

The Boys' Brigade

3rd Enfield (T. R. Plowman's) Company

CHRIST CHURCH U.R.C., CHASE SIDE, ENFIELD

"THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM AMONG BOYS, AND THE PROMOTION OF HABITS OF OBEDIENCE, REVERENCE, DISCIPLINE, SELF-RESPECT, AND ALL THAT TENDS TOWARDS A TRUE CHRISTIAN MANLINESS"



Registered 29th January 1891

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 1992/1993

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another New Year! I trust that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and that like me, are looking forward to some decent weather and the advent of light evenings.

The Company has continued to thrive since the publication of the last newsletter and numbers are slightly up in all sections. The main problem with Company Section attendance is on Sunday mornings, but this is a problem which we are looking at carefully with the possibility of Bible Class being moved to a week night. This is not as revolutionary as it sounds, as we are in a minority as far as the Enfield Battalion goes inasmuch as most Companies already have their time of worship on a day other than Sunday. However, this is only an idea. We would of course be interested to hear what you think about this.....let us know.

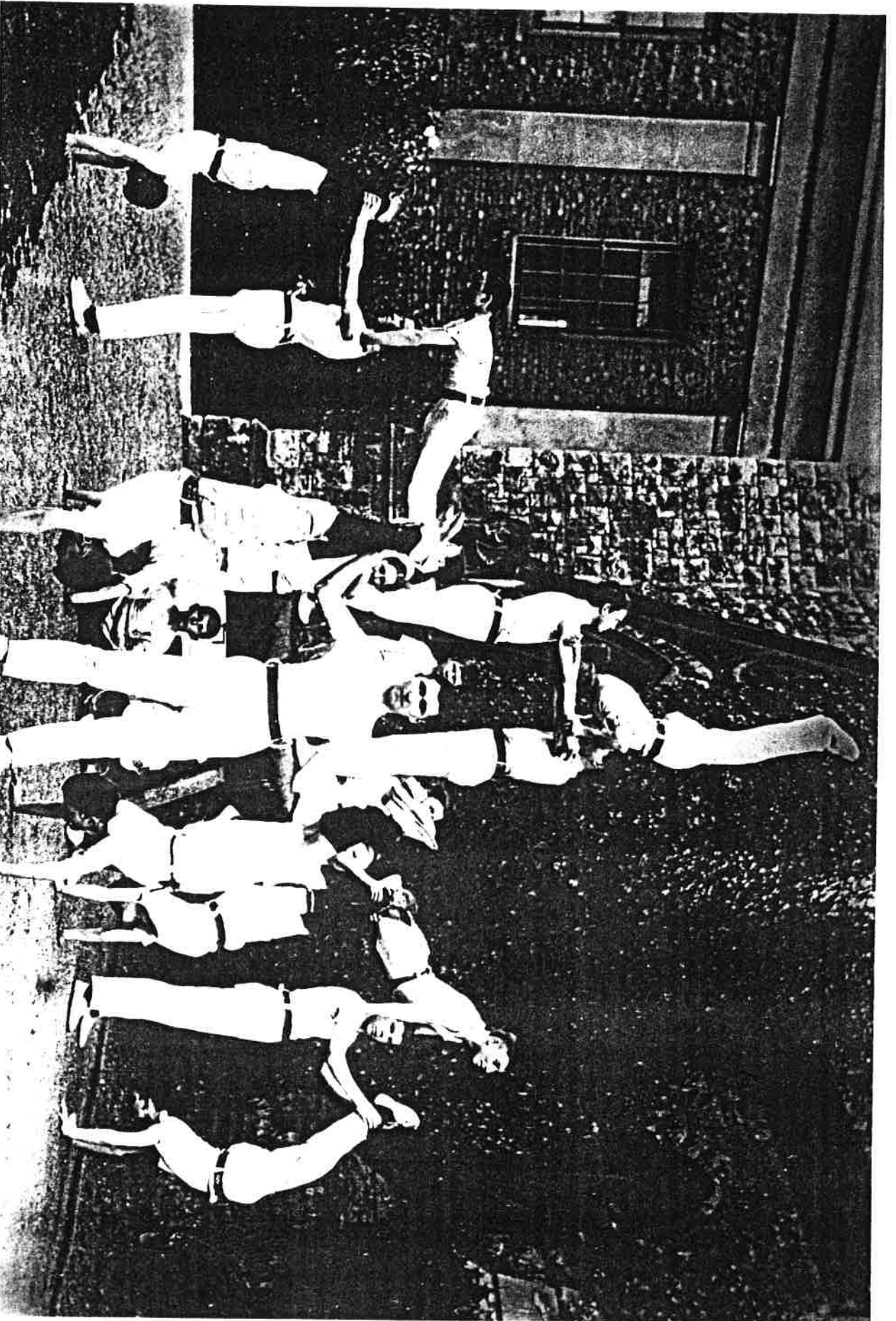
We were all deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of **Ray Barnes** in November and our heartfelt sympathies are extended to **Andy**, his Mother and Family. Ray was an excellent musician and Bandmaster and guided the Company to many a victory in both Battalion Band Competitions and of course the famous London District **Devonshire Cup** Competition. It was Ray of course who was responsible for the trend setting "**Swingtime**" which the Company thrilled the Royal Albert Hall Display of 1957 with during the item "**Band on the Beat**". This was the first item ever to receive an encore at the London Display. Ray had the unique gift of being able to polish the band of the 3rd Enfield to perfection, much to the annoyance of rival bandmasters, with his unequalled understanding of music. Many a competition was won by the band due to that little bit extra effort that Ray would extract from the Boys. He will be sorely missed by all those whose lives he touched.

