

# 3

**RD ENFIELD CO.**

1890  1990

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

*Christ Church U.R.C.,  
Chase Side, Enfield.*

*Reply to C.Sanders,  
4, Wheatley Gardens,  
Edmonton. N9 9UE.*

NUMBER ONE.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

SEPTEMBER 1989.

Dear Old Boy,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first News Letter of the 3rd Enfield Company's Old Boys' Association. I am pleased to report that since the first letters were sent out in July, the Association has gained over 60 members. Thank you!

Our membership currently covers a very wide age range from Old Boys who left the Company 60 years ago to Boys who left last month. Some of you have remained in contact with us over the years whilst others may not have been involved in the Company since the day they left. It has not been an easy task tracking you all down and indeed there are still many former members of the 3rd who have not yet been contacted. If you know of any who are not in contact with us we would be grateful if you would pass on their names to us. I have a list of several hundred Old Boys' names due mainly to the work of Robert Wilson who spent several hours going through the old Company Registers. Obviously, in that time many addresses have changed and many Old Boys will have passed on. However, we are certain that there must still be at least 200 former members of the 3rd who would appreciate contact with their old Company in its Centenary Year.

It is pleasing to report that having had a rather lean year in 1988, the tide has turned and the Company Section's strength has at last gone past 20. This may not seem much to those of you who remember there being 70 or 80 members in the Company, but these days 20 is a very healthy number. Our Anchor Boys (6 - 8yrs) and Junior Section (8- 11yrs) Sections are also very healthy. We have a fine Band and the Company's strong traditions in Drill and Discipline are constantly being maintained and improved.

In September of 1988 after 10 years as Captain of the Company, Terry Silvey stepped down and Andrew Mason took over the reins. Andy and I both joined the Company as Junior Section Boys in 1971 and have shared many moments of glory and disappointment with the 3rd. I am confident that with Andy in charge the Company will go from strength to strength.

Included with this letter is a brief diary of events to "kick-off" our Centenary Year. A full list will be sent to you separately as soon as dates have been confirmed with the Church.

In closing, I would like to thank the various contributors for the articles which appear in this News Letter, namely Arthur Page, Robert Wilson, Martyn Stogden and our Captain. I hope that the next News Letter will be slightly thicker than this one and would encourage all members of the Association to write in with suggestions etc. As mentioned in my original letter to you, we hope to hold an Association meeting early in 1990. This date will be confirmed with the other Centenary dates which I hope to be able to send to you just prior to Christmas, but one event which I am sure you will all be interested to know of, is the Annual Battalion Old Boys' Bible Class which this year is to be held at James Hall, Bush Hill Park, Headquarters of the 2nd Enfield, who incidentally are also celebrating their Centenary, the Companies both being registered on the same day.

If any of you have any questions or comments about the Association or any Centenary events, please feel to write to me at the above address or telephone on 01-807-1864 after 6.45pm please.

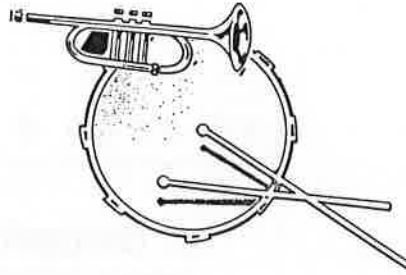
Don't forget to send in your articles/contributions for the next News Letter which will be published in January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.C. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

C.C.Sanders.

# Band



Band has always been a central activity of the 3rd Enfield Company and you will, I am sure be glad to know that it currently shows no sign of decline. We have, at present, every Boy of Company Section age participating in bandwork and more instructors than I can ever recall before. For the 3rd, Tuesday night means Band night at our latest rehearsal venue - Chase Side School in Trinity Street.

Recent Band successes include winning, after 14 years of endeavour, the London District Challenge Bugle (Bugle Team Trophy, 1989) plus Corporal David Waite's excellent achievement in becoming this year's London Solo Drum Champion. Nowadays, the 3rd take the local Borough Youth Band competitions very seriously and at the last one took a fine haul of 9 gold medals putting the local Scouts firmly in their place!

Despite failing to win the Devonshire Cup since our last success in 1982, the Band has managed throughout to keep standards up and we have high hopes of bringing the trophy back this session.

One of our aims in Centenary Year is to form an Old Boys' Band contingent which will match the present Company Band in numbers. We will practise and perform as a combined unit producing what I expect to be a fine Band which will act as witness to the greatness of both the past and present 3rd Enfield Companies.

