

THE STORY OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By
AUSTIN E. BIRCH



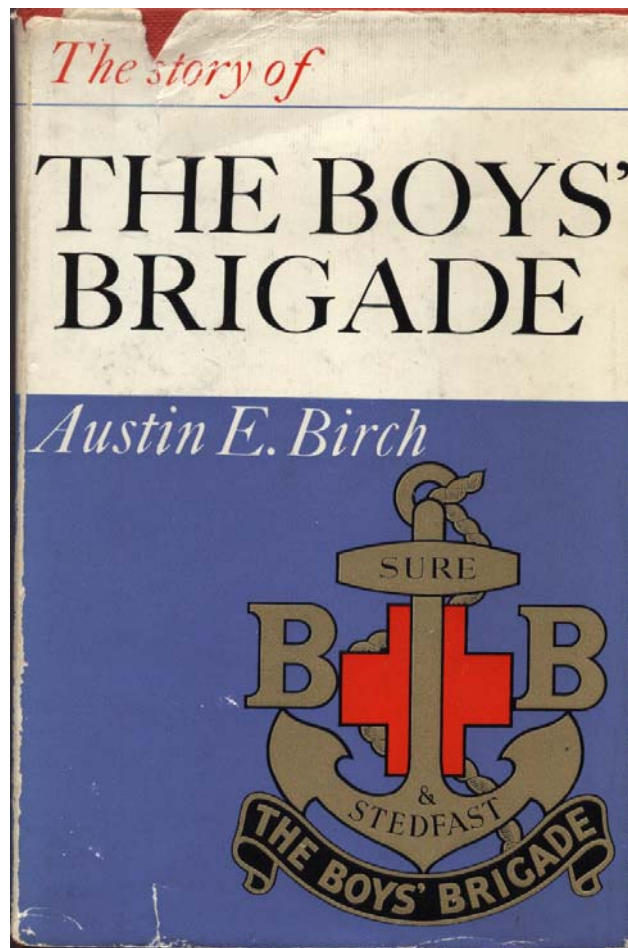
FREDERICK MULLER LIMITED
LONDON

NOTICE

The HTML version of "The Story of The Boys' Brigade by Austin E. Birch" was created by members of the 3rd Kuala Lumpur Company. The BB Malaysia website is extremely grateful to them for all of their work, and for allowing us to post it onto the BB Malaysia site.

The usage of this HTML version is solely for the purpose of study, reference and research. You may not use it for commercial purposes.

The copyright in the book itself is held by The Boys' Brigade and the author, all rights reserved.



INTRODUCTION

Have you a map of Scotland? On it can you find Thurso and Glasgow? You should easily spot the great industrial city on the Clyde, but the little Caithness township of 3,000 souls on the wild and rocky northern Scottish coast may not even be shown unless your chart is on a good scale.

Yet there is a link between the two, as you shall read. A human link, forged almost a century ago by the 13-year-old William Alexander Smith who, on his father's death, left his far northern birthplace to complete his education and begin earning his living in the big city. It is a link that does not end in Glasgow – but goes on to encircle the world. Not only did the famous boys' movement started by W. A. Smith spread throughout Britain and on to over fifty countries across the seas, but all the carried organizations for boys and girls of every type - (forming what we now call "The Service of Youth") – owe their origin to his ideas and ideals.

King George VI, when speaking of this at the Diamond Jubilee of The Boys' Brigade in 1943, said of its founder, "... he builded better than he knew, for he started not only a great movement, but one from which all our present wide-spread youth training was destined to spring." That was high tribute from the King, but was fully justified.

And so – a boy was born in Thurso in 1854. A torch was lit in Thurso in 1954, and was carried 469 miles to Glasgow by relays of boy runners to mark the centenary of his birth – but it represented much more than that. It commemorated the lighting of a torch for boyhood that has remained bright for over eighty-two years and which promises to burn even brighter in the years ahead.

When I think what all this means I think as well of three scenes in the cathedrals of Glasgow, Edinburgh and London. Let me set the scenes in these three great national shrines, taking you first to St. Paul's in London.

It was a May morning in 1914 – the world seemed at peace as well content, for it was a world that knew not war. The Boy's Brigade, then thirty-one years old, was still growing and Sir William Alexander Smith, its Founder, and some of its officers were meeting in committee in London. Sir William, with his eldest son Stanley, was strolling around St. Paul's during the lunch break when he remarked – "I can imagine nothing more impressive than to see this wonderful building overflowing with boys all singing praise to God."

Exactly one week later, St. Paul's *was* filled as he had pictured it – and the boys were singing praise to God for the wonderful life and example of their Founder, whose sudden death four days earlier was a tragic loss to the nation and its youth.

Forty years later, St. Paul's was again filled with the B.B. uniform – October 27th, 1954, the centenary of William A. Smith's birth. No occasion for mourning this, but one for one rejoicing. Praise and thanks were given by that vast congregation to God, for the life of one who died long before they were born, and they pledged themselves to "Carry On".

Let us now go to Edinburgh where in St. Giles' Cathedral is the beautiful Chapel of Youth. In 1931 a memorial plaque "To The Glory of God and in grateful memory of the Founder of The Boys' Brigade" was dedicated in that great shrine of Scottish history and worship. In 1954 simultaneously with the centenary service in St. Paul's, William Smith was honoured at St. Giles' too and one surviving recruit from the original Company of 1883 was there in an honoured place with the great ones of the land.

There is also a memorial plaque to the B.B. Founder in Glasgow Cathedral, and one day a visitor noticing the plaque, remarked:

"William Smith – Founder of The Boys' Brigade? Who was he? What was The Boys' Brigade?"

Surprising questions indeed in Glasgow – the birthplace of the B.B! The Boys' Brigade uses every manly sport and activity fitting boys for Christian citizenship. It has a membership of around 4,600 Companies, and numbers nearly a quarter of a million Boys at home and abroad. Figures like those, and the two million Old Boys who have passed through the ranks already, were undreamt of by Smith and his helpers when they opened the doors of a Glasgow mission hall one night in 1883. How that original Company of 28 Boys grew into the worldwide organization it is today is a fascinating story. Let me tell it as best I may, so that others may know something of the B.B. Founder's life and work.

CHAPTER ONE – The founder and his idea

Officially The Boys' Brigade was founded in 1883 – the year when William Alexander Smith put his idea of "a Brigade for Boys" into practice in a Glasgow Mission Sunday School, and the 1st Glasgow Company was born.

But for a long time, some of the older people in Thurso who knew the Founder as a boy would stoutly maintain that the B.B. began long before then. They would recall how around the year 1865, when but a lad of 11 years old, Willie Smith formed a score of the local boys into "a company" for drill and marching. In that youthful enterprise might be seen the germ of an ideal that was to reach across the world.

The local school rejoiced in the name of the Thurso Academy and there the future B.B. Founder received a sound grounding in "the three R's" and enjoyed the rough-and-tumble of an average schoolboy's life. In short, though few who knew him in boyhood would have forecast the exceptional career that was to follow, he was a fine manly boy – keen and interested in everything around him and (as we have seen) with undoubted qualities of leadership that began to show at quite and early age.

The Smith family lived at Pennyland House, half a mile from Thurso on the Scrabster Road. The view from Pennyland has been described as one of the finest on that wild, storm-beaten coast. William was the eldest of four children and their father, Major David Smith, had fought in the Kaffir War of 1849/50. At the time of William's birth, Major Smith had returned to civilian life, but held to commission in the Caithness Volunteers.

His father (and William's grandfather) fought under the Duke of Wellington in the great campaigns that ended in 1815 at Waterloo, and had a fine record of service as Adjutant in the 78th Highlanders. We can well imagine how the youthful William thrilled to the stories of bravery and adventure told by his father and grandfather, and also how he would come to accept that idea of service before self which in later years he was to put at the very forefront of his own existence, that was some way ahead, as yet.

There was another characteristic of the Smiths of Pennyland, equally as strong as the military tradition in every way. Theirs was a happy, devout family, living together in a truly Christian home. In those days daily prayers in the home, Bible-study and regular church attendance were observed in thousands of families to a much greater extent than we know today, and these features became life-long habits of the B.B. Founder.

So – from his earliest days we can trace the development of the religion and discipline which for over eighty years have formed the foundation upon which The Boys' Brigade has stood so firm – "the twin pillars" they were termed by King George VI on the sixtieth anniversary of the movement's birth, and rightly so.

But tragedy was to come early into the life of W. A. Smith. In 1867, when aged 13, he lost his father, who died during a business visit to China. Mrs. Smith decided to leave Pennyland House, and William, her eldest son was sent to Glasgow to complete his education and commence his business career, under his uncle's care.

The life of the busy city must have amazed the lad from the north, but he threw himself into his new existence with enthusiasm, seizing all the new educational opportunities before him with characteristic zeal and in fact winning seven prizes in his last term at his new school.

As planned, Willie entered his uncle's warehousing business as a junior clerk of 15. He attended evening classes in French and Commerce and when 17 years old became a member of the Y.M.C.A. and in that movement he found both relaxation and scope for service.

But when, in 1874, he joined the Free College Church, Glasgow, and also became a Lance-Corporal in the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers (he had enrolled in 1873) we again can see those "twin pillars of the B.B." – religion and discipline – making more definite impacts on Smith's life than ever.

The 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers was what we now should term a Territorial regiment – it was a famous unit, which later became the 5th Battalion, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and in later years men who were to help W. A. Smith in his great venture into youth work were members of this corps.

So, by the 1880s William Alexander Smith's future seemed fairly settled. He was living an active life as a young man in business; he was following the family tradition in his service in the Volunteers, and he was active in Church and Sunday School work. Everything seemed set fair for him to pursue a happy useful career bounded mainly by those three activities, with marriage and a normal family life to follow.

Those who knew Smith well as a young man have said that he could have carved out for himself an equally distinguished career either in the Army or as a businessman. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Volunteers and quickly made his mark as an efficient, keen young officer – though a very strict disciplinarian. He understood men, and enjoyed the respect and affection of those under his command.

In business he was doing well, although he eventually left his uncle's firm, and with his brother Donald (who had followed him to Glasgow) he founded the merchant house of Smith, Smith & Co., in West Nile Street. This later became Smith, Findlay & Co. when another friend entered into partnership.

Earlier than that, however in 1874, Smith had suggested to the Minister of Free College Church that a "Young Men's Society" might be started at the church. It was an important step, and soon Smith became a teacher, the secretary of the College Church Sunday School in the mission hall at North Woodside Road, Glasgow, and there it was that his idea of a Young Men's Society came to life.

The church minister who gave approval to Smith's idea of a Y.M.C.A was the Rev. George Reith (father of Lord Reith of B.B.C. fame) and amongst the members of the Young Men's Society were James Moffatt – whose translations of the Old and New Testaments into modern language are known throughout the world – and two brothers James R. and John B. Hill, of whom you will read more later. They were to become the first officers of The Boys' Brigade.

About that time, too, William Smith had fallen in love with Miss Amelia Pearson Sutherland, whom he married in 1884 – it was a most happy union, and here again anyone around the early 1880s could have been pardoned for thinking that this modest, sincere young Scotsman had little to worry about.

But he was worried – and greatly. He had thrown himself into his work as a Sunday School teacher with all his usual vigour and enthusiasm. Throughout his busy life, however, he never undertook anything without thought and care and this work at the North Woodside Mission was no exception.

He was through in the preparation of his lessons each week; he devoted hours to thought and prayer about it but yet to his great distress he found that the Sunday School was not holding the older boys. Good youthful material was simply running to waste, he thought, whilst the older boys who continued to attend were a source of continual anxiety and unrest.

"Where was he failing?" was the question he continually asked himself, for he would not have it that it was his lads who were falling short. Not only was Smith anxious at the lack of results from the Sunday School work, but he was distressed that so much time that should have been devoted to teaching was being wasted in efforts to secure order and attention in the class. Yes! the working-class lads of Glasgow were a handful in those days, though probably no tougher than their opposite numbers in most other big towns in the kingdom. Nevertheless William Smith was a very worried man just then.

But from the problem – or the discussion of it – came (as so often happens) the solution. "A trouble shared is a trouble halved" and so it was on this occasion. Talking of these things to his business partner on day, the germ of an idea presented itself. "Why, as an officer in the Volunteers, could he control hundred or more men on Saturday, and yet find a handful of boys so difficult on Sunday?" Came the answer – "Discipline and esprit de corps". It was an inspiration.

Why not use something of the military discipline of the Volunteers to create enthusiasm amongst his boys too? Could not a plan be devised on these lines, working through his church, to capture and hold their interest in and loyalty to the best things of life? From the idea to positive action was not a long step from a man of William Smith's make-up, but approval for a practical trial had to first be fought for – and fought for hard.

After careful discussion with his minister and the brothers Hill, William Smith devised a plan – banding together the boys of the Mission over 12 years old into "a Boys' Brigade",

with an elementary form of drill, gymnastics and team games added to their weekly religious instruction.

Obedience to the word of command; punctuality in attendance; and personal cleanliness were laid down as essentials to the success of the plan, and these virtues (let us be frank) had been far from prominent amongst the boy material already in attendance at the Woodside Mission!

There were scoffers aplenty when the scheme was mooted to the church – I was, of course, a revolutionary idea for those times to introduce discipline and a form of semi-military order into the religious field. But Smith argues his case with good-humoured earnestness and though permission to make a trial was only given with reluctance, the important thing was that it had been obtained.

Many meetings were necessary before the opening night. Smith was thorough-going in all things and a stickler for detail and order. His first allies were his Y.M.C.A. friends James R. Hill and John B. Hill – both Sunday School teachers at the Mission. The link between the three young men was firm, and throughout the summer of 1883 the trio, would foregather to discuss the methods, organization, rules and other details for their venture.

Then, one night when everything at last seemed settled, William Smith turned to the brothers Hill and said: "This is going to be a great thing; let us put it into God's hands." Where upon the three young men committed the future B.B. to God and asked His blessing upon it.

F. P. Gibbon, in an earlier biography [William Smith of The Boys' Brigade (Collins)] of the Founder, commenting on this, remarks – "Thus The Boys' Brigade had its baptism in prayer." He added this biographical note about J. R. and J. B. Hill:

The brothers Hill gave invaluable help while they remained in Glasgow, but in 1886 both abandoned their business careers to study for Holy Orders. Cannon John B. Hill became Vicar of Horbury, near Wakefield, and took part in the Brigade's Diamond Jubilee in 1933.

James R. Hill died in 1904, being then Vicar of Lightcliffe, Yorkshire. While at Oxford he formed the 1st Oxford B.B. Company in connection with St. Peter-le-Bailey Church, and later the 1st Brighouse. Thus the interdenominational character of The Boys' Brigade actually started with its first Company, which originated in a Mission of the Free Church, with a Captain brought up in the Church of Scotland, and two Lieutenants who became incumbents of the Church of England.

All then was decided – the name was to be simply "*The Boys' Brigade*"; the crest was to be an Anchor, with the words "*Sure and Stedfast*" upon it.

The B.B. anchor and motto both stem from the Epistle to the Hebrews (chapter VI : verse 19) which refers to the "*hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and*

stedfast." Many, many are the times that B.B. folk have had to differ politely from their friends who have pointed out an error in their spelling of the word "stedfast"!

