that Baden-Powell fancied himself as a fire fighter and made clear to his readers that he expected scouts to do their utmost to fight fires and to be supportive to the fire brigade in every possible way. Baden-Powell obviously considered it the duty of every Boy Scout to be alert to the danger of fire. The example he wished to be followed can be understood from these words of his.

“You are bound to be in a fire some day, so BE PREPARED for it. Learn all you can about firefighting and life-saving while you have the chance as a Scout, and keep up the practice of it whenever you can get the opportunity.

When I was a boy I lived in London and kept a look-out for the glow of a fire every night, and whenever I saw it, or whenever I heard the fire engines going, I made my way there. In this way, I attended a great number of fires, and I got to be on such good terms with the firemen that I was allowed to lend a hand on several occasions. Did I enjoy it!

The Rovers in many parts of the country have taken up Firemanship as part of their training, and in many country towns and villages are looked upon as the local Fire Brigade. I want a really good display from troops that take this up, so they can, when required, get up a really good show of fire fighting and rescue work, such as will give a real thrill to onlookers and at the same time show what they are made of for that kind of job.”

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