If you are an ex-bandsman of the Company then feel free to look in on any Tuesday evening. You will be able to hear the current Band at close quarters and the staff and myself will be pleased to talk (given a free moment).

Martyn Stogden.



THE GOOD OL' THIRD.

(1890 - 1990)

A CENTENARY POEM.

A year of celebration,  
A hundred years have passed.  
A year of happy mem'ries,  
That mingle with the past.

To captains past and present,  
To officers and staff,  
Who kept us on the right path,  
And gave us many a laugh.

That their ideals and aims,  
Have always stood the test.  
It is a great occasion,  
Worthy of the best.

In the field of competition,  
They maintain their high tradition.  
Be it Band, Drill, Sports or fun,  
We can always say, "Well done!"

With Camp, Bible Class and First Aid too,  
There's lots going on for a Boy to do.  
Remember the Vaulting Horse and Bars,  
I can, with a lot of 'oohs' and 'ahs'.

The Boys who passed right through the ranks,  
And, like me, they gave their thanks.  
As Old Boys, our voice is heard,  
"We were in the Good ol' Third".

A Company with a lot of pride,  
A Company with nothing to hide.  
A name still held in high esteem,  
The Third can always reign supreme.

And now we look to the future,  
To the years that lie ahead.  
To the Boys who join our Company,  
And in our footsteps tread.

Arthur Page.

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The Boys' Brigade was founded by Sir Wm.A.Smith in Glasgow in October 1883. The organisation spread rapidly and by 1888 it had arrived in Enfield.

The 1st Enfield Company was founded by Dr.J.J.Ridge (1847 - 1908) on October 12th, 1888. The Company met every Saturday evening at the Christ Church Hall. At their second Annual Inspection on May 29th 1890, Mr.A.J.Ridge, an Officer of the Company, publicly encouraged the formation of more companies in Enfield. By the end of that year two new companies were born. On October 31st 1890, the 2nd Enfield held their first parade evening. 27 of the 29 Boys present accepted the terms of membership. Any tobacco found on the Boys was collected up and burnt together in a heap.

The 3rd Enfield Company was formed by Mr.Norris Storer Toms, the second son of the Minister of Christ Church. The first parade night took place on December 3rd 1890 (Wednesday) at the Lecture Hall next to the Church. The Company was registered as a B.B. Company on January 29th 1891, the same day as the 2nd Enfield Company. The story goes that the two men rushed up to London to register their respective Companies; the man from Bush Hill Park caught the train but the man from Chase Side missed it, so the Company from Chase Side became the 3rd Enfield.

The Company was 33 strong. They first appeared in public on January 16th 1891 at a Public Meeting in support of the Brigade. The first Church Parade by the three companies was on April 19th 1891 at Christ Church. Mr.Charles Coote acted as Captain for the first session, then Mr.Toms took over the Company for a short time. In 1892, Mr.Toms invited a personal friend, Mr.Thomas Room Plowman to join him and to take on the Captaincy of the Company; Mr.Plowman at this time was 16 years of age. He accepted the offer and gradually began to organise the Company and to make rules of the conditions of membership. In these early days it was quite dangerous to wear a B.B. uniform. A particularly hostile gang used to lie in wait in a house at the corner of Gordon Road. On Drill nights the gang was at full strength and often they would throw missiles (usually bottles) at the Boys, who often had to fight for their uniforms.

Unforeseen obstacles came from some good churchmen in June 1891, who thought that military drill could not be combined with religious teaching for the benefit of Boys. The issue was finally settled by Sir William A.Smith in a letter to the Enfield Gazette and Observer. The Company set up a printing press at their Headquarters and started publishing a magazine called "Union Jack".

The three Companies became known as the "United Enfield Companies"; this term lasted until the Battalion was formed at the turn of the century. The loan of 51 Lancaster Road by the Liberal and Radical Club as B.B. Headquarters, largely contributed to the firm establishment of the B.B. in Enfield. The Headquarters consisted of one large room downstairs and two small rooms upstairs. One of the rooms upstairs was used for games, and the other was a Library with a fire in the corner. A fine selection of books was available for the Boys to borrow. Bible Classes were held there, the 1st downstairs and the 3rd upstairs. Club rooms and a printing press were features on weekdays, while on Sunday evenings sometimes up to 200 Boys crowded in for a Lantern Service. Football, Cricket, Ambulance and Wood-carving were also started. The 3rd Enfield started a Drum and Fife Band in 1894, which changed to a Bugle Band in 1914.