That form, let it be said, is the biblical spelling, and therefore good enough for the Brigade, though it need not detract from our "steadfastness" in all other spheres.

And then, of course there was the Object of the B.B. which (with the addition of only one word) has remained unchanged since the day that the Founder and his friends drew it up. It appears on all B.B. literature, and to thousands of men and boys throughout the world is as familiar as their own name and address. It runs:

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.

It was in the 1893 that the word "Obedience" was inserted in the Object. What (you may ask) is the difference between discipline and obedience – and why insist on both? Is there not a subtle distinction? Cannot discipline suggest the curbing of one's own individual inclinations for the common good of the Company of the community – whether "under orders" or not? Does not obedience imply immediate response to an order, however unpleasant its performance may be? Both may be somewhat unpopular virtues in this modern age, but their worth has been proved again and again, in good times and ill, and in The Boys' Brigade (with the remainder of the Object) they have stood the test of time.

At the outset, as today, military titles of rank in the B.B. were few. The only "commissioned" ranks throughout the eighty-two years since foundation have been Captain and Lieutenant, but with provision for Chaplains and Warrant Officers, who have their own special functions in every Company.

There was no special B.B. uniform in that first session of 1883, the famous pill-box, belt and haversack not being adopted until the following year. Officers wore bowler hats, with a small red rosette in their coat lapels. Boys also wore rosettes.

It was not easy going for a long time to come – jeers, taunts, even physical violence lay ahead of the B.B. pioneers, while many of the first recruits did not stay the pace, but in spite of everything The Boys' Brigade was born.

CHAPTER TWO – The Boys' Brigade is born

Let us look for a moment at the world into which The Boys' Brigade in 1883 was born. The city of Glasgow gives a picture of the conditions which, in greater or lesser degree, surrounded most working-class boys of the times – and they were far from easy or pleasant.

For the working-class boys and their families times were hard, and were to continue so for many years after the B.B. was founded. For thousands of lads, aged 10 or 11 in our industrial towns, their day began by rising at 5.30 a.m. and two or three hours' really hard work in all weathers, delivering milk or newspapers. Then a hurried breakfast before rushing to school with the prospect of further labours ahead in the evening.

Even thirty years after the time we are considering, a London committee reported that the hours of errand and shop-boys in many places were commonly over seventy a week, so we can perhaps imagine that life would be even harsher around 1883. There were then at least 30,000 "half-timers" aged as young as twelve years, working their six morning hours in the mill or factory each day before passing on to school in the afternoons, probably too weary or indifferent to absorb very much from their lessons.

Britain had finally abolished chimney-climbing boys in 1840, but many years were to pass before hours and conditions of child labour were to be firmly controlled. Thus it was that great poverty, acute distress and long hours of labour flourished side by side with great wealth and great progress in scientific invention.

But reformers were at work to better the lot of these lads and their parents. Dickens, Shaftesbury, Oastler and Dr. Barnardo led the way and in that great company of dedicated men the name of William Alexander Smith has its rightful place.

October 4th, 1883, was the red-letter day. The lads attending the Sunday School had been informed of the new Brigade for Boys, and to their credit they responded to the call. When the doors of North Woodside Mission were thrown open on the first night there was no lack of recruits. Smith and the brothers Hill had a busy evening.

Fifty-nine names were taken during the opening week, though as it turned out some had come in from curiosity, quite a few perhaps with the idea of "ragging" this new authority; whilst for others the new doctrine of strict obedience and punctuality was both a novelty and a blow!

The Founder was insistent on strict routine. A boy arriving one minute late was not allowed to fall-in on drill parade, and no one was permitted two consecutive absences without good reason. This strictness was indeed a shock to many of the new recruits

and some soon ceased attending. But the method was the right one and it quickly led to a respect for the Brigade and gave it an importance that could have been won in no other way. When the time came for enrolment, 35 Boys had stayed the pace and The Boys' Brigade was in existence.

December 1883 saw an examination held for promotion – practical drill on the floor, and a written paper of questions. The following Boys had the honour of becoming the very first Non-commissioned officers of The Boys' Brigade:

Sergeants : W. H. Wylie and George Mill

Corporals : John R. Jarvie and John Tennant

Lance-Corporals : Robert Paterson and Alexander Dowie

The Brigade was then sub-divided into six squads, each under its own N.C.O. What a surprise those pioneer N.C.O.s would get if they could attend a King George VI Memorial Leadership Training Course and mix with some of their successors of today!

Incidentally, ten of the original members of the 1883 were present at the B.B. Jubilee Celebrations in Glasgow in 1933, whilst at the Founder's Centenary Celebrations of 1954 there were still two survivors of the original 35 members. They were James Thomson (who figured on the original roll as "James T. Walker") and William Wylie – he who was the Brigade's first Sergeant.

Both men could tell some rare stories of the pioneer days in Glasgow. The local gangs tried hard to disrupt this new movement, and the Boys and Officers alike had often to run the gauntlet of abuse and violence. The tall hats of the Officers form a ready target for the sticks and stones of the wild lads, and for many nights there were running fights between the B.B. and the gangsters but eventually a truce was called "*Sure and Stedfast*" put to a sterner test – but it was evident that The Boys' Brigade had come to stay.

The programme of the first Session of 1883-4 consisted entirely of drill once a week, the parade being opened and closed with a short service. Not until drill begun to be understood, and its object in producing order and obedience reached, were other activities introduced. The Founder was proceeding in his methodical systematic way. The results were quite amazing – in March 1884 the first B.B. inspection was held, and many people who had shaken their heads a year earlier, agreed that the inspection was a revelation.

In 1884 two important developments took place. At first the Boys had been meeting each Sunday with the rest of the Mission, but in the second session it was decided that "the Brigade" should meet on Sundays as well as during the week, and in December 1884 the first B.B. Bible Class was instituted. It was in every sense a real Boys' service,

with hymns, prayers and address all carefully selected, and all part of a carefully prepared syllabus. Once again we see the Founder's careful planning at work.

In that year also came the uniform. In the first session the Boys had no distinctive equipment, but in 1884-5 came the familiar cap, belt and haversack. The first cap was a "pillbox" – (as worn by soldiers when "walking out") – and in a plain, undecorated form it was a style of cap also worn by many schoolboys. The first B.B. caps were quite plain, and the two distinctive rows of white braid we know so well were later suggestion of the Captain's wife who, during their fourteen years of happy married life, played a very big part in the establishment of the new movement.

Her "squad teas" became famous – each squad in turn was entertained at the Captain's home, when the best silver and crockery were brought out, and for many poor Glasgow lads those delightful evenings at the Smiths' must have provided a new outlook on family life, with a lasting influence in their own manhood.

By the end of the second session The Boys' Brigade was a solid entity – the strict discipline on parade coupled with the friendly, good-humoured dignity of the Captain and Officers and their keen interest in everything that concerned the Boys, had seen a wonderful spirit of comradeship develop. This was "the B.B. spirit" that we still see in evidence in countless Brigade units today.

A Club Room had been opened, and dummy rifles adding to the attraction of the Drill Parade were obtained. In the spring of 1885 the Company in full equipment of caps, belts, haversacks and rifles, headed by their newly-formed Flute Band, went out on parade in Glasgow. It was the first public parade, and it secured a wide interest that led to many inquiries from other churches about the new methods, and it was in that year than for the first time glimpses of a wider movement became apparent to the Founder.

For let it be clearly re-stated now – William Smith had no thoughts of any national or world-wide organization for Boys when he first conceived his plan. His Boys' Brigade was intended to solve an immediate problem in one Sunday School, but such was its success that it developed to become the forerunner of all the many fine youth movements we know today. How that came about shall I tell in the next chapter, but meanwhile let us follow the progress of the B.B. itself.

We can credit the Brigade with being the pioneer of organized summer camping, and the first B.B. camp was at Auchenlochan, Tighnabruaich, in the lovely Kyles of Bunte in July 1886. The Boys had been encouraged to save for this and the cost of each week's holiday was 9s. per Boy! Again, everything was carefully planned down to the last detail and so successful was this new kind of holiday (at a time when holidays themselves were a rarity) the camping was quickly taken up by organized bodies and individuals

alike. There had been military training camps before too but few seemed to have thought of camping for pleasure until the B.B. led the way.

Even so, and forming a sharp contrast with the largely sea-faring camps. The Tighnabruaich site was ideal for boating and sailing and the Captain found his lads from the city eager, and willing sailors. His own early days in Thurso became re-created for him, and from then onwards he found some of his greatest relaxation in his busy crowded life in these annual holidays with the Boys.

Late in 1884 another Brigade company had been formed, to be quickly followed by four more units in Glasgow and one in Edinburgh. A historic meeting was held at William Smith's home, in January 1885 when it was decided to draw up a Constitution, appoint a Council, and launch The Boys' Brigade on a national basis. The 1st and 2nd Glasgow Companies were then enrolled, and at another meeting later that year the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Glasgow and the 1st Edinburgh were added to the strength at the first Council meeting in October 1885 Mr. J. Carfrae Alston of the 4th Glasgow was appointed President, Mr. John Lammie (6th Glasgow) Treasurer and William A. Smith Secretary. The Glasgow Battalion was formed in the same month and as befits the birthplace of the Brigade it has remained always as the strongest Battalion in the whole movement. Again in 1885 the Glengarry cap was adopted for Officers' wear – previously bowler hats had been the style.

The Company at North Woodside Mission naturally became "the 1st Glasgow" and when we celebrate various anniversaries in the Brigade we are marking events in the life of the famous 1st. One could fill a book with the history of that fine Company alone. William Alexander Smith remained its Captain right to his death in 1914 – even during the years he was full-time Secretary of the ever-growing Brigade he was regular in attendance at meetings, Bible Class and the annual camps of his original Company.

His eldest son, Stanley Smith, followed his father as Captain between 1914 and 1930, until his duties as Brigade Secretary kept him more and more in London. Then Douglas Pearson Smith, his younger brother, succeeded him; to be followed by the present captain, Mr. H. S. McCallum.

At the end of the third session in April 1886 there were 44 Companies at work. Outstanding amongst them was the 4th Glasgow, formed in March 1884 – six months after the beginning – and now very proud of being the second oldest Company in the Brigade. Forty of those 44 Companies were in Scotland (25 in Glasgow itself) and four in England.

Ideas that the B.B. might develop as a Scottish organization soon faded as the fame of the Glasgow experiment spread. Many churches quickly realized that Smith's ideas represented something they had been waiting for and the first inquires from the south of the border led to Companies being enrolled in London, Manchester, and Armitage Bridge (Yorks) on the same day, November 23rd, 1885. The 1st Penzance (Cornwall) soon followed and so, with a Company already at Inverness (and the traditions bred in William Smith at Thurso), the B.B. could proudly claim an influence "from John o'Groats

to Land's End" within three short years! A word about the first footholds gained in England, Wales, and Ireland must be included here.

England

Early in 1885 James A. S. Arthur, a personal friend of the Founder, came to reside in London and attended St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church. Already a B.B. enthusiast, it was due to him that the first B.B. Company in London was formed. The 1st London has been a fine Company, surviving the impact of two major wars on the capital city in characteristic style, and its Honours List is a record achievement worthy of the pioneer Company in England.

One of the strongest B.B. centres in England is Nottingham. The Brigade came to the lace city in 1888 through the efforts of the late J. A. Dixon, captain of Notts County Cricket Club, and the Rev. L. H. Gwynne (later Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan). There are some very large Companies in Nottingham, particularly those attached to some of the boys' clubs. The Oliver Hind Boys' Club (one of the first boys' clubs in the country) and the Beeston Lads' Club are examples of these.

The names of Oliver Hind, who founded the Club and the 2nd Nottingham B.B. in 1907, and R. H. Swain, who in 1897 founded the famous 8th Nottingham (with their headquarters now on the County Cricket Ground), will never be forgotten. They were men in the Founder's mould.

Wales

The first Welsh Company was the 1st Newport (Mon.) formed in November 1887 by Mr. George P. Reynolds, a member of a local drapery firm who had gone to Glasgow to improve his knowledge of the trade. There he became a Sunday School teacher at the Woodside Mission where Smith was teaching too, and a firm friendship grew up between the two.

On his return home the 1st Newport was established and it has a proud record of over seventy years' unbroken activity. Through the keenness and enthusiasm of "G.P." (as Mr. Reynolds was known throughout South Wales) 22 other B.B. Companies were formed in Newport alone, and it was one of his Officer, a Mr. Laurence, who, on moving to Cardiff, helped to establish the Brigade in that city. Since then the B.B. has spread right through the valley of Wales.

Ireland

The Boys' Brigade was introduced to Northern Ireland in 1888 – five years after the foundation – by William McVicker, Superintendent of a Mission Sunday School in connection with St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Belfast. He had read an article on the new and startling idea and it made a strong appeal to him. He took an early opportunity to visit Glasgow and see it. Soon after he came home he got approval to start a Company in the Hall in Charlotte Street, Belfast.

The 1st Belfast Company, thus started seventy-seven years ago, has been carried out without a break, and is still going strong.

William McVicker was a man resembling the Founder in many ways, and the two men became close friends. They had the same sound vision; the same gifts of friendship and leadership, and the same concern for the welfare of young people.

Mr. McVicker remained Captain of Company for thirty-five years until his death in 1925, even though, in the last years of his life, suffering severe illness and partial blindness.

The story of the foundation of The Boys' Brigade in Ireland is a typically Irish one. There were political troubles even in those days and drilling was against the law. The Boys' Brigade was actually an illegal assembly! Legal advice was taken to the Government in Dublin Castle for a ruling and then made a personal approach to the Lord Lieutenant, but finding it impossible to get any firm pronouncement he decided to wait no longer and had the Company enrolled. The movement caught on quickly and spread throughout the country.

On the death of William McVicker his elder son, W. H. McVicker, took over the Captaincy of the 1st Belfast. In 1926 he resigned his appointment in Queen's University, Belfast, to devote his whole time to B.B. work, undertaking the Secretaryship of the Belfast Battalion in an entirely honorary capacity. Joining H.Q. staff in 1933 he was for many years Life Boy Secretary. As one of the two secretaries to the International Committee and the B.B. World Conference he has done much invaluable work in the development of the Brigade overseas.

In Southern Ireland the history of The Boys' Brigade work without interruption despite three complete changes of the Government of its State. That such an achievement was possible is solely due to the fact that the Dublin Battalion had adhered closely publicly to the "Object" of The Boys' Brigade as its sole reason for existence. It was this definite religious basis that enabled the Battalion to outlive unpopularity and derision and reach its position of today as a valued and respected agent in the civic as well as in the religious life of the country.

The B.B. reached Dublin in 1890, after Rev. Monk Gibbon, curate of one of Dublin's largest churches, read a B.B. Manual during a visit to Belfast. On his return home (like so many of the pioneers) he started a Company at his church, and that Company is still active in the Dublin Battalion.

In its early years the Battalion passed through many difficulties and had witnessed great political changes. But today the attitude of Church and State is most helpful and the keenness and loyalty of the Boys in the Dublin Companies is undiminished. A large number of past members of the Battalion occupy high positions at home and abroad and have done much to spread the influence of the Brigade.