November was not a good month at all for the Company, as we had the misfortune to be burgled one Wednesday evening shortly before Gym began. We lost an awful lot of equipment, comprising mainly of Personal Computers which our Captain, Andrew Mason, had obtained from his place of work (with their permission I might add). Along with the Computers and software went virtually all of our canteen stock, including the old wooden box which we kept the sweeties in. Some people must be desperate!

As we go to press, I must report that our old friend **Harold Dye** is currently in Hospital following a stroke. He is very poorly but has shown some small signs of improvement. Please remember both Harold and Hilda in your prayers.

Finally, I would like to thank Bill Hutchings, Arthur Page and Peter Wakeford for providing some of the articles in this issue. More Please!!

Best Wishes,



The Gym Pyramid Squad of the 3rd Enfield Company which performed at the Royal Albert Hall in 1905.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1992



Last year was the first time a contingent of Old Boys met together to remember those of the 3rd who died in war time. Then nine of us stood to attention recalling our own personal memories as the familiar names were read from the pulpit and the bugles sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The sounds, muffled through the fabric lingered in the air for a second and faded away just like our dreams.

After the service we adjourned to the Church Parlour, scene of many a perfect record award, to sup, chat and admire Ron Dunsden's magnificent beard. We had a bonus in meeting Isabel Weatherley who brought Alan along in case he lost his way.

Len Staines had his usual fund of banter which complimented Don Collins' own sense of fun. Michael Bysh just squeezed into the service direct from his earlier worship at Cecil Road. Of course, Bernard Bushell was there ensuring I didn't nod off. So was John Collison looking a little lost without any cooking duties to perform, but Chris Sanders slipped him a rich tea biscuit as consolation. Dave Freer and Dave Mencarini discussed their respective sporting prowess, F on football and M on marbles. While in the realm of initials there was our PR group, Peter Over and Ron Andrews.

It was good to have you fellows worshipping with us and if we carry on increasing our numbers so rapidly we might need to supplement the coffee with a full-blown buffet lunch. How about that Peter?

May I mention, en passant, that every 3rd Sunday in the month is the Parade Service and you are all welcome to slip in and be with us. There's bound to be some one around to make you feel at home.