Mr.J.W.Grainger (Herb & Drug Store) next door neighbour to the B.B. Headquarters, made many complaints about the noise of the band. Sir William A.Smith visited the United Enfield Companies between January 30th and February 1st 1897. He made a visit to the Enfield Headquarters. the 1st Enfield Drill evening, a Lantern Service for Boys only, and attended a Display by the Companies at the Bycullah Athenaeum. In September 1897, the Brigade Council also made a visit to the Headquarters.

The first Inter-Company contest was in Athletic Sports on May 22nd 1893. The 3rd Enfield were the first winners of the Cup and for many years this was the only Battalion Trophy. Drill competitions were instituted in 1897, but it was 1903 before the Battalion Colours were presented. These first Colours were called the Hardman Colours, after Captain Hardman (2nd Enfield). They were first contested at the 1903 Whit Monday Inspection and Sports at the Enfield Town Park. There was a great build-up to the competition. An extra feature was made to the day; Coloured Ties were worn by the

Boys on parade, using their respective Company colours, This was so that spectators could recognize at a glance, the Companies taking part in the parade through the Town streets, in the Drill competition and in the Inspection. Later in the day, Boys also wore suitably coloured shirts in the Sports Competition. The 3rd won the Colours Competition by 259 marks to the 1st Enfield's 248 marks. They also went on to win the Sports Challenge Cup as well.

The first "Enfield" Camp was held at Burnham-on-Crouch in 1893, the three Companies joining with the London Battalion. In 1895, the United Enfield Companies had their own camp at Hayling Island. The cost for each Boy in 1896 was 12s.6d. The Companies held Jumble Sales and special Concerts to raise money for camp. The first Camp under canvas was at Lowestoft in 1900.

On April 27th 1900, the 3rd Enfield Company gave a display of Bayonet Drill in the London Display at the Queen's Hall. The following year, a combined team (74 Boys) of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Enfield Companies gave a demonstration of Bayonet Drill as the first item at the very first Royal Albert Hall Display.

The Company won it's first London District Competition on May 29th 1905, when it won the London District Drill Competition for the "Meares" Colours ( a small Union Jack, 14" by 12"). This was the first time that an 'Outer London' Company had won the "Meares" Colours. It was also the last year of the Competition as it was succeeded by the "Daily Telegraph" Shield Competition in 1906. In the first Final of the Competition at the Royal Albert Hall on May 10th 1906, the 3rd Enfield beat the 66th London by 234½ points to 228 points. Captain Plowman received the Shield on behalf of the Company from Lady Hamilton. The Company went on to win the Competition the following year in front of Lord Baden Powell. Indeed, between 1906 and 1920, with the exception of 1908, the Company appeared in every Final of the Competition. They won the Shield on seven occasions between these dates (1906, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1916, 1917 and 1919). They also won every Battalion Colours Competition between 1906 and 1921.

Three days after the Final of the "Daily Telegraph" in 1914, the organisation suffered a great loss with the death of Sir William A. Smith. The 3rd Enfield and 62nd London Companies formed the Guard of Honour as the coffin of the Founder was moved from the Chapel of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. They stood with arms reversed, and they escorted the remains to Euston Station en route for Glasgow. Staff Sergeant (later Captain) A.L. Winsley of the 3rd, acted as one of the Pall Bearers.

A dark shadow was cast over Europe later that year with the start of the Great War. The Enfield Battalion had gone camping to Felixstowe, but the Camp was interrupted on the Tuesday by the outbreak of War. The Boys returned home by train, while the Officers were detained by the Army. No other Camps were held until 1919.

Some 700 Old Boys of the Battalion were on active service during the War. In November 1916, Captain Plowman enlisted to train as an Officer and later served in France; it was there in September 1917 that he was wounded in the left arm and leg. He was transported to hospital in Manchester. During his absence, Mr. Charles Chopping (1916 - 1917) and Mr. A.L. Winsley (1917 - 1918) took it in turns to run the Company. On December 18th 1918, Captain Plowman took over the 3rd Enfield again. The Company helped with the War effort by supplying Air-Raid Buglers. The Brigade sounded the 'all-clear' after Zeppelin air-raids.