So, by 1890, the Brigade had spread through Great Britain, and abroad. In 1887 overseas Companies had been enrolled in America and New Zealand and inquiries about the B.B method were being received from all quarters. So heavy had the clerical work become that the Brigade was faced with a decision whether to appoint a full-time Secretary and the Founder had to consider whether to give up his business career and accept the post – for he was the obvious choice. It cannot have been an easy decision for a husband and father, but he saw his duty clear and accepted the full-time appointment with a deep sense of responsibility. The appointment was not made a day too soon, for growth was becoming rapid.

It was not easy going all the way – in fact there was plenty of opposition to the Brigade – from pacifist societies and from some church workers. The main criticism were in teaching of drill, the dummy rifles and what was describe as fostering the military spirit. Yet, everywhere there were churches failing to hold their boys, whilst at other centres where the B.B. was at work the games, the drill, the camps and the clubroom were helping to meet the need of the lads in a way no other movement had done up to then. They Boys' Brigade, then as now, was not teaching the art of war – but rather it was fostering the qualities of self-control and Christian manliness. But feelings ran high in some quarters nevertheless.

The South African War began and ended; Queen Victoria died and an era closed. New movements had made their appearance – several employing the B.B. ideas but slanting them to what they regarded as their special needs. I shall tell you more about them, and about the best known of all the B.B. offspring – the Boy Scouts – in the next chapter. Meanwhile we come to the events of 1908-9.

Mrs. W. A. Smith had died in 1898 – a terrible blow to William Smith, for one more than anyone she had supported him in his arduous task with encouragement and practical help. The early B.B. owed much to her. Stanley Smith was eleven and Douglas eight when their mother died, and after the first grief had passed the boys and their father became even closer than ever – a real big brother partnership, with their annual holidays together, and later his sons' service as Officer in the 1st Glasgow a sheer delight to their father.

In 1906 William Smith married again but this partnership was even shorter-lived than the former one, the second Mrs. Smith dying suddenly in July 1907. We can scarcely imagine what this second blow must have meant to the Founder, but he carried on his Brigade work showing no signs of his inner feelings.

1908 was the 25th anniversary of the B.B. – the semi-jubilee, with the main celebrations being held appropriately in Glasgow. A public subscription had raised over 1,000 guineas as recognition of the Founder's work for youth in the past quarter-century and part of this provided the portrait of Smith which hangs in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow.

At the close of the 1908-9 session William Alexander Smith received the honour of knighthood, but it was typical of the man that he regarded this distinction proudly – not

as a reward for his personal share in the B.B. but as the nation's tribute to the whole work of the Brigade. His was the ideal – he was the Leader – and he sought for no material rewards, but the way the bestowal of knighthood on their Founder was received by Boys and Officers alike left no one in any doubt as to what the Brigade thought about it!

Typical again of William Smith's love for the B.B. – and his own 1st Glasgow boys – was the journey he made to London to receive the accolade. The 1st Glasgow were in camp in July 1909 during that week of the Investiture. "Sir William", as the lads were delighting in addressing him, travelled from the West of Scotland to London one night, returning the next – tired, but happy that he had only had to sacrifice one day from the Company camp.

Steady progress marked the years up to 1914 – the last real year of peace. It was also the year that saw the B.B. suffer its most grievous blow by Sir William's sudden and unexpected death.

He died in harness, as he would have wished – active to the last. He died two months before the Great War began, so that he never knew the great stresses and strains that his Boys' Brigade would be subjected to. That so many fine Boys and gallant Officers were to lose their lives in their country's cause would have caused him immeasurable distress. Perhaps it was His Maker's will that William Smith was to be spared that greatest sorrow.

His death was sudden. It was noticed by those present at the London Display at the Albert Hall that the Founder looked rather tired but all his enthusiasm for his Brigade was present as ever. Next day (Friday, May 8th, 1914) he was in his place at the B.B. Executive meeting when he suddenly collapsed and was moved to hospital. He never regained consciousness and on May 10th he died in his sixtieth year.

The scene in St. Paul's Cathedral prior to the journey to Glasgow for the funeral was referred to in my Introduction. Then, on Saturday, May 16th, Sir William "came home" and the great city of Glasgow temporarily stood still with over 7,000 B.B. Boys and Officers and thousands of the general public lining the route of the funeral procession.

At the Committal the Boys of the 1st Glasgow filed past the open grave and each lad drop a white flower on the coffin of the man who (as one of William Smith's admirers once said) "had taught the world to spell the word Boy with a capital B," and (as yet another friend maintained) "had open the doors to the vision of the Kingdom of God for a million Boys".

Thus, a life of great achievement had ended, but the busy world went on and The Boys' Brigade had to go on too. Before I bring my story up to date let me tell you of some of the other branches that have sprung from the parent tree of The Boys' Brigade.

CHAPTER THREE – Tall oaks from little acorns grow

When the poet David Everett penned his famous lines:

*Large streams from little fountains flow
Tall oaks from little acorns grow*

He could have had no thoughts about The Boys' Brigade and the many other movements that were to stem from it – for he died in 1813. but he could never have had a better illustration of his theme than in the tiny seed that William Alexander Smith planted in a Glasgow Sunday School.

"... a great movement ... from which all our widespread youth training was destined to spring" said King George VI in 1943; though originally the B.B. was intended merely to be one small Company of Boys in one Sunday School. But its success was both rapid and striking and not only did the Brigade itself extend, but other youth movements on similar lines sprang up at home and abroad. Let us look at some of the best known of the B.B. offspring.

Our Friends The Scouts

Though not the next-oldest youth movement the Boy Scouts is best known as numerically the largest. Yet, here again, its founder Sir Robert Baden-Powell (later Lord Baden-Powell – or "B.P." to the whole world) had no intentions of starting a separate organization for boys.

Baden-Powell was one of the heroes of the South African War of 1899-1902. He was the general in command of the beleaguered garrison of Mafeking. One feature of his defence of Mafeking was his use of a corps of boys, acting as "scouts" and using some of the methods of the Zulus and the Red Indians in tracking, observing, signaling and generally looking after themselves under difficult conditions.

"B.P." wrote a book – "Aids to Scouting" – which, on his return to England in 1903, he found in use in school and in boys' organizations for teaching purposes. Really it was not suitable for boys as it had been written specially for military use. However there it was – and in use in junior training programmes.

The Boys' Brigade invited B.P. to preside at the Royal Albert Display in 1903, and the future Chief Scout not only receive a terrific welcome from the crowded hall, but what he saw of the B.B. at work impressed him so greatly that from then onwards the welfare of boys became his real life's work.

A firm friendship quickly sprang up between Baden-Powell and William Alexander Smith, and it continued unbroken until the latter's death. In 1904 B.P. was at the Glasgow B.B. Review and then suggested it would be – a fine thing to teach all these boys scouting." He elaborated his ideas to Smith, describing the open-air activities, the tracking, the wayfaring, camping, woodcraft and nature-lore which he believed to be the finest training of all for British boys.

Smith invited Baden-Powell to write an article on "Scouting for Boys" for The B.B. Gazette of June 1906, and he arranged a series of meetings at which B.P. lectured to B.B. Officers on the same subject. "Scout Patrols" working within a B.B. Company became known in many areas – their badge, worn as one of the B.B. Proficiency Badges, the *fleur-de-lys* design that was to become the world-famous, and so B.B. Boys were the very first to make full use of Scouting methods in the development of their own programme.

"*Scouting for Boys*" after appearing in fortnightly parts in 1907 was published in book form in 1908 – just five years after B.P. had made his first contact with the B.B.- but two other events had occurred in 1907 that were to count greatly in Boy Scout history. Baden-Powell decided to hold an experimental Scouting Camp to test his ideas in practice. It was held on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, and at B.P.'s request the members of the 1st Bournemouth B.B. Company provided some of the boys who thus became the first-ever Boy Scouts!

On December 18th, 1907, B.P. visited Glasgow, and at a great meeting in St. Andrew's Hall explained his scheme for training boys and young men in citizenship, using as his methods the tests and games, the outdoor work and the other special features of the Scout movement that distinguish it from other bodies. Baden-Powell also addressed many meetings of youth leaders in London and other cities, which were organized by the B.B.

As soon as his book appeared his ideas were taken up far and wide with enthusiasm – in fact with more than enthusiasm, and a real danger arose in the many units springing up all over, and calling themselves "Scouts". Baden-Powell just had to get them organized, and quickly, if the situation was not to get out of hand, but his strong hand, cool head and organizing genius soon brought into being what was to become a world-wide movement of great influence and tradition.

The B.B. and the Scouts do not (and need not) compete with each other. Both have succeeded because they have long had their own particular programme of training appealing to individual boys – long may they continue to do so.

The Church Lads' Brigade

Going back now to the nineteenth century we take up the story of the "other movements" with the first of them. In 1890 Mr. W. M. Gee, Secretary of a Church of England junior temperance society, suggested to William Smith that a separate section of The Boys' Brigade should be provided for the Anglican Church. This idea did not commend itself to either the Founder or the Brigade Executive, and so Mr. Gee started a Church Lads' Brigade exclusively for Church of England Companies.

Though most of the existing Church of England units in 1890 remained faithful to the B.B., and though many new Companies attached to the Anglican Church have since been enrolled, one cannot help feeling regret that there had to be two such movements *working on similar lines* in existence for nearly seventy years.

In 1890 the modern desire for greater unity between different Church denominations was almost unknown – more's the pity. One feels that both the Church and its work would have been strengthened, rather than weakened, had this bisection into two "different but similar" movements not occurred.

The Boys' Life Brigade

Shortly after the inception of the G.L.B., a Nottingham minister, the Rev. John Brown Paton, D.D., was doing good work amongst boys in Church and Sunday School. He subscribed wholeheartedly to the ideas of W. A. Smith, but had misgivings only about the drill employed in the B.B. Dummy rifles were widely used in those days and Dr. Paton feared that the charges of militarism might be levied against the B.B. to its detriment. He personally did not mind the military form of the B.B. drill programme, but he felt that many others might object.

Therefore, in 1899, with the sanction of the National Sunday School Union, he formed the Boys' Life Brigade, which soon became a national movement. Its object was "to lead boys to the service of Christ; to train them for an active, disciplined, and useful manhood" with some emphasis on training and instruction in saving life from fire, drowning and accident.

Working through the Sunday Schools progress was made. The uniform was a cap, belt and haversack over outdoor clothing; the badge a Red Cross; and the motto "To Save Life"

In 1926 the B.B. and the B.L.B. amalgamated. The Boys' Brigade uniform and name was adopted for the united body, and the B.B. anchor and the B.L.B. red cross formed the new crest. The junior movements for the under-12's also became one, the BB. "Boy Reserves" and the B.L.B. "Life Boys" becoming simply The Life Boys, with the combined emblem of anchor and lifebuoy as their new crest.

It has been a most happy amalgamation – a united front was quickly established and maintained and the only remaining relics of any variation are the two types of cap (pill-box and field-service cap) which remain optional to any B.B. Company.

Other Brigades

From time to time there have been offshoots in various districts where men preferred their own system to the well-trying and well-proved methods of the B.B. Founder. "Life Brigades" (no connection with the B.L.B. already mentioned) and "Boys' Rifle Brigades" etc., have begun, flickered and died for various reasons.

Of more lasting texture were the Jewish Lads' Brigade and the Catholic Boys' Brigade. Both are now over sixty years old, and the Jewish organization is particularly strong in London and Manchester.

Girls' Guildry

This is the oldest uniformed organization for girls, being formed in 1900 – ten years before their more famous sisters the Girl Guides began. The Girls' Guildry owes its birth to a B.B. officer – Dr. W. F. Somerville of Glasgow – who received much assistance from W. A. Smith in his venture. His idea was to form "a Girls' Brigade that would do for girls what the B.B. does so well for boys" though it would not run slavishly on B.B. lines for obvious reasons. It works through Sunday Schools and is a force in keeping girls attached to the Church.

The Girls' Life Brigade

Founded in 1902 by Dr. Paton, of B.L.B. fame, the G.L.B. was intended as a sister movement with similar aims to the Boys' Life Brigade. The uniting of the B.B. and B.L.B. in 1926 did not affect the Girls' Life Brigade, which is quite strong in England, though not so strong in Scotland.

Just as we went to press moves were afoot to unite the Girls' Guildry and the Girls' Life Brigade, though this union was not expected to be completed for some time. The suggested new title would then be "The Girls' Brigade".

The Girl Guides

The girls were not long in emulating their brothers in the Scouts, although it was not until 1910 that the first Guide companies were registered. Earlier there had been unofficial bands of "Girl Scouts" and "Alpine Girls" etc. but once properly organized this younger sister of the Boy Scouts, and cousin of The Boys' Brigade, went ahead rapidly and for many years now they have operated on a firm and satisfactory basis.

The Service of Youth Scheme

The history of this country is full of examples of voluntary work becoming so important that the State just had to accept responsibility for it. It is the British way but a lengthy process, and Government support of Youth Work is no exception.

For those who prefer to spend their leisure "out of uniform" the Youth Club (voluntary and statutory) cater for their need for a full partnership of State and volunteers in a common task, but had there been no voluntary youth organizations, and had there been no W. A. Smith to give the first of them its start, our modern Service to Youth Scheme could hardly yet have assumed its present form. So there's another member of the B.B. family tree!

CHAPTER FOUR – The BB through three wars

Though the era in which the B.B. was born was relatively free from war, the first half of the twentieth century during which it has developed has seen Britain engaged in three major conflicts. The South African War 1899-1902 brought some problems, but these paled into insignificance against the havoc wrought in every form of national life by the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. Youth work suffered greatly – but responded and survived.

The Boer War

Queen Victoria's long reign had been largely one of peaceful but the South African War was long-drawn-out affair. Feelings on certain aspects of it ran high, but the B.B. as a whole took its lead from the Founder who was sincere patriot, but broadminded and tolerant too. As his biographer Roger S. Peacock wrote: while longing for the war to end in victory, he could not withhold his sympathy with the gallant resistance the fellow-countrymen of General Smuts were making."

A member of B.B. officers joined the Forces but apart from the anxieties of the day-by-day news the Boer War, being fought 6,000 miles away, did not affect the Brigade a great deal. Membership continued to rise, and in King Edward VII's Coronation year of 1902 a demonstration of the strength of The Boys' Brigade aroused widespread interest.

This was the Royal Review when the 12,000 Boys inspected by the Prince of Wales on Horse Guards Parade was the greatest gathering of disciplined boys ever assembled up to them.

World War I

To a land that had known only of war at a distance, the events of August 1914 must have appeared as the end of everything. "The lamps are going out all over Europe," said Earl Grey, the Foreign Secretary, "and we shall not see them re-lighted in our time."

The Boys' Brigade, though in numbers stronger than ever before, had just sustained its greatest blow in the Founder's death two months before the Great War began. In days of doubt and anxiety that must mark every war's beginning the thought that "if only Sir William were alive" must have passed through many minds.

Actually, after the first shock of war had passed, there arose a tendency not to take things to seriously after all. "All over by Christmas" was one theory, and the nation settled down to its new mode of life.

