

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
3rd ENFIELD 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"

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

NUMBER FOUR.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

NOVEMBER 1990

Dear Old Boy,

The 101st Session of the Company is now under way and our Centenary Year is drawing to a close.

Since our last News Letter, the Association had a very successful reunion at which over 40 members attended and we are now looking forward to the events planned for DECEMBER 1st, 2nd and 3rd. For those who may need reminding, this is our Centenary Weekend, our 100th Birthday falling on Monday 3rd DECEMBER.

On Saturday the 1st, we shall be holding a Dinner & Dance at Forty Hall Banqueting Suite, in the presence of the Brigade President and his Wife, Lord and Lady Thurso. A small number of tickets are still available at £15.00 per head, details elsewhere in the News Letter.

Our honoured guests will also be joining us for the Centenary Thanksgiving Church Parade the following day when the new Company Colour, which has been bought by the Old Boys and Friends of the Company, will be dedicated, and the present Colour "laid to rest".

On the subject of the new Colour, may I offer my sincere thanks on behalf of the Company to all those who donated so generously. The Colour will be made of Artificial Silk and will be suitably engraved on the pike.

It has been requested that the Old Boys'/Boys' Band play at the Parade on December 2nd prior to the service. Details are included on the separate sheet enclosed. We are desperate for Buglers, so even if you didn't play at the Display, you will be more than welcome. A practice has been arranged for November 27th at Chase Side School, Trinity Street at 8.15pm.

Finally, it is my sad duty to record the deaths of two of our Old Boys, Arthur Warren and Michael Wood.

Arthur joined the Company during the last years of T.R.Plowman's captaincy and served the Company faithfully for many years, during which he was Bandmaster for a long period. He retained an interest in all that the 3rd did and had an amazing variety of stories of his days in the Company which were enthralling to all those who heard them. He was a true Gentleman with whose death a certain era died also.

Michael was best known for the Bakery in Chase Side which he ran with his Brother Elgin. He served in the Company during Bob Pinner's captaincy and participated in all that the Company had to offer at that time. His sudden death at the age of 58 came as a great shock to all those who knew him.

The thoughts of the Company and of the Association are particularly with Doris Warren and the Family of Michael Wood.

Our next news letter will be out shortly before Christmas, see you then !

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Sanders', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Sanders

The 3rd Enfield Company, The Boys' Brigade

The new session started in earnest on September 3rd and a good number of Boys returned after the summer break. The normal start of session activities took place on the first week in what is a fairly quiet month in the session as the winter programme gets under way.

A major BB event took place on September 8th with the meeting of Brigade Council in Colchester. The BB actually made the news when the motion to admit girls into membership was defeated by 718 votes to 382, hard luck girls! While this momentous decision was being reached, a joint BB/Progressives trip took place to Thorpe Park where everyone had a great day. To end this busy day, the Company's new Old Boys Association held it's first re-union and meeting, with a chance for nearly forty Old Boys to get together and talk BB and another chance for the band to play.

On Monday 10th, the Company had it's annual Promotion evening where Boys are promoted from one Section to another. Four Boys were promoted from Anchor Boys to Junior Section, one from Junior Section to Company Section and two Boys promoted from the rank of private to Lance Corporal. Two trophies were presented, delayed by the lateness of the Battalion Gymnastics this year, Daniel Layzell winning the Junior Trophy, and Simeon Layzell the Senior. To complete the evenings ceremony, a sad part of Company life when Boys who reach the end of their time in the BB are presented with their Discharge Certificates. The Company will miss Sgt. Mark Silvey (off to University), L/Cpl. Jeremy Waite and L/Cpl. Darren Tsintas, but I am sure we will see them around.

Yet another successful Centenary Beetle Drive took place on September 12th, always a popular event for young and old alike.

Andy Mason
Captain.