With the War over, the Company was able to return to its normal routine, and Camp returned. However, the War had taken its toll on the health of T.R. Plowman. On December 31st 1919, he was taken seriously ill with Congestion of the Lungs and passed away at 7.45 on the morning of New Year's Day 1920.

The Company had suffered a great loss. They had lost the man who had built the Company up on solid foundations. It would be a long time before the 3rd was the same again.

# YOUR LETTERS



Dear Old Boy,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Company to the newly formed Old Boys' Association, set up to coincide with an important event in the Company's history, the Centenary Year, 1990.

1990 gives us all the chance to look back at the many happy years we all spent as a Boy in the Company; the Camps, Bible Classes, Parade Nights, the fun and the comradeship. Our Company has been blessed with a strong tradition and many successes over the years and every Old Boy will have his own recollections of favourite times.

The Centenary, and more particularly, the Old Boys' Association, allows us to share these fond memories with many of our former colleagues as we come together to celebrate, a time to tell tales of the "good old days" in the Company. However, the Centenary also gives us the chance as a Company to look forward and plan for the future, a task which is probably as important, if not more so, than looking back at the past. The formation of the Old Boys' Association gives every Old Boy who has passed through the ranks of the Company an opportunity to contribute to its future and ensure that the Company goes from strength to strength and continues the success that it has become used to.

Many of you, as you attend the Centenary and other activities, will hardly recognise the Company of today. As well as uniform changes, the Boy has also changed, with different views, aspirations and attitudes to those of yesteryear. Pressures of life for the young men of today are far greater than ever before and this affects the way the Boys think and behave at times, but underneath we are still working with the same material as William Smith did in Glasgow in 1883. The Boys' Brigade still plays a viable and important role in the training and character building of young men, and the work today is probably more important and of more relevance than ever.

I hope you all enjoy the fellowship of the Association and the activities it lays on, and I also hope you will play your part in building up the Association to be a credit and a help to the future of our great Company.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Mason.  
Captain.



## The Boys' Brigade Prayer

*Bless, O God, The Boys' Brigade, and give to it greater power to advance Your kingdom throughout the world. Grant in your mercy, that every member, past and present, may prove steadfast in his fight against evil, and true in his allegiance to You. Help us in times of temptation; make us strong where we are weak; give us courage in difficulty, faithfulness in duty, loyalty in friendship; and finally, by Your mercy, bring us into Your everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, AMEN.*

3rd ENFIELD COMPANY

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

LIST OF MEMBERS TO DATE:

R.ANDREWS.  
B.BARWICK.  
F.BARWOOD.  
A.BARNES.  
R.BALDWIN.  
K.BLACKBURN.  
M.BYSH.  
P.BRIGGS.  
A.BULLEY. (Hon Member)  
D.COLLINS.  
K.CHESSON.  
C.A.CHOPPING.  
T.CHOPPING.  
B.CHAPMAN.  
J.COLLISON.  
H.J.DYE.  
E.G.DYE.  
A.DAY.  
R.H.DAY.  
S.DICKER.  
G.ELLIS.  
P.EDWARDS.  
A.FLACK.  
R.S.FLITTER.  
R.FOX.  
A.GRIGGS.  
W.HUTCHINGS.  
R.HICKS.  
S.HUSSEY.  
I.LAYZELL.  
A.MASON.  
D.MENCARINI.  
D.A.MENCARINI.  
T.MENCARINI.  
M.NICOLL.  
M.POLLARD.  
A.PAGE.

L.STAINES.  
B.STEWARD.  
C.SANDERS.  
M.STOGDEN.  
R.WILLIS.  
P.WAKEFORD.  
S.WAKEFORD.  
J.WELLS.  
A.WARREN.  
A.WEATHERLEY.  
E.WILSON.  
R.WILSON.

S T O P P R E S S .

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th - Enfield Battalion Old Boys' Bible Class at Bush Hill Park (U.R.C) (Headquarters of the 2nd Enfield, at 3pm).

SATURDAY JANUARY 20th 1990 - CENTENARY LAUNCH PARTY.

SATURDAY MAY 5th - COMPANY CENTENARY DISPLAY.

SATURDAY JUNE 30th - CENTENARY FETE.

DECEMBER 1st, 2nd and 3rd 1990  
CENTENARY WEEKEND.

(Times for Centenary events to be confirmed).

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Enclosed with this News Letter is your Membership Card. My thanks to Ian Layzell for printing them for us, free of charge.

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Thanks also to all those members who included a donation with their subscription to help get the Association off to a good start.