But the darkened city streets; air-raids (though comparatively light compared with World War II); the growing casualty lists; the submarine blockade and the food rationing brought home to everyone that this was to be no easily-won victory – for any of the nations at war.

The Boys' Brigade played its part from the outset. Officers and senior Boys went into the Forces – at first at a steady rate, but soon in an ever-growing stream. Though some centres in 1915 could record that the War the session had been the most successful known, a year later the same districts were reporting Companies closing down, or depleted staffs (“only one Officer left” was commonplace) in the units remaining. Many B.B. Companies without leaders continued with senior Boys in charge.

A B.B. Rest Hut, run in conjunction with the Y.M.C.A. and open to all soldiers, as opened early in 1915 at Rouen, a base used by thousands of troops. Another similar Hut was opened at Edinburgh and there centres of the rest and recreation were maintained and staffed by the Brigade throughout the War.

Probably some 400,000 B.B. Old Boys and Officers served in World War I – nearly 50,000 making the Supreme Sacrifice. Eleven awards of the Victoria Cross to B.B. personnel were made, and these gallant deeds are described in a later chapter.

The value of drill in the B.B. was quickly realized by the authorities – Old Boys were soon sized up and rose to the occasion at once. Before the later reshuffling of regiments caused by heavy casualties of 1916-7 there were many B.B. Old Boys' Companies and Platoons, which the B.B. *esprit-de-corps* made into real Happy Families.

Enter The Life Boys

In 1917, at a time when the whole nation was anxious, war-weary, and all youth work at a low ebb, an idea was put into practice that for over forty years has been of the greatest value to The Boys' Brigade – the formation of the junior reserve – The Life Boys.

The Scouts already had their Wolf Clubs for the 8-year-olds. Some B.B. Officers had been experimenting with “play hours” for the younger Boys, before Mr. F. C. Carey Longmore of Warley in Essex put up a scheme for B.B. Boy Reserves aged 9 to 12 to the Brigade Council.

Carey Longmore was a great man – a loyal churchman and a fine organizer and along with Douglas Smith, second son of the Founder, a plan was devised for the younger brothers.

Lady Officers (“Leaders” they were later termed) were a novelty, but there was not time to quibble during the War and “the Boy Reserves” were born. They became “The Life Boys” at the B.B. – B.L.B. Union of 1926, and this great reservoir of B.B. recruits flowing into the Companies has proved the foresight and wisdom of Carey Longmore's vision.

Peach Again

Though the “Cease Fire” sounded on November 11th, 1918 it was not until 1920 that the leeway of the war years began to be taken up. A vigorous extension programme was then launched and between the two Wars the Brigade went forward steadily at home and abroad.

The use of model rifles in drill was abolished and that great fund-raising scheme "B.B. Week" was adopted in 1921. Stanley Smith was appointed Brigade Secretary in 1925, and new Headquarters Offices were established in Glasgow and London.

All this progress culminated in the 1933 Jubilee Celebrations (described in another chapter) and all seemed set fair – apart from the storm clouds again gathering over Europe in the middle and late 1930s.

World War II

A year of uneasy peace followed the Munich "settlement" of 1938 and on September 3rd, 1939, Britain was at war again. For nearly six years the tragedy of 1914-18 was to be repeated, and at first it seemed as if everything that the B.B. and its kindred organizations stood for might be lost.

This time the black-out, A.R.P. and Civil Defence measures brought new problems – so did the evacuation of schoolchildren. Young Officers were called-up and some Companies lost most of their Privates and all their Life Boys who had been evacuated from towns to "safe areas".

But the War settled down, and with Boys returning to the towns in big numbers (with many schools remaining closed) the need for youth work became greater than ever, and many more Companies than in World War I carried on.

Air-raids, the threats of invasion and the later threats of V1 and V2 "buzz bombs" hit some areas much harder than others, but the shortage of manpower affected every Company alike. In the middle of all this came the Government's proposal for compulsory registration of boys and girls and the linking-up of all 17-year-olds with an approved Youth Service unit before they were claimed by the Forces.

The Brigade, as the oldest voluntary uniformed organization, was recognized as one of these pre-service training units and though "17-year-old recruits" were a new problem the B.B. coped with them!

The years of sirens, rationing, black-out and strain passed. Many were the gallant deeds performed by B.B. Boys on the home front as Civil Defence messengers, hospital orderlies, fire-watchers and Home Guards. Other rendered their war service perhaps less spectacularly but none the less effectively.

Then, in 1945 came "VE Day" (Victory in Europe) and "VJ Day" (for the victory in Japan). Once again the B.B. had survived an ordeal which, though it wrought great havoc, had shown that the Brigade system was a good one, based on a rock-like foundation. It was undoubtedly its discipline which held many a Company together in those six years despite reduced numbers and short staffs. The maintenance of a Bible Class where Officers and Boys could meet every Sunday (though week-night gatherings were often impossible) was the salvation for many units. Thus, as so often before, the Twin Pillars of Religion and Discipline were proved firm and solid yet again.

The post-war years brought new problems – some of them still being grappled with. In 1939 the strength of the Brigade in Britain(including Life Boys) was around 113,000. In 1941 it had dropped to 78,000. The last published figures of B.B. and L.B. membership showed a world total of 215,000 Boys and 37,800 Officers – the United Kingdom figures being 148,000 and 28,800 respectively.

The new staff appointments in various parts of the country; the new permanent training centres for Officers and seniors Boys and the high regards of the general public for The Boys' Brigade all bode well for the future.

CHAPTER FIVE – The BB overseas

B.B. Companies differ not only in size but, in different parts of the world, in type. There are the home Companies modeled on the original 1st Glasgow whose form and scope will be clear from this book. There are the units in the older overseas Dominions whose members are mainly white boys. Then there are the many Companies having their origin in overseas Mission Fields of various churches. Yet, in purpose all are united, and the Brigade theme for 1958 – “All One – The B.B. Round The World – Brothers All” – was a true one indeed.

The possibilities of B.B. training for other lands were quickly realized in the early days, and the movement has always maintained a keen missionary outlook. But in recent years tremendous strides have been made overseas with great progress in particular in New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific Islands, many countries in Africa, Jamaica and the Caribbean, Malaysia, and parts of Canada. In fact one-third of the total strength of The Boys’ Brigade is now outside the United Kingdom, and about one-quarter of the total membership is amongst the coloured races.

A very early “overseas” B.B. Company was the 1st Jersey, founded in the Channel Islands in 1887. The movement has carried on in the Islands ever since – even throughout the German occupation un World War II one gallant Company carried on its activities “underground”. The first missionary unit in a distant land was formed in 1891 at the Gordon Memorial Mission in Natal formed of Zulu Boys, whose fathers had just before been fighting Britain in a bitter war.

The first Brigade Officer who went forth to advance Christianity in a heathen land was Dr. Arthur Lankester, a Lieutenant of the 13th London who in 1892 was given charge of the Church Missionary Society Hospital in Amritsar. Many other B.B.-trained men have followed his example.

One could fill many pages with stories of the B.B. in other lands, but with the space at my disposal I can but summarize some of the outstanding overseas work.

China

A Company that will never be forgotten is the 1st Swatow, formed in 1914 by the Rev. A. Guthrie Gamble. It was a mammoth Company, often 300 strong and most efficient in all that it did. It had a hard time in the 1914-18 war, but survived to play a heroic part in the big earthquakes before coming under prosecution in the later troubles. Often in those anxious years the B.B. in Swatow and neighbouring parts of China was actually under fire, but eventually the Missions were overrun and the B.B. Companies went under though with flags flying and heads held high. Its Old Boys living in many parts of the world still keep in touch with their veteran Skipper.

In The Far East

The B.B. came to Singapore in 1930, through the efforts of an Aberdeen Officer, Mr. James Fraser. Formed mainly of Chinese Boys, with British and Christian Chinese Officers (some from the Swatow Company), there were seven flourishing Companies in being when the invasion blow fell in 1941. Singapore Island was cut off by the Japanese, and the Chinese population came in for particularly harsh treatment. Fraser himself was a prisoner and worked on the notorious Burma Road construction, but on his release he was quickly in action in reviving the Brigade.

It was a great day when the B.B. colours were again carried on parade to a Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral. Singapore was represented at the Founder's Centenary Camp at Eton in 1954; the Battalion (with Mr. J M. Fraser as its President) celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1955 with fourteen Companies, and a strength of 500 Boys. The last news from the historic island territory is that "the B.B. is doing fine". It now forms part of "the B.B. in Malaysia", the movement having extended to many parts of Malaya and also to Sarawak.

As a result of a gathering of Old Boys in Hong Kong in the B.B.'s 75th Anniversary Year, the movement is now established in Hong Kong with J. M. Fraser, C.B.E., as its Chairman. The B.B. Hymnal has been produced in Chinese for the Chinese speaking Companies.

Africa

Some of the greatest progress of all has been in Nigeria where the African Boys take to the B.B. with all the enthusiasm of their white brothers – and more. The B.B. uniform throughout West Africa is shirt and shorts, with the familiar leather belt and pillbox for the Boys, and the Glengarry cap for Officers.

There were 462 Companies at work in Nigeria at the end of 1964 – some of them very fine units indeed – as keen and active as any Company here at home.

The 1st Ijebu is probably the most famous of all Nigerian Companies. It was founded by the Rev. W. F. Mellor, M.B.E., a missionary whose life and service has been influenced by the Brigade. His conversion, his decision to enter the ministry and then to take up missionary work were all due to the B.B., and in return he gave over thirty years' devoted service to Western Nigeria, with the 1st Ijebu, 600 Boys strong, as his finest memorial.

Another great B.B. worker in Nigeria was the Ref. F. B. Whale who, after service in the B.B. in Glasgow and fourteen years as a missionary, became B.B. organizer for Northern Nigeria between 1945 and 1957. he saw the movement expand rapidly during this twelve years in the country.

Under Mr. Dan Macmillan and the Rev. G. C. Hewitson further progress was made. The work of these Organizers had now been handed over to Nigerian officials who serve the autonomous B.B. of Nigeria, which has its own national administration. All of them have had periods of training with the Brigade in Britain, with which close links are maintained.

The B.B. was proud to play its part as a national organization in Nigeria's Independence Day Celebrations in 1960 when B.B. relay runners carried over hundreds of miles a message from the Churches, the final runners having the thrill of placing the messages in the hands of the Prime Minister, who read them to the assembled throng and congratulated the Boys.

The Churches in other newly independent countries in Africa have likewise seen in the B.B. an organization which can help in the Christian training of their future citizens. In Ghana and Malawi B.B. Organizers from the United Kingdom helped the movement to become established and then handed over to local Councils with their own African Organizers. In Uganda an Organizer from Britain is still helping in extension and training, but soon there too it is intended to hand over to local leadership. Zambia and Southern Rhodesia also have the services of an English missionary to help the advancement of the Brigade in those countries. Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Burundi and Kenya also have their B.B. Companies and in the Republic of South Africa there are some 4,000 members in Companies connected with Churches serving the various racial communities.

Southern Rhodesian B.B. Boys must be the envy of us all in their lovely camping territory. An example is the Mount Inyangani Camp Site used by Companies from Salisbury, Bulawayo and Gwelo. The trek to Camp means a long journey over rough mountain roads, and sleeping out under the stars, before the mountain-top vantage point is reached. But then, what a great "holiday in the hills" is the reward for the campers. Some Companies make a 600-mile round-trip to camp overlooking the world-famous Victoria Falls.

Who knows? – with modern travel becoming so quick and easy, it may not be very long before inter-Company Camps in such natural wonderlands will be within reach of British B.B. Boys too.

Africa has been said to be a continent on the march – we might almost say "at the double" – and its Boys in many places, proud and keen in their countries' newly won independence, are eager for what B.B. can give them. There are limitless possibilities for the Brigade, though conditions are very unlike those we know in Britain – there are many different languages, though English is known to an increasing number of Boys, and vast distances separate the B.B. units. Camping in the African bush can be a thrilling undertaking with ideal conditions for adventurous training and recreation. The Boys, already well versed in woodcraft and nature lore, gain many new experiences in the fun and Christian fellowship of a B.B. Camp.

The West Indies

In 1894, only eleven years after the 1st Glasgow began. The Brigade had already reached Jamaica through the Rev. D. D. Parnter, a Jamaican who after training for the ministry in England took the good news of the B.B. back home. At the "Jamaica Tercentenary Year" Celebrations of 1955, his original Company founded Kingston sixty-one years earlier was adjudged "the Best All-Round Company in the Island". They were Sure and Stedfast enough. The exciting Twentieth Century Marathon – the B.B. Island Run – forming part of those same celebrations attracted a 40,000 crowd to see its conclusion and, in the words of the Governor when receiving the message from the B.B. in Britain, "it marked the biggest advance ever achieved by The Boys' Brigade in Jamaica".

In 1962 at the Jamaica Independence celebrations the B.B. was privileged to relay the country's new flag round the island, displaying it to the populace for the first time.

The B.B. flourished in Trinidad from 1895 and now is to be found in practically every Commonwealth West Indian territory and also in the Republic of Haiti, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, and the French Antilles. French, Creole and Dutch, as well as English, are in use at B.B. parades. The Caribbean membership is over 7,000 Boys in connection with nearly 200 Churches in that region of tropical islands scattered over a thousand miles or more. To combat handicaps of distance and isolation, the B.B. in each territory strives to develop its own local fellowship while also highly valuing occasional opportunity for meeting together at training courses and camps.

John Edbrooke, a former Bristol Boy and Officer, first as B.B. Organizer in Jamaica and then for the whole Caribbean, travelled the length and breadth of the area for nine years, starting new units and reviving old ones, and forming a grand link between Britain and the sunshine islands. The B.B. advance still continues with West Indian Organizers now guiding and stimulating the progress of the movement.

The Antipodes

In Australia there is a real link with the Founder in that the oldest B.B. Company there was started in Brisbane over fifty years ago by an Officer of the 1st Glasgow. The vast distance to be travelled and the great size of that island-continent do not make for easy working but there are now over 200 Companies linked together under one administration whose Headquarters is in Sydney. Its Organizing Secretary was a B.B. Boy in London during the wartime blitz and later a B.B. Captain, before being called to undertake this task for the advancing B.B. movement in Australia.

New Zealand, even with its much smaller population, now has 230 Companies. Its membership of over 10,000 Boys, including some Maoris, ranks next only to Nigeria overseas strengths, and the B.B. has its own fine headquarters in Wellington. The N.Z. Companies are run on the usual lines, but camping in those delightful islands can surpass anything we know at home.

Often sited the verdant New Zealand bush, or away up in the lofty snowcapped mountain ranges, these N.Z. B.B. Camps are held at Christmas and New Year. They are real "Holidays in the Open" with unrivalled opportunities for sport, recreation, nature craft and adventure abounding. What could be better than playing, tramping, singing and worshipping in a natural wonderland such as the New Zealand B.B. has around it?

From time to time Australia holds Pan-Australian Camps in which New Zealand Boys also participate and likewise Australian contingents cross the 1,500 miles of the Tasman Sea to N.Z. Camps.

In Other Lands

Canada has known The Boys' Brigade since the 1890s, when Lord Aberdeen the Governor General, a great friend of W. A. Smith, did much to establish it in the Dominion.