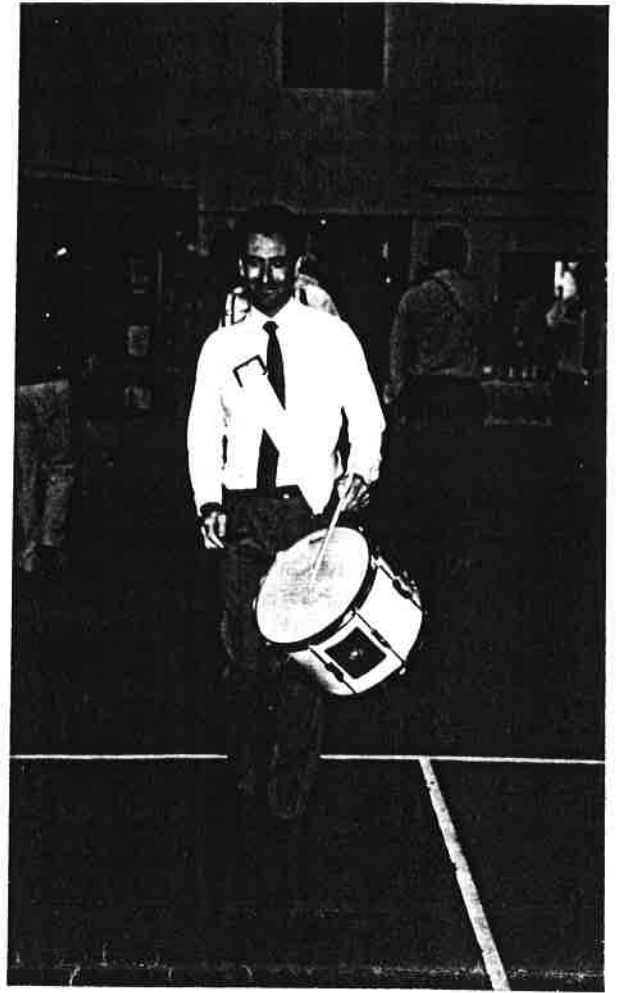
SPECIAL CENTENARY EVENT - DINNER AND DANCE AT FORTY HALL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1ST 1990

In the presence of the Brigade President, Viscount Thurso, a three course dinner in the banquet hall to celebrate the Company Centenary in style.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FROM CHRIS SANDERS -Order yours ASAP to avoid disappointment, limited number only.

ADULTS £15.00, CHILDREN £10.00 (OVER 11 YEARS ONLY PLEASE).



THE BROTHERS' STEWARD RELIVING PAST GLORIES !



THE BAND AT THE OLD BOYS REUNION, "BRITISH BOYS" YET AGAIN.....

Captains speech on behalf of the Company to the Old Boys at the first Association Meeting on Saturday September 8th, 1990.

It is my great honour to welcome you, the Old Boys, on behalf of the present Officers and Boys of the 3rd Enfield Company, to the Associations first official meeting in the Company's Centenary Year.

Plans for the Centenary were being pondered as far back as Camp '88 at St.Austell in Cornwall, and one of the earliest ideas was to start an Old Boys Association to keep past members in contact with our great Company. A small nucleus of Old Boys served on our Centenary Committee which has planned and organised the special events of the year, and thanks must go to Dave Freer, John Collison and Don Collins for their work on the Committee. The driving force, however, behind the start of this Association has come from a serving Officer in the Company, with hundreds of letters, many personal visits, the production of the Association newsletter, the organisation of this evenings event and the Forty Hall dinner, all in conjunction with a full time job, househunting and a lovely fiancée! Mr.Chris Sanders deserves congratulations on getting the Association where it is today.