Alan Weatherley



Your Scribe



Bert Hutchings and Len Staines

In the last Newsletter I asked for people to write in with their memories of days in the Company. From our membership of nearly 100 I have had ONE reply. Thank you ARTHUR PAGE.

"" When I was 8 years old I had one year to go before I could join The Boy Reserves. I couldn't wait to follow Jim and George in the 3rd. I shall always remember at that time, the 3rd had a Church Parade one Sunday morning. They were marching along Chase Side towards Lancaster Road with the band playing. At the age of eight it was a sight to behold, a large company of boys and officers marching behind a big bugle band, with arms swinging.

I was so excited that I marched on the pavement, keeping in line with the drummers. With my head turned to the left I walked proudly along. Then, all of a sudden there was a bump. I had walked into a large wooden telegraph pole. My ardour was dampened for a time, but not my spirit. My right ear was sore for several days.

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Another memory was when I was about 14 or 15 years old. I was outside left in the company football team. We were playing the 7th Enfield at Pymmes Park, Edmonton. Running along the left wing during the second half, I tripped over a large tuft of grass, resulting in a badly sprained ankle.

I managed to get back home by bus as far as the Holly Bush public house on the corner of Lancaster Road and Chase Side. It took me 25 minutes to hobble home from there, normal time being 5 minutes.

To keep my perfect attendance at Bible Class held in the C.A.W.G. hut in Parsonage Lane, brother Jim put me on the saddle of Dad's bicycle and wheeled me there and back for two Sundays.

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My other two memories are of the war when my B.B. training helped me a lot.

I volunteered for, and joined the Armed Forces on 3rd November 1939. On arriving at Warley Barracks we were put into platoons. Our first drill parade was in our civilian clothes. Our platoon sergeant was Sgt. Harry Platt, an excellent instructor, besides being a decent chap. We stood on the parade ground waiting for our first lesson in drill. Sgt. Platt then called out "Hands up any man who has been in the Boys' Brigade, Church Lads Brigade, Scouts or any other youth organisation." About ten of us raised our hands.

Then Sgt. Platt said, "You ten will be in the front row when we fall in. The other two rows will watch your movements and try to do the same. The Army is all about discipline and you ten already know a bit about it."

The Sgt asked us ten if we could show the others some of the elementary drill movements for a few evenings in the barrack room. Which we did and Sgt. Platt was grateful.

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The other time was when I was a P.O.W. for three years. There were several times when I went without food and water for a week at a time. Sometimes I went longer.

That was the real testing time of my B.B. training.

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The Boys' Brigade Scouts

With the vast range of Scout Organisations throughout the world (131), it is fascinating to contemplate what might have been if Baden-Powell's ambition had been realised.

To some, the thought of Boys' Brigade Scouts (BB Scouts) would seem to be a contradiction in terms, as would the concept of YMCA Scouts, Church Lads' Brigade Scouts, Boys' Life Brigade Scouts and so on, but exist they did.

1903 and all that...

In 1903, at the suggestion of William A. Smith, the Founder of the Boys' Brigade, General Baden-Powell attended the London display of the Boys' Brigade in the Royal Albert Hall. As a result of his military successes, he was well-known and popular with people of all ages and received a tremendous reception.

The display was Baden-Powell's first meeting with so many boys together, and re-inforced the affection that he had felt during the siege of Mafeking for the boys who had demonstrated their dependability as members of the Boy Messenger service he created. Although he wished that they — the Boys' Brigade — were 'his own', he had no intention of starting a separate Boys' Movement.

In 1904, at a review of the 7,000 strong Glasgow Battalion of the Boys' Brigade, he stated that, *'he believed if some form of scout training could be devised, it would be very popular and could do a great amount of good'*.

Earlier in his military career, he had written a book *Aids to Scouting* for the benefit of his regiment in India and it had been widely accepted as a standard military handbook and had also been adopted by some schools.