Recently a promising group of Companies has been formed in Ottawa, the capital, in addition to the main strength in Toronto and other parts of Ontario, with other units scattered across the 4,500 miles from coast to coast.

In the South Seas, through the initiative of a London B.B. Boy who became a missionary of the London Missionary Society – Rev. R. L. Challis, M.B.E. – the B.B. was firmly established in the Cook Islands some thirty years ago. Thanks largely to his guidance and the missionary outreach of the B.B. in New Zealand it now exists in many other palm-fringed coral islands – Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and Nauru – a call has recently come for its introduction to the New Hebrides. Australia is also fostering extension in Papua and New Guinea.

Talking of Islands, there are Companies in the Bahamas, Bermuda and the distant Falkland Islands, while Mauritius in the Indian Ocean too has its lone B.B. outpost.

The Dichpalli Story

Dichpalli is in India's largest State of Hyderabad, and its Leprosy Hospital is world-famous. Over forty years ago Dr. Isobel Kerr, a Scottish missionary, was so moved by the appalling suffering being caused by this dread disease that, with her husband Mr. George Kerr, she opened a "home" for the leper outcast. It was not called a hospital then because up to 1920 there was no known cure for leprosy.

A B.B. Company is run in the settlement, providing the Boys with many happy activities. Dichpalli is largely supported by the contributions of Methodist B.B. Companies in Britain, and some years ago an appeal came to "explore every Company in the country for a young medical student or doctor who would come to the hospital and make leprosy his life's work".

The urgent call was heard by Lytton Furniss, a former Sergeant of the 105th London Company who, in answering it, fulfilled a twofold ambition to be a pathologist and a

missionary. Similar ties exist between the movement at home and this practical spread of the Gospel in other foreign parts.

Kindred Organizations

The B.B. quickly aroused interest in the United States in the early days and grew rather rapidly. When William Alexander Smith visited America in 1907 he found that the "United Boys' Brigades of America", whilst retaining the same object as the B.B., and working as a Church organization, have developed some what different lines from the B.B. in Britain.

For some years the U.B.B.A. flourished and at one time there were 800 units in the States. The rise of the Boy Scouts and the loss of leadership owing to World War I greatly affected its prosperity however. Today there is only a small number of units mainly in Baltimore, Maryland, and a few other centres.

Quite distinct from the U.B.B.A. is the "Neenah Boys' Brigade" which under Mr. S. F. Shattuck, a personal friend of Sir William Smith, has given over sixty years of faithful service to the Boys of the twin towns of Neenah and Menasha in Wisconsin. This Company is now in its 66th year, and has a strength of some 800 Boys and 159 adult leaders attracting membership from 21 different churches in the area.

In Denmark there is a flourishing youth organization known as Frivilligt Drenge-Forbund (Voluntary Boys' Organization) which has a strong, friendly link with the B.B. F.D.F. was begun in 1902 by Holger Tornoe, a Dane who had read of the Brigade in Britain and decided to start something similar in his own country. W. A. Smith gave him help and advice; the Danish National Church approved it warmly and for years it has been one of the leading Danish youth organizations.

The boys wear a blue-grey uniform of shirt, shorts and field-service cap, and their motto is "With God For Denmark's Youth". Exchange visits between B.B. and F.D.F. units are glad occasions, particularly at camping time. F.D.F. Bands have made triumphal tours of Britain and the B.B. always sends contingents to the huge National Camps of F.D.F. at Marselisborg, to quote only two typically happy and stimulating occasions shared by the youth of the two countries.

There is also in Holland "De Boys Brigade" founded by the late Mr. H. G. Capelle in 1936. Two Companies at present exist in Amsterdam and Hoogkerk.

In recent years the B.B. has established new friendships with two other movements which are in close touch with F.D.F. – Poikien Keskus, a large Boys' movement of the Church in Finland, and Ansgarsforbundet, a Church movement for boys and girls in Sweden. These links with Scandinavian youth are highly valued by the B.B. and in pursuit of their common Christian ideals it is confidently believed that ever close co-operation will develop in the future.

The World Conference of The Boys' Brigade

When the Founder started the B.B. for 30 Boys in one Mission Hall in Glasgow, he little thought that eighty years afterwards it would have spread to some sixty countries around the world. History was made on September 3rd, 1963, at Dundee, when a meeting comprising representatives from 23 countries inaugurated The World Conference of The Boys Brigade, signing a declaration which re-affirmed the basic principles of the B.B. wherever it is to be found throughout the world. Thus a living international fellowship came into being within which the movement can develop in each country as The Boys' Brigade *belonging* to that country and not merely exist as a branch of a United Kingdom organization. The Conference will function in a consultative manner and its Committee is formed of ten representative members from all the continents. By this great venture of faith, a great international partnership has come into being, and the principle of enlarging its scope to include kindred movements is being explored.

In his Presidential address to the Brigade Council at Cambridge in 1964 Lord Bruce expressed a firm hope that it would not be long before the B.B. and similar movements in Scandinavia, Holland and the U.S.A. would be joined together in a worldwide organization. A true "Brigade of Boys" in fact.

Comrades All

Summing p this (necessarily brief) summary of B.B. work in other lands, one is reminded of the hymn which opens:

*In Christ there is no East or West
In Him no South or North
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.*

Could one add that in The Boys' Brigade too, there are no questions of East, West – nor of colour? The B.B. world is changing, of course, just like the material world. But all members are comrades in a great army of youth. Each Boy whatever his colour has as his comrade each other Boy who wears the belt and haversack – all are marching beneath the Anchor crest.

CHAPTER SIX – Royal occasions and other milestones

“Always jam tomorrow, but never jam today” was the rule in Alice’s Wonderland, but few B.B. members could make that complaint. For whilst ordinary Company work (the “bread-and-butter”) goes steadily along there have been many great occasions providing unforgettable experiences for those taking part.

The Royal Review

Who for instance, whether he be Boy or Officer, present at Windsor on September 16th, 1943, will ever forget the Royal Review – or the words of King George VI? It was one of the greatest days in B.B. history.

1943 was the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Brigade and displays at London’s Royal Albert Hall and Hampden Park, Glasgow, with local Services of Thanksgiving were thought to be the maximum celebration that wartime conditions would allow.

But a few of us were warned to listen to our radios that Saturday afternoon when “we would hear something of interest to the B.B.” We did, and learned that at Windsor Castle the King was reviewing a detachment of 300 selected N.C.O.s of the Brigade, and his memorable speech on that occasion was broadcast to all parts of the world.

The king’s words to the Brigade that day must never be forgotten. He said:

“I am very glad, as your Patron, to welcome you to Windsor on this occasion, the Diamond Jubilee of The Boys’ Brigade.....

“When The Boys’ Brigade was founded sixty years ago your Founder, Sir William A. Smith, builded better than he knew, for he started not only a great movement, but one from which all our present widespread youth training was destined to spring....”

The King closed by saying:

“I feel sure that the B.B. will go from strength to strength because it is built upon the twin pillars of religion and discipline, and so is meeting two of the greatest needs of the present time.

“Good luck to you and all your comrades. May all you Boys live to see the centenary of this great movement.”

The stimulus to a movement, hard hit by the War, which that Royal appreciation gave was terrific. Every serving member from the youngest recruit to the oldest Officer thought it a magnificent climax to the B.B. Diamond Jubilee year.

Message to the King

Earlier contacts between the King and the B.B. had been in the Silver Jubilee Run of 1935, and another similar message-carrying Run in Festival of Britain Year, in which His Majesty figured.

The idea that The Boys' Brigade should mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V by a great Marathon Run from the five furthest points in Britain to London, with a message of loyalty to the Royal Patron, was originally conceived by Mr. Dennis Webb of Northampton. The Festival of Britain sixteen years later was marked by the B.B. in the same way, and whilst in 1935 it was the Duke of York who received the batons at the Albert Hall, he had become a well-beloved King when Buckingham Palace formed "Journey's End" for the 1951 message.

Actually on each occasion there were Five similar messages carried; each contained in a Silver Baton surmounted by the B.B. crest, the points of departure being John o'Groats (1,007 miles); Londonderry, Northern Ireland (696 miles); Land's End (425 miles); Llanelly, Wales (236 miles) and Cromer (173 miles). Thus a distance of 2,537 miles was covered by 2190 Boys – running in teams of three, one being bearer and two escorts.

The runs went on continuously by day and night, though in keeping with B.B. traditions a halt was made on Sundays. Careful organization and timing were necessary. For example in 1951 the message from John o'Groats had been on its way five days before the M.V. *Royal Ulsterman* bearing the Irish baton sailed from Londonderry and not for another week was the fifth message from East Anglia to begin its journey.

But all went well – on both occasions the Loyal Message carried Surely and Stedfastly from the far corners to the land arrived on time together. It Festival of Britain year the ceremony was at Buckingham Palace and included an inspection by the King of 100 senior N.C.O.c. None who saw the B.B. contingent come swinging through the Palace gates on that sunny May morning in 1951 could fail to have been inspired by this Royal occasion.

King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth II have all supported the Brigade as its Royal Patron, and King George V seemed to have a special regard for the B.B. On ceremonial occasions he would draw the attention of Queen Mary to the Brigade uniform noticed on a processional route; and one special memory is of him stopping the Royal car in Wharfedale when he espied a small B.B. party at the roadside. They were a Company of Boys from Bradford camping nearby and the King chatted to them and their Captain, wishing them "good camping", whilst his shooting party and personal staff looked on.

In 1921 the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) reviewed the Glasgow Battalion, and in 1933 visited the birthplace of the B.B. and spent a long time with the Boys of the 1s Glasgow Company, meeting ten of the original Boys of "the 1st" – then veterans all. Before leaving the Prince remarked that he had never seen such a variety of interest covered in a single unit.

Later that year, in a broadcast, the Prince referred to his visit, and said:

“... when the Founder realized the needs of the Boys around him, he set to and tackled the job himself. He did not wait for a big scheme, nor did he appeal for a lot of money but, because he had *energy and imagination*, other men and boys were infected by his spirit.”

Energy and Imagination – that is not a bad slogan for us, over thirty years later, is it?

For the Boys of 1983

To mark its 50th birthday in 1933 it was right that the B.B. Jubilee “Birthday Party” should be held in the birthplace of the Brigade, and it was a triumph all round. Now, three decades later men who were present recall it with pride and clarity as if it all had occurred but a few weeks ago. Such was the impression of “Glasgow 1933”, and of its many highlights one – the preparation of the Sealed Casket for the Boys of 1983 – must be mentioned.

There was a Jubilee Camp out at Dechmont which was a miracle of organization – a town under canvas, accommodating thousands of Boys from many parts of Britain and abroad who had come to celebrate “the first fifty year”. On their first evening in camp a Casket of Remembrance was sealed ready for handing over to the B.B. Council next day – then to be held in custody for the next half century.

In the presence of the campers, six lads representing the while Brigade set their names to a parchment bearing a secret message greeting and goodwill addressed to their, as yet, unborn successors. There was complete silence as each Boys came forward, saluted, and signed his name.

Into the Casket, along with the Boys’ Message, were placed copies of the Jubilee Programmes, a list of visiting Officers, a copy of the 1933 B.B. report, and a set of Jubilee Badges. The lid was closed, a light flared, and melting wax sealed the securing pins.

The Casket will rest at Headquarters to be opened by the Boys of the Centenary Session. Great events and changes have already taken place since this link between 1933 and 1983 was forged. What further changes have occurred none as yet can say. But the B.B. spirit, caught by one generation and passed on to the next will surely reach the Boys of the future, uniting them with those who celebrated the Jubilee of 1933 in the great comradeship of The Boys’ Brigade.

Founder’s Centenary Year – 1954

The hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Alexander Smith was another milestone in B.B. history for Boys at home and abroad.

There were celebrations great or small in most places, with several events of national importance. Founder's Centenary Year really got under way in June with the "Festival of Boyhood" – a great outdoor display in Wembley Stadium with 3,000 Boys taking part in the various items, a similar number of Old Boys in the final parade and 40,000 spectators around the arena.

That August a "Founder's Camp" for 2,500 Boys arose on Eton's famous playing fields. But in the previous week, so heavy had been the rain that there were grave doubts whether then camp would open in time. Once again the B.B. spirit prevailed, however. Borrowing 1,200 sleepers used at the Royal Show nearby and working day and night, the advance party laid new roads; the transport got through and the day was saved!

The Council Meeting of 1954 were held in Glasgow – where else could they have gone that year? A torch lit in Thurso, Caithness (Sir William Smith's birthplace), was carried 469 miles by relays of Scottish B.B. Boys to Glasgow – birthplace of the Brigade – and symbolized the torch lit by the Founder in the name of Boyhood, that had remained alight for over seventy years.

The 75th Year

The events arranged for 1958, the 75th year of the B.B., were not on so large a scale as 1933 or 1954, but they had a wide appeal. In January 1958 the Anniversary was celebrated by the Brigade in New Zealand holding a great National Camp at Ardmore.

In April, a contingent of British B.B. lads flew to Jamaica, to join in the Caribbean International Camp. It was the West Indies tribute to the 75th year, and B.B. representatives from all over the world spent three wonderful weeks amidst wonderful surroundings.

And for those who stayed at home there was the "750 Training Camp" for 750 Boys at Lilleshall, Shropshire, in August. Sir John Hunt of Mount Everest fame was Camp Commandant, with the Rev. David Sheppard, the famous Test cricketer, as Chaplain.

Then, in September 1958 whilst Brigade Council was meeting at Aberdeen, came another Royal landmark in B.B. history. 1,200 Officers (one tenth of the total Officer strength in Britain) and a representative contingent of B.B. Boys were received by Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh at Balmoral Castle.

The Royal Patron presented Queen's Badges to 18 Boys and the Duke made 21 Awards under the new adventurous training scheme which bears his name. The bearing of the parade and the march past linked happily with the presentations and the obvious Royal interest in the B.B. forming both a cherished memory for all present and a fine stepping-off point for the final quarter of the Brigade's first century.

The 80th Year

1963 was the 80th year of the Brigade and at home and overseas countless special events brought the B.B. into the public eye. The items mentioned here indicate the scope of the celebrations of this further important landmark.

New Zealand B.B. staged an outstandingly successful Relay Run in which 2,000 Boy runners covered 1,600 miles, being speeded along their way at 75 civic ceremonies. A message of greeting was conveyed to Sir Bernard Fergusson, the Governor General, who had also been received by a B.B. guard of honour when first stepping ashore in New Zealand to take up his high office.

On May 10th, 1963, after fifty years to the day, Glasgow B.B. received new colours at the hand of H.R.H. Princess Margaret. The great Battalion parade, 10,000 strong, was an impressive affair that even heavy rain could not interfere with.

The worldwide fellowship of the Brigade was well marked by an International Camp at Glenalmond, Perthshire. A wonderful week under canvas was spent by 1,174 Boys (including 126 from overseas). Their fellow-members and the nation at large was able to share in this event through the media of TV and radio – the Sunday night programmes of “Songs of Praise” and “Sunday Half-Hour” giving important coverage.

The camp was followed by the first meeting of the B.B. World Conference to which reference was made in Chapter 5.

So you see – it is not all just “bread and butter” fare in the B.B. I hope the events described in this chapter show there is plenty of “jam” as well.