But where is the BB today? Changes are a constant part of a persons life, and the same can be said for the BB. Having been in the Company for 20 years now, I have witnessed quite a few changes not only in the world we live in, but also in the life of the 3rd Enfield Company such as uniform, methods of training, the drill book, attitudes, standards, parents, camp, etc. The Brigade has seen a massive decline in numbers since the "swinging sixties" and the development of pop music, television, videos and computers, higher standard of living, holidays abroad and the general materialistic attitudes of today. The peak age in terms of numbers in the BB has fallen to 8 years old, and the average size of a London Company Section is still only 10-12 Boys! But the Boys' Brigade is not sitting back and doing nothing, it is in a constant state of change and adaptation, and although it is a bit slow and cumbersome at times, it is meeting the challenge that today's way of life brings. I think it fair to say that the Company is more active today than at any time in its history. Even as we speak, Brigade Council will be buzzing with the events of today's meeting in Colchester, the main business being whether the Brigade should open it's doors to girls or not, a radical and irreversible change in the life of the BB as we have known it.

So how can the Association help in the life of the today. The Brigade Secretary, Sydney Jones, who was the Inspecting Officer at our Display, is known to be forthright and outspoken, and true to form he showed this when he was speaking to the first International Old Boys Conference in Singapore, offering a few suggestions:

Firstly, what the Stedfast (or Old Boys) Association is NOT:

1. It is NOT a big brother to watch over the Brigade's traditions less the present generation of Officers should depart from the old ways.

2. It is NOT a means of enjoying all that the BB offers without having actually to meet Boys.
3. It's members are NOT the Chelsea Pensioners of the Brigade with time to see the past in a rosy glow whilst insulated from the present realities.

Strong words indeed to the first international gathering of Old Boys, but words which should be heeded. The 3rd Enfield is still regarded by others as a traditional Company, and the Officers keep the traditions going as they help in the running of the Company. However, some traditions have served their purpose and are laid to rest, while more recent traditions pick up and take over until, in turn, it is their turn to die. The joint Company and Old Boys band was a joy to take part in and I am sure a joy to watch, Old Boys rubbing shoulders with the Boys of today - just how it should be. However, constantly harping back to the "good old days", and we all do it (myself included), can have an adverse affect on the Boys of today as they cannot relate to that period of time and they can rightly be annoyed at being told that standards have dropped and things are not as good as they were.

Mr. Jones went on to say on a more positive note what he thinks the Association is or at least can be:

1. A source of inspiration and support. A prayer backing to those currently working in Companies.
2. It can support current work both financially and with expertise.
3. It can provide from the wide range of experience members have of the world expert advice - legal, technical, insurance, public relations, etc.
4. It can promote the movement to people involved in industry and commerce.
5. It can provide manpower to take on certain BB jobs and to release current Officers from unnecessary extra burden eg. stewarding of events.

As the Company nears the end of it's first one hundred years, the Association is just starting it's first. There will always be time to look forward to what is to come. The Company has had a great past, we pray for it to have a great future. The Old Boys Association has been under the close control of the Company over the past few months, now is the time for it to stand on it's own two legs and develop in the manner and traditions of excellence the Company has always achieved.

3rd Enfield BB Camp'90 - Oban, Scotland

(The secret diary of a BB Officer, aged 27-3/4)

Friday

4.30am Am I really doing this! Drag myself out of bed, prise eyes open and crawl out of house. Met scruffy bunch of sleepwalking Seniors and Officers at hall. 5am depart sunny Enfield for the wilds of Scotland. Long journey, not much to say. 3pm crossed Scottish border - it rained! Picked up marquee in Greenock, van acting like a drunk pig, struggled on. Arrived campsite 7pm. Still raining, and the midges were out with a vengeance!!. 9pm. Hope everyone arrived on time at Enfield Chase to catch train, hope journey goes ok, don't fancy getting lynched!

Saturday

Woke at 9am having slept like a log (felt stiff as a log as well, must be getti2ng old!). Set about pitching camp - de-midge spray seems to work. 11.15am Main party arrives at Oban Station after long haul overnight. Boys look liked they travelled in cattletruck, officers looked worse! Picked up luggage and told them it was a twenty minute walk to campsite - drove off very quickly! Campsite pitched during afternoon, time for a swim in the sea before dinner in the evening. Manfully volunteered to stay at camp as I was Officer-of-the-Day (OD or Odd?). Glad I did when blue bodies arrived back on site. Introduced theme for the weeks devotions using the Brigade Aid Tools for Africa appeal. End of first day - collapsed exhausted at 1am-ish.