Encouraged by Smith, he re-wrote his book as a paper for training boys and placed the manuscript at the disposal of the Boys' Brigade.

The *Boys' Brigade Gazette* stated that the Brigade was glad to publish extracts, *'as the book seems to have in it the possibility of so much helpful interest, especially in view of our coming summer camps. These are sufficient to show that this method of interesting and instructing boys is open to endless development along the lines indicated, and can be made as applicable to city boys as to those in the country'*.

In order to try out his ideas, Baden-Powell organised his famous Brownsea Island experimental camp in 1907 and, as a result of this, the many activities put into practice at this



camp appeared in his book, *Scouting for Boys*, which was published the following year.

As stated before, Baden-Powell was only interested in youngsters learning to 'scout' and the other organisations mentioned were all keen to incorporate some 'scouting' into their programmes. The Boys' Brigade organised public meetings for Baden-Powell to put across his techniques and Boys' Brigade Officers were on the staff of some of the first rallies.

The same but different

The Scout Movement started spontaneously and the Boys' Brigade, in some circles, included scouting in Company work. In 1909, a special uniform was approved for use only for Scouting purposes and included a Scout's hat (B.P. shape) — light brown in colour with an embroidered Brigade crest on the front, a Scout knapsack, a regulation Boys' Brigade belt and an (optional) Scout's shirt (navy blue). At the same time, a Boys' Brigade Scout Badge and Certificate were introduced.

However, while every encouragement was given to Boys' Brigade Companies to take up scouting as part of their programme, there seems to have been only a limited response and support seems to have diminished over the years. This is, perhaps, because it was realised that some of the activities were already an integral part of the Boys' Brigade programme.

From the figures available — only for the years 1909-1916 — it would appear that a total of 561 Boys' Brigade boys became First Class Scouts and 2,409 Second Class Scouts. Scouting was eventually incorporated into the Boys' Brigade Wayfarers Award and the uniform was discontinued in 1927.

The Boys' Life Brigade, which merged with the Boys' Brigade in 1926, passed resolutions in 1908 and 1909 adopting such parts of Baden-Powell's scheme as were considered to be helpful and that a Scout's badge could be worn with Boys' Life Brigade uniform. In 1914, a leaflet and Scout handbook were published and a uniform introduced comprising of a felt cap with a flat wide brim, a red band, red cross on front, Boys' Life Brigade belt, white canvas haversack, navy blue serge shirt with two pockets and shoulder straps, navy blue serge knickers with hip pockets and ordinary dark-coloured stockings.

A vision not shared

Baden-Powell appeared, at one time, to have a vision of one great organisation for boys but his attitude to the Boys' Brigade was always

friendly and cordial to a degree and his regard for William Smith was deep and sincere.

Baden-Powell was truly distressed when Smith, realising that a man cannot serve two masters declined to join the governing body of the Scout Movement. Writing to him, B.P. expressed his distress at Smith's refusal and wrote in terms that made it clear that a single Movement was the end he desired.

'I fully recognise that until all these Movements are working on some system of mutual co-operation, we are only dealing with the fringe of the boyhood, whereas if leagued as a "combine" we might tackle the whole mass effectively, and really make a nation of good, God-fearing virile citizens in the next generation... I see nothing more than partial results if we are all working as separate organisations taking our separate lines.'



The 6th Enfield Company BB Scouts on an excursion with the 5th Enfield Troop of BP Scouts (1910)

Smith felt that it was a false assumption that the sum total of two bodies must be greater than two separate ones. Besides, he feared the weakening or loss of the religious purpose of the Boys' Brigade would be compromised by union with other bodies placing less emphasis, in his view, on the religious aspect.

Baden-Powell took the refusal in a broad-minded and generous spirit. In 1914, he wrote of the great loss of the Founder of the Boys' Brigade in terms proving that his admiration of him was as great as ever.