CHAPTER SEVEN – Heroes of the BB

What is bravery? My dictionary defines it as “daring, splendour, ostentation, finery” and goes on to describe a hero as “one of superhuman qualities, favoured by the gods....”

Those definitions may be grammatically correct, but I am quite certain that few of the many men and boys whose gallant conduct shines from the pages of British history would lay claim to any such qualities at all. Your average hero is a modest fellow; possibly one to whom fear or timidity is no stranger, yet who in a crisis or emergency shrank not from doing what he saw to be his duty – sometimes even at a cost of life itself.

No one race nor class of people has any monopoly of bravery, and Boys’ Brigade history contains many examples of self-sacrificing conduct and true heroism.

In 1904 Brigade Council instituted the award of a B.B. Cross for Heroism, and in 1915 approved the issue of a Diploma for Gallant Conduct for acts of bravery that did not quite merit the award of the Cross.

Up to the end of 1964 the Cross had been awarded to 182 Boys, and 275 Diplomas had been presented. The whole Brigade rejoices in these awards and is thankful that B.B. training, allied to innate qualities of courage in those lads, has been instrumental in saving many human lives.

Space only permits reference to a few of these courageous deeds but the golden thread of chivalry runs clear through them all.

Pte. Charles Barff – 4th Leeds Company: In May 1931, Charles Barff, walking beside a canal, saw a child’s head disappearing below water. This 14-year-old Private instantly dived in and brought the drowning child to the side. For this Barff received the Diploma. A few weeks later he performed a second act of gallantry when walking by the same canal. This time a young woman had thrown herself into the water, and again Barff dived in to the rescue. This was a much more arduous undertaking, for the girl was struggling madly. With the greatest difficulty the boy got his burden to the side and this second brave deed secured the Cross for Heroism for the young double-hero.

Ptes. H. McCreadie and J. G. Loan – 1st Glenluce Company: With Harvey McCreadie of the same Company, John Garry Loan helped save a boy from drowning in the River Luce in July 1953. The Cross for Heroism was awarded to both B.B. Boys, but in the case of Loan it was a posthumous award, for he lost his life in the occurrence. Both Boys were only 12 at the time and neither were strong swimmers. Loan’s first attempts to aid a boy in danger of drowning saw McCreadie dive in. All three were soon sinking and although McCreadie got the first lad to the side before returning to help Loan his friend was lost. In addition to the Brigade awards, the Carnegie Gallantry Certificate was awarded to both B.B. Boys, and their names inscribed on the Carnegie Roll of Heroes.

Pte. Devon Ellison – 1st Nelson (New Zealand) Company: This 13-year-old Boy rescued his grandfather from being stabbed by a man with a bayonet – an unusual occurrence.

He was awakened early one morning in July 1954 by shouting outside. Running out in his pyjamas young Ellison found his grandfather being attacked and on the ground. The assailant was attempting to stab the old man with a bayonet when the B.B. Boy rushed at the attacker and succeeded in wresting the dangerous weapon from him. His grandson's plucky action saved the old man from further injury and probably saved his life. The Diploma for Gallant Conduct was awarded to Pte. Ellison.

Pte. Michael Marshall – 32nd Edinburgh Company: In February 1960 this 13-year-old boy fought his way three times through choking smoke in a neighbour's burning house attempting to rescue an elderly lady. Making his entry by a bedroom window he eventually located the lady but despite all Michael's efforts prior to the Fire Brigade arriving she unfortunately did not survive. The B.B. Cross was awarded here.

Pte. B. A. Filibus – 3rd Zaria (Kiwi) Company, Northern Nigeria: In May 1960 a Diploma was awarded to this 12-year-old hero for his rescue of a 7-month-old baby who had fallen down a 12-foot well. With neither a rope nor ladder to assist him this resourceful young Nigerian dug his feet into the sides of the well and held the child's head above water until help arrived. Then back on ground he revived the baby by artificial respiration. This was the first award for gallantry to a Nigerian B.B. Boy.

Ptes. Thomas Connell and Ian MacDonald – 1st Bermuda Company: In June 1961, together with an airline official, these boys were in a motorboat on a fishing trip. A sudden squall upset the boat 500 yards from land and, owing to the danger of being crushed between reef and the boat, the craft was abandoned. After 100 yards the adult passenger tired quickly and was in dire straits. Ian and Thomas stayed with him, supporting him in the heavy swell and strong tide, for 30 minutes until a rescue boat arrived. Both lads undoubtedly jeopardized their own chances of survival by consciously staying with the man and the award of a B.B. Cross to both was fully merited.

Pte. Gerald Lopes – 1st St. Eustatius Company – Netherlands Antilles: The B.B. Cross was awarded to this boy for his action in March 1961 when he saw four boys in difficulty after being knocked off a floating tube in the heavy sea. On this beach there are no lifeboat or life savers but in spite of this Gerald went in and first rescued one boy and then returned for the other three. He managed to get two of them back on their tube, but himself exhausted by this time still tried to find the fourth lad but without success.

Pte. Frederick Priest – 2nd Cleethorpes Company: In July 1931, 15-year-old Fred Priest saved the lives of two boys at Tetney Haven – a most dangerous part of the Lincolnshire coast.

Priest was walking along the foreshore with two friends when they suddenly discovered they were surrounded by incoming tide. They tried to wade to safety but neither of the rescued lads was a good swimmer and had it not been for Priest's action both would have been lost. The Cross for Heroism was bestowed on Pte. Priest.

Pte. Henry Whitby – 88th Manchester Company: In April 1932, then aged 15, Henry Whitby was crossing a bridge over the Mersey when he heard a shout that a boy was in the water.

An 8-year-old lad, watching the swirling torrent, had been swept from his feet and was being carried towards some archways to certain doom. Without hesitation Whitby plunged into the flood and on reaching the lad tucked one of his hands into his belt and struck out for safety.

It was a tough battle, the two boys being carried along like corks on the raging torrent. Within two yards of safety the younger lad's grip relaxed and he was lost. His body could not be found, whilst it was only with the utmost difficulty that the exhausted Henry Whitby was pulled from the water – his first concern being for the youngster he thought he had saved. The B.B. Cross for Heroism, and a gold watch subscribed for by the public marked this very plucky action.

Pte. Michael Peart – 1st Oxford Company: The Cross for Heroism bestowed on this young Oxford lad resulted from a double rescue in unusual circumstances. Michael was on the river towpath when a lady cyclist (with a baby in the carrier) lost control of her machine and both went into the river. Michael dived and made first for the baby drifting into midstream. He brought the infant to the side, before turning his attention to the mother, by then quite exhausted.

Pte. Douglas Wait – 18th Paramatta Company, N.S.W., Australia: Douglas is partially spastic in his legs – a legacy of a polio attack in infancy yet, in spite of this handicap, he was not found wanting in courage or resource in an emergency. When, in July 1961, a 6-year-old girl fell into a very deep river in Audley National Park, N.S.W., Douglas, notwithstanding his heavy woolen winter-weight clothing and his disability, plunged fully-clad into the river and performed a very gallant rescue. Though debarred from many of the normal B.B. physical activities he proved both "sure and steadfast" in this crisis and the Diploma for Gallant Conduct was never better earned.

Lance-Cpl. John Barry Shannon – 1st Portstewart Company (Northern Ireland): Modesty and bravery marked the behaviour of this boy who, when sunbathing at Portstewart in August 1962, noticed a man in difficulties 300 yards offshore. At this spot two tides join to form a strong current and a dangerous undertow yet, in spite of the very heavy breakers that made his task doubly difficult, Barry got out to the exhausted man and brought him in a distance by that time lengthened to nearly a quarter-mile. He told his parents nothing of his action – they learned about it all some days later and the B.B. Cross for Heroism followed.

A multiple rescue by five Boys of the 5th Plymouth Company: On a day in July 1963, during their Company camp in Cornwall an Officer of the 5th Plymouth Coy. noticed two boys in difficulty in the sea off Maenporth Beach. A whistle alerted his lads and three of them managed to effect a rescue in a fast out-going current. Within ten minutes the Brigade was in action again when a woman was seen being carried out by the current and her husband vainly trying to reach her. Sgt. Alan Dore (who had been engaged in the earlier rescue), followed by two colleagues, swam out and gave much needed assistance bringing both adults to shore. Alan Dore was awarded the Cross for Heroism, whilst Diplomas went to Cpl. Peter Maxwell and Lance-Cpls. Raymond Bailey, Chris Robson and Raymond Wallis of the 5th Plymouth.

That many of the awards are for rescues from drowning, is explainable by the fact that most boys spend time by the sea or any water in their neighbourhood. Though rescues from drowning form a majority of these B.B. awards, there are many other stories of hazardous adventure in the records – especially during the Second World War, in the blitz.

“For Valour”

Some 400,000 B.B. members served in both the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars. Nearly 50,000 failed to return from World War I and while the casualties of the second conflict were lesser, they were seriously enough indeed.

Space permits recital of but few of the many heroic deeds of B.B. members, but the citations marking the awards of Victoria Cross make thrilling reading, even after nearly half-a-century has passed. The V.C. is the highest honour the Sovereign can bestow on a member of the armed forces. It is a plain bronze cross inscribed simply “FOR VALOUR” and takes precedence over all other military decorations.

These gallant B.B. members have their own special place in the annals of the movement. They are:

World War I

F. W. Holmes – Cpl. (later Lieut.) King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry: An old Boy of the 62nd London B.B. Company, who won the V.C. in the famous Retreat from Mons in 1914.

J. H. S. Dimmer – Lieut.-Colonel. King's Royal Rifle Corps: Served through the ranks in the 1st Barnet B.B. Company and had a distinguished Army career in both the South African and European Wars before being killed in 1918.

W. Ritchie – Drummer, Seaforth Highlanders: A member of the 44th Glasgow B.B. Company, he won his V.C. at the Battle of Ypres 1916.

James Caffrey – Pte. Yorks and Lancs. Regiment: An Old Boy of the 12th Nottingham Company, he won his V.C. at La Brique in 1915, making four hazardous journeys under fire to rescue the wounded.

Edgar K. Myles – Lieut. (later Captain) The Worcestershire Regiment: His B.B. service was in the 17th South Essex (East Ham) Company, and his gallantry during the evacuation from Gallipoli in 1916 secured him the V.C.

Robert Shankland – Lieut. (later Lieut. Colonel) Canadian Infantry: A B.B. Boy of the 2nd Ayr Company, he was amongst the first Canadian troops to serve in France. In 1917 his inspired conduct on the Western Front was marked by the Nation's highest award.

John B. Hamilton – Lance Cpl. (later Sergeant) The Highland Light Infantry: A member of the 2nd Dumbarton B.B. Company, his V.C. came from a display of most conspicuous bravery in France in 1917.

Henry Strachan – Captain (later Major) Fort Garry Horse, Canadian Cavalry: After a boyhood in the 1st Bo'ness B.B. Company, farmed in Canada. Won Military Medal as a Trooper and the Military Cross and the V.C. as an Officer for various acts of great gallantry.

Ernest F. Beal – 2nd Lieut. The Yorkshire Regiment (The Green Howards): This former 13th Brighton B.B. Boy was a natural leader of men and his posthumous V.C. marked the single-handed capture of four enemy machine guns.

James Richardson – Piper, The Manitoba Regiment of Canada: He had learnt the pipes in the 2nd Rutherglen B.B. Company. By playing his unit "over the top" and rallying them in a crisis an important position was won. After carrying a wounded comrade to safety Richardson went back to recover his pipes but was never seen again.

Frank Lester – Corporal, The Lancashire Fusiliers: A 1st Hoylake B.B. member, he gave his life when winning his V.C. at Neuilly, France, in October 1918.

World War II

Several Old Boys won the V.B. in the last War, including:

John Hannah – Sgt., R.A.F.: One of the youngest V.C.s of the War. Refusing to bale out of a blazing bomber after a raid on Antwerp in 1940, this 18-year-old ex-237th Glasgow Boys, though badly burned, helped his pilot to get the aircraft home.

Hanson F. Turner – Sgt., W. Yorks Regt.: In Burma in 1944, under heavy fire and with his unit depleted, this 6th Halifax Boy repeatedly attacked a Jap post single-handed with grenades. Six solo attacks against impossible odds led inevitably to his death, but the post was held.

Thos. P. Hunter – Cpl., 43rd R.M. Commando: In Italy in 1945 this Old Boy of the 67th Edinburgh B.B. charged an enemy post single-handed and under heavy fire. Attracting the fire to himself he routed the enemy and, though mortally wounded, by his gallantry his troop were able to take an important position.

Edward C. Charlton – Irish Guards: In Germany in 1945, with his unit being overrun, this 32nd Manchester Boy advanced alone against the Germans, firing his Bren gun. Though severely wounded he halted the enemy, and though dying in their hands a desperate situation was relieved by his initiative.

Among the many decorations awarded to former Brigade Boys for personal gallantry, at least two during the early days of the War captured the imagination of the nation.

Petty Officer H. Barnes R.N., an Old Boys of the 11th Brighton Company, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his part as one of the Navy boarding-party in the rescues from the Nazi prison-ship *Altmark*, whilst the War was not many hours old when

Flight-Lieut. Andrew McPherson, an Old Boy of the 1st Bearsden Company and son of the former B.B. Scottish Secretary, was on a reconnaissance flight over the German coast.

This flight secured much valuable information and was performed under most difficult circumstances at dangerously low altitudes. McPherson's D.F.C. was one of the first two distinctions of World War II and he was personally congratulated by King George VI on his gallantry.

These acts of courage symbolize the many acts of bravery by B.B. Old Boys during the last War. The extent to which their B.B. training contributed to the selfless actions here described cannot be determined but it is right we should remember them.

CHAPTER EIGHT – How the BB works

A young B.B. private once told me that "The Boys' Brigade was five years old". He was nearly eighty years out! He really meant his Company was celebrating its fifth birthday, though it comes naturally to a lad to speak of his Company as "the Brigade".

The Company is only the working unit. It should always be referred to as the "1st Blanktown Company, The Boys Brigade" indicating its part in the whole movement. Six or more Companies can form a Battalion, when the benefits of competitions, displays and parades add interest and variety to the routine. A Battalion Council controls the work in the particular locality.

The Brigade is divided into Districts or Divisions responsible to Headquarters for the efficient running of the units under their control.

The whole B.B. movement is governed by the Brigade Council, a very large body (all Captains, Chaplains and Lieutenants are members) meeting only once yearly so it is necessary to delegate supervision to a smaller body. This is the Brigade Executive; some forty experienced Officers who meet for times a session. It is a plan that works well, with every Company having an opportunity to vote at the Annual Council when Executive decisions are confirmed or rejected.

The clerical work arising from 4,500 B.B. Companies and 3,500 Life Boy Teams is very heavy. The Publications and Equipment Department itself is a huge business undertaking and can supply everything from buttonhole badge to a camp marquee. It has a cash turnover of £150,000 a year.

This office work is done at Brigade Headquarters – Abbey House, London S.W.1., and Boys' Brigade House, Glasgow. At Abbey House is the Brigade Secretary, and Secretaries for special departments. Plans are in hand to move the London Headquarters to a new site, but details had not been finalized at the time we went to press.