Sunday

Reveille 7am, forgotten how painful bugle alarm calls are! After breakfast/PT/etc, everyone ready for church. Went to local Church of Scotland, trendy Vicar, Boys still fell asleep even though in the very front pews. Coffee afterwards. Went for swim in the afternoon, local pool being the popular choice! Felt clean again. Senior Boys antics attracted local lasses (not Lassies!), Jamie Fryer perfected the hands-holding-up-trunks dive. Tim chatted-up girls. Evening Devotions started in earnest on theme of Brigade Aid Camp Appeal. HAGGIS was the topical word for the week - Hunger was the first word.

Monday

Rained in the morning - got wet! Usual activities during the day, everyone getting used to life on camp. Sun came out in the afternoon and dried everything up. Got wet again - evening swim in the local pool. Evening devotions on Agnostics and Atheists. Midges fierce again! Sunset Retreat played as the sun dips down behind the islands - beautiful! Stuart received ANOTHER smoochy letter (proved to be another one of many!), complete with lipstick and scent!

Tuesday

Picked up minibus for today's trip. Went for a cruise by steam boat on Loch Awe - younger Boys steered boat, left lot to be desired! Went on to Cruachan Hydro-electric power station built deep in the heart of Ben Cruachan, guides went into robot mode to describe sites. Had lunch at the Sea Life Centre at Connel, saw and touched examples of local marine life after eating lunch,

senior Boys chased local ornithological life! Took the juniors out to Seil Island and got wet again - thanks to concerted rock pool splashing! This evenings letter was G for Gesticulation.

Wednesday

Bad planning today - Officers v. Boys football held on the hottest afternoon yet AFTER the traditional Plum Duff pudding, felt like a delicate lead lump running around the pitch! Officers took it in their stride though - won 3-1. Great swim in local pool after route march short cut around town by young ladies - I think they were mucking us about. Ian Tozers birthday today - 12 years old. Mix up in communications ended up with SEVEN cream cakes - no wonder put on weight at camp! Another G tonight - Steve Borkett's inaugural camp talk was on Guidance, both received and given.

Thursday

Took the ferry to the Isle of Mull - really clear and still day. Managed to visit Calgary Bay, Tobermory, steam railway to Torosay castle. Mixed thoughts from camp on visit to island. Juniors enjoyed swim in sea at Calgary - Seniors frozen out in the morning. Evenings talk was on I - seemed to hear a lot of that word today!

Friday

Last full day. Time flies etc, etc. Managed to visit glassworks and do final shopping in town. Started striking camp to save time in the morning. Rustled up quick barbeque for tea and prepared item for camp concert. Good concert - mix of old and new items. Final results of weeks competitions - Inspection won by Macdonald tent, Sports by Macleans, cans of Meeurgh! by Macdougalls! Final devotional period with the letter S for Summary, summarising the whole weeks devotions. Very sad goodbyes from Boys to young ladies. Slummed seven Officers in one tent - four of them snored very loudly! Not looking forward to tomorrow.

Saturday

Up very early with the midges to break rest of camp and load van for trip back to London. Said goodbyes to Cooks - John Collison and Ricky King, I don't know what we would do without their service during the week! Car and Van left to drop marquee back at Greenock. Rest of camp left on foot with luggage to station (had very long arms by time got there!) - final free time spent in town, managed to get a swim and clean up for journey home. Uneventful on train except for delay at Crewe and sprint from Euston to King's Cross to try and catch train to Enfield. Arrived home 12.45am to cheers from waiting parents.

Sunday

10am The final activity of our Camp - the Bible Class. Excellent turnout - sign of a good camp! Reminisce about past camps and look back over the week. Tired out - need a holiday! Looking forward to next year's camp, though!