'A smaller man would naturally have resented or been jealous of a rival organisation... but there was none of that in Sir William's great mind... from the first up to the last he was always helpful to me and sympathetic to the Scout Movement, and it was thanks to his largemindedness that there has existed a strongly fraternal spirit.'

It is always tempting to think what might have been. Baden-Powell's vision of one great Movement for boys opens up entrancing vistas to the imaginative. However, it is not easy to see how it could have been realised. The spice of life for youngsters is variety and youngsters will join the Movement of their choice because it *is* their choice. It was true then and it is just as true today.



Information taken from the Archive Press publication, *The Boys' Brigade and Scouting*, published by The Boys' Brigade 31 401 0.

Scout's Badge and Certificate

On passing the necessary examination as a Second-Class Scout, a boy may be awarded the Boys' Brigade Scout's Badge. On passing as a First-Class Scout, he may be awarded the Boys' Brigade First-Class Scout's Certificate and First-Class Badge, which will then be worn in place of the Second-Class Badge.

To gain a Scout's Badge, a Scout must obtain 20 marks in the following tests.

1. Be able to write from memory the Object of the Boys' Brigade as laid down in the Membership Card — 5 marks.
2. Know the composition of the Union Jack, and the right way to fly it — 5 marks.
3. Tie four of the following knots in less than 30 seconds, each knot - viz bowline, fisherman's bend, reef knot, clove hitch, sheet bend — 5 marks.
4. Be able to swim 25 yards — 5 marks.
5. Be able to name 15 out of 20 assorted articles observed for 30 seconds — 5 marks.
6. Be able to read and send the alphabet and figures by semaphore, signalling at the rate of 30 letters per

minute — 5 marks.

In cases where it is impossible to obtain facilities for swimming, the alternative test of running a mile in eight minutes may be substituted for number 4, to count 5 marks.

The Scout's Badge is to be worn on the left arm between the shoulder and the elbow, and may be worn on Boys' Brigade Parades.

A certificate and Badge as a First-Class Scout can be gained only by a Scout who already holds the Second-Class badge, and obtains 30 marks in the following tests.

1. A Scout who obtains 30 marks in the test for the Scout's Badge, and who

goes up for a First-Class certificate within one year of gaining the Badge, may count 5 marks.

2. Be in possession of the Boys' Brigade Ambulance Certificate — 5 marks.
3. Be able to swim 50 yards — 5 marks.
4. Be able to name the 32 points of the compass — 5 marks.
5. Be able to name and state the whereabouts of 12 British Colonies or Dependencies — 5 marks.
6. Be able to name and describe satisfactorily six wild animals, six birds and six trees common in the United Kingdom — 5 marks.
7. Be able to read and send correctly a message in Morse at the rate of 25 letters per minute, or in semaphore at the rate of 40 letters per minute — 5 marks.
8. Have taken part in at least six outdoor Scouting expeditions or have spent a week in camp — 5 marks.
9. Be able to draw a rough sketch of a route not less than one mile long, showing the principal side streets or roads passed, with noticeable objects *en route*, and the compass bearing on the sketch — 5 marks.





The 3rd Enfield Company carrying off the Battalion Colours on March 7th 1969. Apart from Andy Barnes, Tony Shears and Ron Langhorn, can anyone name the other members of the Company? Where are they now? Why are they not members of the Association? Answers on a postcard please.....



STOP PRESS:STOP PRESS:STOP PRESS:STOP PRESS.

The Company Display will be held on April 24th. Owing to problems with the Bookings Department at the Civic Centre (they have all been made redundant) we cannot advise you where it will be held. The most likely venues are Chace School in Churchbury lane or Chace Girls Lower in Rosemary Avenue. If you are interested in attending the Display, please ring Chris nearer the date on 081 345 5316.



Founded by
Sir William A. Smith
in 1883

THE OBJECT

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Mantiness.

THE MOTTO

'Sure and Stedfast'

Verse 19, Chapter 6, Letter to the Hebrews
(Authorised Version).

'which hope we have as an anchor of the Soul both sure and stedfast'