At Glasgow is the Secretary of Scotland, and Training Secretaries for Scotland and Ireland. District Organizers are established in certain provincial centres in England and Wales, but most of the administrative work of the B.B. is done on a voluntary basis.

The Brigade President

At the head of the whole movement is the Brigade President. No easy office this, nor one lightly undertaken. The B.B. has indeed been fortunate in its choice of men for this high office. They have all been men with important business or professional interest, yet the amount of time they have devoted to B.B. affairs is staggering.

The present Brigade President is The Lord Bruce, J.P., D.L., and former Presidents were:

1895-1909 J. Carfrae Alston.

1909-1919 Lord Guthrie.

1919-1933 Colonel Sir John Roxburgh.

1933-1947 The Right Hon. The Earl of Home.

1947-1963 The Right Hon. Lord Maclay.
1963- The Lord Bruce.

Sir Cyril Black, J.P., D.L., M.P., is Brigade Treasurer.

The Brigade Secretary

This is the key administrative post in the movement, and in all the years of B.B. history there have been only three Secretaries. Autumn 1965 will however see the appointment of the fourth holder of this office, consequent upon the retirement of the present Secretary. The Founder was the first, giving up his business career in 1888 to devote the rest of his life to the work.

After Sir William's tragic death in 1914, his elder son Stanley became Assistant, but did not assume the appointment fully until 1925. He had later won the Military Cross in France, and later was appointed to the Order of the British Empire for his long and outstanding contributions to youth work through the B.B.

It is never easy for a son to follow a distinguished father in any walk of life, yet Stanly Smith filled the office of Brigade Secretary for nearly thirty years with great distinction. He was "the man for the job," and served until 1945, at the close of the celebrations of Founder's Centenary Year. To be succeeded by Major-General D. J. Wilson-Haffenden, C.B.E.

General Wilson-Haffenden typified a real Christian soldier and gentleman. He served 28 years in the Indian Army and his war service took him through Dunkirk to Persia, Burma, Java and G.H.Q. India.

Later he was a missionary in South India. General Wilson-Haffenden's Church, Brigade, and Army experience made him an ideal administrator for a movement like the B.B. He was due to retire in September 1965. His eleven-year period of office was notable for much future planning and development of the B.B. to fit it for the modern age.

"B.B. Week" – A Great Endeavour

To run this great organization costs money – a lot of it. Every B.B. Boy has a direct part in the finance of the movement by his weekly subscription and in the part he plays in "B.B. Week".

Since 1921 this scheme has enriched Brigade funds by over a million pounds – the B.B. story would have read very differently had it not been for the success of this plan, first visualized by Mr. R. S. Peacock, a H.Q. secretary.

Though run each year on simple line no piece of Company work needs more careful advance planning than B.B. Week does. During one week at the end of November Boys invite their friends to support the work of the Brigade, themselves also contributing gladly.

A prompt settling-up system ensures the whole operation being completed in one hectic week. Though special events are sometimes run to supplement the donations the key to success is always the collecting card and the individual approach. Contributions are only invited from acquaintances and never from strangers.

The amount raised since the start of B.B. Week show a spectacular rise year by year. Here are a few of the annual totals at ten-yearly intervals, along with last year's wonderful result:

1921 (the first B.B. Week)	£2,855
1931 (a time of industrial depression)	£12,569
1941 (during a major war)	£26,487
1951	£91,815
1964	£157,652

Altogether the aggregate raised in forty-four annual efforts has passed £2,000,000. Where does the money go to? B.B. Week began because a major war had thrown Brigade funds out of balance, with a severe drop in income. All money collected is shared one-third to Brigade up to a maximum of £17, though Companies can make additional contributions where they have collected a large amount. A great number gladly respond in this way.

B.B. Week alone does not "foot the bill" completely. Though largely self-supporting the B.B. has gratefully received help from legacies, donations, and from the King George V Jubilee Trust, King George VI Foundation and Ministry of Education grants. Critics of B.B. Week sometimes say the Brigade does nothing in return for "the bobs" it collects but is that strictly correct? There is nothing to prevent any boy doing some task in return for his friends' donation and many of them do.

But there is more to it than that. By a year of honest, cheerful living – by being in himself an example of "the job" that The Boys' Brigade is doing – isn't any member entitled to receive a contribution for the extension of the work? Apparently half-a-million subscribers think so each year.

Publications

The Brigade has two journals – *The Boys' Brigade Gazette* for Officers and *Stedfast Magazine* for Boys. The *Gazette* first appeared in March 1889, but in those days was a very different affair from its modern counterpart. It has small closely-printed type and articles of solid substance, yet it kept Officers abreast of developments, helped solve their problems, and spread interest in the Brigade at home and abroad, meeting a need then as now.

In 1953, due to the enterprise of Mr. E. R. Staniford, a Bletchley B.B. Officer, *Stedfast Magazine* for Boys made its appearance and was an instant success. It was soon obvious that *Stedfast* had come to stay – the B.B. Boys' own magazine. Every Boy should take it regularly. It's full of interest.

Amongst the very large number of publications issued by Headquarters there are two books which much be mentioned.

The B.B. Manual for Officers and the *Handbook for Boys* between them cover every aspect of B.B. work. The best advice for anyone in doubt on any point would be to “stick to the Manual” if he is an Officer, or “refer to the Handbook” if a Boy. The answer to most B.B. problem will be found there.

Felden Lodge and Carronvale

One of the great experiences of a B.B. Boy's career is to visit a Brigade Training Centre. These include Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, and Carronvale in Stirlingshire, for English and Scottish members and Rathmore House as the Northern Ireland residential training centre. In addition a number of provincial Battalions have their own Training Centres – mostly non-residential, e.g. at Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Northampton and South Shields, etc.

More senior Boys than ever before are deciding to give service to the B.B. as men and under the King George VI Leadership Scheme they can receive training as Officer Cadets at these centres.

These courses are not “rest cures”, though ample leisure-time and sports facilities make a week at a residential Training Centre a holiday to remember. Young men of many nationalities both from within the B.B. and outside mix together, fitting themselves for leadership, Christian citizenship, and the big responsibility of becoming a B.B. Officer. For any who cannot attend residential courses, there are local training courses for both senior Boys and Officers constantly available, as part of the B.B. National Training Scheme. No one need ever say “we would like to help, but we don't know how”.

“From Life Boy to Queen's Man” – The B.B. Plan

This is an age of planning, and like all progressive organizations The Boys' Brigade works to a well defined system. It is said (truly I think) that boys do not change, but I would add that their environment does – and greatly – in this modern world.

Therefore, while the B.B. method continues on the firm foundation laid down by William Smith 82 years ago, it has notably moved with the times. Adventurous Training Schemes; the Duke of Edinburgh Award; training courses for N.C.O.s; the Officer Cadet Scheme for senior boys, etc., were all unheard of in Sir William's days but, without sacrificing its high principles, the modern B.B. caters for all lads choosing to join it.

They can join in two ways. One, by transfer from a Life Boy Team, where they will have served for two or three years between their ninth and twelfth year. Alternatively, they can join as recruits in their 12th year continuing until the end of the session in which they reach their 19th birthday.

The Life Boys

This junior movement of reserves for the B.B. was begun in 1917 – for nine years being known as “The Boy Reserves” but becoming The Life Boys in 1926 when the B.B. and the Boys’ Life Brigade amalgamated.

A Life Boy Team (though attached to the parent church) meets separately from the B.B. Company with a quite different training programme. A Life Boy Team neither parades with the B.B. Company nor works with it at any meeting.

Physical activities, games, singing, musical marching, handicrafts, hobbies and nature study are the main features of Life Boy work conducted in a happy, but disciplined playground atmosphere. A system of awarding seals (not badges) for special proficiencies is in force, and the uniform is a blue jersey with the Life Boy badge on the left breast; navy blue shorts and stockings. A “sailor” cap with the words *The Life Boys* on the ribbon completes a smart uniform. A white lanyard worn by a Life Boy indicates the rank of group leader.

On reaching the transfer age the Life Boy becomes a recruit to the B.B. Company and is usually promoted at a special service in the parent church.

In the “new look” Brigade which was coming into being as this book went to print, the old name of “Life Boys” may have been amended to something like the Junior Section – for that is what it really is, an important and integral part of the whole movement.

The New B.B. Recruit

Most B.B. Companies confine their recruiting to the opening days of the session in September. Many have a “waiting list” with provision made for the yearly intake of Life Boys.

But there are other sources such as the local schools and if the B.B. really counts in a locality there is keen competition to join when the recruiting date is announced. A Company Parade “with colours flying and bands playing” is often sufficient to bring in crowd of would-be members.

Often even that is unnecessary. An announcement that “recruiting will take place...*for Half an Hour Only*” is sufficient.

A new Boy is interviewed by an Officer; given details of Company meetings and subscriptions and allocated to a squad before commencing recruits’ drill training. This is interesting work and enables him to quickly take his place in Company parades and drill with confidence. All his early training is focused on the goal of the Enrolment Service – an impressive occasion, held in church, often on B.B. Founder’s Day.

Depending on punctuality and regular attendance, progress and good conduct, a recruit will become a member of the Company with the rank of private. He will receive a welcome from the Church, and will repeat the declaration made when signing his application form. From then onward progress and achievements as a B.B. Boy should be enjoyable and crammed full of interest.

The Squad System

A B.B. Company is divided into Sections and Squads under Non-Commissioned Officers (Senior Boys), who usually have charge of a Squad of about 12 Boys. Boys from one street or district, or with a special bond of friendship, often form a Squad together, and so friendly rivalry within the Company is maintained.

The Company Programme

Each B.B. Company plans its winter and summer programmes in accordance with its numbers, staff and premises. Later in this book details of the various activities are given but a programme such as an average Company working in a town can follow is:

- Winter* – 1) Bible Class (usually Sunday mornings and quite separate from the Sunday School)
2) Company Parade Night.
3) P.T. and/or Gymnastics (sometimes Drill and P.T. are combined on the same Night)
4) First Aid, Band Practice, Arts and Crafts, Clubroom (all “extras” over and above the Parade Night).
5) Football.

- Summer* – 1) Bible Class
2) Swimming Club (one evening in local Baths).
3) Cricket (B.B. cricket leagues often run as an *evening* activity in summer)
4) Signalling and/or Life Saving.
5) Wayfaring.
6) Adventurous Training.
7) Camping.

Several of these activities may be substituted by others as preferred, but the Company Parade in the winter months and the weekly Bible Class are the principal meetings for B.B. Companies everywhere.

Promotion – the N.C.O. System.

A Boy showing ability and qualities of leadership can earn promotions on reaching the required age. The Brigade N.C.O.s system was founded on the systems of the Public Schools and the Army – two organizations which have helped to make Britain great.

Promotion from the ranks benefits both a Boy and his Company. Past service, good conduct, and the power to command are taken into consideration when promoting a Boy to N.C.O. rank, and the minimum age limits for the various ranks are:

Lance-Corporal -> 15 years old

Corporal -> 16 in the Session in which he is promoted.

Sergeant -> 17 in the Session in which he is promoted.

Amongst N.C.O.s' duties are the keeping of the Squad Roll-book; visiting absentees and taking charge of the Squad at drill in Company and (whenever possible) at Battalion Competitions. Responsible tasks these but don't forget the Boys concerned are by then *Officers*-non-commissioned ones. Their stripes have not been given as a reward, but as a mark of responsibility.

On reaching the age of 15 a Boy (whether he be a N.C.O. or not) attains Senior Status. He is given his "Senior Charter" and finds many new opportunities to opening up to him to enjoy his B.B. service.

Different activities, outdoor and more adventurous pursuits to those he followed as a Junior or a recruit open up. The mixing with Seniors from other Companies is only one way of his realizing that he is indeed a member of a great worldwide organization of Youth.

Staff-Sergeants and Warrant Officers

The next step in a B.B. Boys' career may be to Staff-Sergeant; though it must be made clear that a "Staffie" is then not regarded as "a Boy". He must have reached the age limit with N.C.O.'s rank. As a Staff-Sergeant he can serve until his 19th year and can be of great assistance to the Officers in many ways. It is good training for later commissioned rank, but the next promotion is usually to rank of Warrant Officer.

A Warrant Officer must be 19 years old, and many Companies prefer their Officers to serve first in this probationary rank. Many young men who have not had the privilege of coming up through a Company have found the Warrant Officer rank excellent training before becoming a commissioned Officer.

Officers

There are only two commissioned ranks in The Boys' Brigade – the Captain of a Company, and the Lieutenants who assist him. Their duties need not concern us here, but the need for a regular supply of trained men suitable for Officers should never be

overlooked. Nor should the contribution of the Chaplain, who can be both Officer, Minister and a loyal comrade of everybody in the Company.

The new "Three Tier" Brigade

In 1963, concerned with the importance of attracting and holding more Boys into and within the movement, the B.B. appointed a special committee under the Chairmanship of Sir George Haynes, C.B.E. (Director of the National Council of Social Service), to investigate and make recommendations on the whole Brigade system.

In 1964 the Haynes Report was issued and became a "best seller". Argument and healthy controversy naturally followed. Obviously some vital decisions affecting the future of the B.B. were going to be called for and the 1964 Brigade Council at Cambridge approved the Haynes Report in principle, leaving detailed proposals to be put before its next meeting at Southampton in September 1965. one of these was likely to be that, whilst a B.B. Company shall still remain *the unit* it should comprise three inter-related sections or "tiers" possibly to be named:

- B.B. Juniors (i.e. the former Life Boys).
- B.B. Boys (the 12 to 15 age group).
- B.B. Seniors (the 16 to 19-year olds).

The senior section may become known later as "the B.B. Service Corps" for they will be offered something different to the programmes of their younger brethren, with an emphasis on service and adventurous. Other questions dealing with the modernization of training methods, uniform, awards, etc., are also under consideration as this book goes to press, but it can be said that the "new look B.B." promises well. It should be full of life and vitality to give great hope for the movement's future.

The B.B. Badge System

Let us return to the recruit, already launched on his B.B. life. Not every recruit will become an Officer; not all will aspire to be N.C.O.s but *every* Boy can follow the particular activities that suit and interest him most, and can win proficiency badges when a required standard is attained. The list of B.B. Badges shows the wide variety of subjects available, and careful study shows how the four-fold idea of physical, mental, social and religious development is completely covered.

B.B. Badges are not awarded for self-glorification, but to remind the wearer of what the Brigade has done for him, and what he has done for the Brigade.

These awards fall into three main categories:

Membership And Service Badges:

The Life Boy Service Badge: presented when a Life Boy is promoted and receives his B.B. uniform.

The B.B. Buttonhole Badge: to be worn always, whether in uniform or mufti, indicating the wearer's membership of a great movement.

The One Year Service Badge: denotes a year's satisfactory service with a minimum of 90 per cent attendance at Drill and Bible Class during a session of not less than 25 meetings of each.

The Three Years' Service Badge: awarded to Boys of 14 or over who have served with good conduct for three sessions.

The Long Service Badge: awarded to Boys of 16 or over for not less than four sessions with good conduct.

The Discharge Certificate: awarded to Boys leaving the Brigade at 17 or over, having served with good conduct for at least three sessions.

Proficiency Badges

The conditions and requirements for these awards are fully described in Chapter 9 "A Boy's B.B. Life."

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

This is a scheme in which many Youth Organizations take part. Its main provisions are outlined on a later page.

Queen's Men

In September 1913, an award to be known by permission of King George V as *The King's Badge* was announced. Now known as *The Queen's Badge*, and authorized by Her Majesty, this is the highest award in the Brigade, and the most cherished of all B.B. badges.

It is worn with uniform only and indicates a high attendance record over a long period at drill and Bible Class; good conduct, and proficiency in a number of subjects for which Badges are awarded.

To become "a Queen's Man" is the highlights of a B.B. Boy's career. The award is often (and rightly) made the occasion of a special parade.

The very first awards of The King's Badge (as it the was) were made to Sgt. Arthur J. Reid (1st Glasgow Coy.) and Sgt. Frank E. Sturch (1st Warley Coy.) in 1914.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Many people think that any organization catering for Boys of such a varied age range as the B.B. does must meet difficulty in interesting the younger and older lads alike. In fact the important part the Brigade is playing in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has helped to meet this point, for the Award was specially designed to interest the older

members of Youth Organizations. For those who only know of the Scheme by name a brief resume will be of interest.

H.R.H. Prince Philip believed that in Britain there were still far too many young people failing to show what they really could do with their lives – mainly because they lacked the opportunity. The Scheme bearing his name was established in 1956 and though The Boys' Brigade with its long record of service behind it (and its own badge system working well) had initial misgivings about participating, forward-looking views and faith in the new Scheme's value prevailed, and the decision to take part had been amply justified.

B.B. Boys have been prominently associated in the list of Awards – especially in the sections dealing with pursuits and projects and physical fitness. The whole movement has benefited from its taking part while the Brigade may be pardoned for thinking that its own long traditions of religion, service and personal fitness may have had a special value in the overall scheme.

It is an interesting, exciting plan that quickly captured the imagination of thousands of Britain's boys and girls. It can to some extent be regarded as an extension of the badge systems of the leading voluntary uniformed youth organizations and it certainly provides and incentive for the older members to continue their training.

The Award Scheme consists of three standards of achievement – the First, Second and Third Series. The awards for efficiency in these three sections are the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Each "series" is divided into four sections, each covering a different field of activity, and to qualify in any of the series the requisite standard must be attained in all four sections, which are:

- a) Rescue and Public Service Training
- b) Expeditions
- c) Pursuits
- d) Fitness

In the B.B. the Gold Standard ranks second only to The Queen's Badge and is therefore a very high honour indeed.

Since 1956 there has been no lack of volunteers to take part in the arduous and exciting courses for the Award.

Mountaineering courses in Snowdonia have been led by such distinguished climbers as Sir John Disley the Olympic runner.

Days of tough training in this wild country; instruction in basic technique of rock-climbing, map-reading, canoeing and compass work, lead up to all-day walks and nights of high-altitude camping.

Courses on Dartmoor, the Peak District, Lake District, the Cairngorms and in the Shetlands have been held, and this form of training (though strenuous in the extreme)

has come to stay. That it appeals to the older Boys is proved by the rush of applications for places whenever a course is announced.

N.C.O.'s Training

Apart from the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme, B.B. Boys have ample opportunity for special training. In Companies and many local centres courses proceed throughout the year giving Non-Commissioned Officers expert instruction in the many aspects of B.B. routine.

The B.B. Uniform

A great man once said "if honour be your clothing, your suit will last a lifetime". B.B. uniform is simple, and cheap, though its simplicity does not detract from the regard its wearers have for it. With a dark suit it is both smart and effective.

Not until 1884 did the 1st Glasgow Company have uniform and then only a leather belt, white haversack, both worn over ordinary clothing, and a small round cap worn with a military tilt, and not very different from the present "Uniform A". The famous B.B. pill-box was adopted later.

There are two main types of B.B. uniform-

Uniform "A"

The regulation Forage Cap with chin strap (the "pill-box") with the Company number in front.

A white haversack and leather waist-belt worn over ordinary clothing; the haversack being well starched and ironed (B.B. mothers, please note!) and belt and buckle brightly polished – by the Boy of course!

Uniform "B"

The regulation Field Service Cap (the "fore-and-aft" military type) with a star cap badge in white metal and the Company number at the side. The haversack and belt are as in Uniform "A"; worn over the ordinary clothing.

In 1963 Brigade Executive authorized the issue of a Full Uniform which can be obtained from Headquarters. Naturally more expensive than the traditional B.B. type this does make for increased smartness and of course for "uniformity".

The Haynes Committee was not slow to point out that the B.B. had different views on this important question of uniform. It called for these to be resolved as quickly as possible and – who know? – possibly before long we shall see a standardized form of B.B. uniform, though with variations for the three-tiers in the Brigade of the near future.

At the present time Lance-Corporals' and Corporals' uniform are the same as a Privates's, with the addition of chevrons of rank. Sergeants wear a peaked cap, shoulder

belt and pouch, in addition to a haversack. Boys in the Pipe Bands of Scottish Companies wear the kilt when in B.B. uniform.

Company medals and the B.B Cross for Heroism are worn on the left breast. The Queen's Badge, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Badge and Long Service Badge are worn on the left arm-all other Brigade Badges on the right arm, above any stripes.

The Old Boys

And now, you may ask to what does all this add up? Where do the hours in Bible Class, the days at camp, the drill and P.T. games lead to? It has been said that 'the B.B. has no Old Boys movement like the Rover Scouts' – admitted, but there is an answer.

The close association between Church and B.B. Company has already been stressed. Every Company is a part of the Church, and Church Membership or Confirmation should be the outcome of what should have been the best possible preparation for a Christian life.

Sir William Smith always maintained that no Boys' movement could deal with young men over 18 years of age-the B.B. was formed to deal with *boys* and if the B.B. had done its job Church Membership (maybe translated into service as a B.B. Officer, or Church or Sunday School worker) would follow.

That is not to say that contact with a Boys ceases on his reaching the age limit. There are many 'Past Members' and 'Old Boys Associations' in being, whilst, under the third-tier Senior Service section of the new-look B.B., the emphasis on service to others should be instrumental in holding many young men to the end of their' teens.

The B.B. Old Boy seeks to serve his Church, his home and all the people he meets in a true Christian spirit, so that the influence of the B.B. may be of service to *everyone*

One of the most memorable events of the Founder's Centenary Year celebration in 1954 was the Old Boys Parade that closed the 'Festival of Boyhood' at Wembley. On and on they marched that afternoon; old men, middle-aged men, soldiers, sailors and airmen-every walk of life apparently represented there, with the memory of their B.B. service as the uniting thread. What must have been the feelings of the Founder's sons Stanley and Douglas Smith, that day as this host of witnesses paid tribute to the B.B. method? A few weeks later the Royal Albert Hall, London, was packed from floor to galleries with yet another huge gathering of Old Boys renewing old friendships and proving that the B.B. anchor still holds them.

CHAPTER TEN – A Boy's BB life – (a) Indoors (b) Outdoors

(a) Indoors

You might ask "Why does a Boy join the B.B.?" – well, why does on join anything? One joins a football club to play football; a swimming club to become a proficient swimmer and so on, but I believe a lad joins The Boys' Brigade to make his mind alert, his body straight, and his whole being disciplined.

At first nothing may be further from his mind than ideals of that nature. Boys know from their pals that a good time is had in the local Company, and on joining begin to enjoy it themselves. That in doing so they are helping themselves and each other to become better men is complete justification for the B.B. method.

No more sermons-instead look at what the method means in an average session. Let us look at the Indoor activities of the winter months, and the Outdoor programme in the summertime.

At Windsor in 1943, when King George referred to "the twin pillars of Religion and Discipline" he was referring to the Bible Class and the Company Parade which together form the centre of every Company's life. At these two weekly meetings every Officer and Boy is expected to be present, and they set the tone of a Company in a way no other activity can.

Both Bible class and Drill are complementary of course. The Founder's aim in starting his Brigade for Boys was to improve the religious instruction in his Sunday School but he saw it needed discipline and *esprit-de-corps* to achieve his target. His decision of over eighty years ago has surely meant that many Boys and young men have attended Christian worship who would not otherwise have done so, and such worship backed up by the life and tradition of any good B.B. Company must have made a lasting impression on countless young minds during their most receptive, formative stage.

The Bible Class

Most B.B. Bible Classes are held on Sunday mornings, and are a rightful part of the worship of the parent church.

Not necessarily a part of the Sunday School – it is a Company activity and Boys are keen to attend because it is their meeting connected with their Company.

A good Bible Class is a valuable and pleasant thing. Well-chosen, bright hymns, scripture reading, prayers and a brief (but pointed) address make a real family gathering, shared in by Officers and Boys alike.

In its Report, published in 1964, on the Work and Future of the B.B. the Haynes Committee recommended that while the Bible Class must still be the main method of Religious Instruction at present, some further co-ordination with the whole religious

teaching of the Church was desirable. Charges of too great and inflexibility in the form and teaching of the Company Bible Class can surely no longer be sustained if regard is paid to the different age groups in a Company and the spiritual side of its programme directed accordingly.

Apart from the weekly Bible Class, the B.B. fosters further religious study by the award of Scripture Knowledge Certificates (and a Badge) in four different age groups. Courses of instruction for these awards are held outside and supplementary to the weekly Company classes.

The Company Parade Night

The second of 'the twin pillars' (Discipline) is translated into every Company activity – even to the Bible Class to ensure the greatest benefit – but in the weekly parade this order and precision is demonstrated in its most practical form.

'Discipline' may nowadays be a word out of fashion. Few people like being 'pushed around' but without good discipline no organization, and no individual, is going to get far in this modern world. The B.B. Founder saw that in 1883 and though conditions have since changed vastly a need for discipline and true *esprit-de-corps* exists today as then – probably more so.

And how enjoyable period of drill can be under N.C.O.s and Officers who really know their stuff! Great satisfaction can be obtained from good drill.

The Haynes Committee had something to say about Drill too. While fully endorsing its great value in achieving smartness and securing discipline in the early stages of training it felt that B.B. Drill could become a bit complicated! Perhaps, a more valid criticism was their comment that the Brigade had taken too long a time to decide whether it should drill in threes or fours-adding that the latter style was practically discarded elsewhere just after the end of World War One!

It called for a simplified Drill Book, which in turn (it thought) would leave more time for other activities.

A personal view is that this question of Drill should be kept in proportion. No one-Officers and Boys alike-should forget the Founder's intention, that Drill was to be a means to an end and not an end in itself. Having said that one must acknowledge the pleasure and profit accruing from the good drill fostered throughout the years by the B.B.

Response to the word of command and the alertness of mind that betokens; tidiness in assembly; order and precision on public and other ceremonial occasions – all indicate Good Training and, you know, small numbers need not prevent good drill.

I have seen some most efficient B.B. drill, both in threes and fours, produced by relatively small, but 100 per cent alert Companies, but to see a good Company (say fifty strong) stepping out keen and confident in a series of crisp movements cannot be other than a thrilling spectacle.

Senior Boys (who are often Non-commissioned Officers) are key men in any Company's drill programme, especially when the time comes to test out the training in annual Battalion or District Competitions. Proficiency in Drill, plus a reasonable knowledge of B.B. organization, methods and history can secure a Senior's Proficiency Certificate or a N.C.O.'s Proficiency Star for such competence.

Physical Training

Some Companies can devote a separate evening to Physical Training or "Gymnastics", Others must combine P.T. with drill but whichever method is adopted this is one of the most popular items in the programme.

"Gymnastics" suggests the use of apparatus. Any Company possessing bars, beams, logs, or rings is fortunate, but lack of such equipment need not prevent good Physical Training in any unit. Textbooks and tables of exercises are available and Battalions usually set exercises for annual competition for a trophy.

There is a great variety of P.T. games, for teams or partners; all enjoyable as an alternative to set exercises.

Rewards for P.T. efficiency can come in the winning of organized competitions with other Companies. For the individuals there is the Brigade P.T. Certificate for the younger boys, followed by the P.T. Badge and then the peak awards of the P.T. Advanced Certificates for lads of 15 years or more. These advanced awards require the ability to execute in good style and form tests in *any two* of six alternative P.T. activities-Agility, Vaulting, Trampoline, Parallel Bars, Horizontal Bar or Strength and Stamina. The 1st B.B. Advanced P.T. Certificate also qualifies its holder for entry into the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (Pursuits and Projects section).

Physical fitness is a national necessity – it is a quality that has played a big part in making our country and Commonwealth what it is and the B.B. continues to play a big part in fostering it.

Bands

The first B.B. Band was a fife band, formed by the 1st Glasgow in 1885, and for many years bands and The Boys' Brigade have been inseparable. We thrill to martial music and the beat of the drum or the strains of a march can be an enlivening experience – it certainly makes a distance to be marched seem shorter!

There are many types of BB. Bands – brass (key instruments); bugle (bugles and drums only); drums and fife, or trumpet; and in Scotland the pipe bands. A Company should be at least 30 strong before it forms a band, but even the smaller units can employ a couple o drummers to convey smartness to a parade or a bugler sound the calls for drill parade or in camp.

B.B. Bands have broadcast on numerous occasions. B.B. Band Festivals are periodically held in London's Albert Hall. B.B. pipe bands play in competitions of the Scottish Pipe Band Association – the 214th Glasgow band being outstanding. They have won the Word

Juvenile Championship for pipe bands and can hold their own with adult bands in many competitions.

But all comes back to the individual bugler, drummer or piper. Any boy who is musically inclined (not forgetting the pianists) will find a warm welcome and a job to do in a Brigade unit. Badges are awarded when required standards are reached.

Boys of 14 over, who are regular in attendance at Band practice and attain certain standards in their instruments, can win such awards as the Drummer's, Bugler's, or Piper's Badge-also the B.B. Band Badge for players of instruments other than the three named. Advanced Certificates are acknowledgments of still further skill in such musicianship. Membership of a B.B. Band and possession of some of the Badges mentioned also qualifies for stages of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The number of handbell-ringing teams seems to be increasing. This is an excellent team activity, and is in big demand for displays and concerts. Handbell-ringing can qualify for the B.B. Arts and Crafts Badge.

First Aid

Ambulance or First Aid is one of the most valuable of all activities, being of lasting use to the trainee and a piece of real community service. Nowadays "rescue work" besides normal First Aid practice is included in the training.

The Brigade First Aid training scheme is a progressive one. Most Battalions hold annual competitions for both individual and teams, with the examinations being based on the joint manual of the St. John Ambulance Association; the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross Society, conducted by qualified medical men or other competent examiners.

Such examinations always cover both practical and oral tests and from the B.B. First Aid Certificate awarded to first-year examinees, the keen boy can proceed to win the B.B. First Aid Badge which can serve as qualification for the Rescue and Public Service section of The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Then there are the Advanced Certificates, possessions of which signify the recipient is a competent exponent of this important branch of community service.

Handicraft

There is ample scope in a Company for a Boy with a gift for Arts and Crafts. Where a Handicrafts Section can be accommodated this is a most satisfying activity and it can embrace many subjects. The Arts and Crafts Badge is awarded to Boys of 13 or over who hold Arts and Crafts Certificates for attaining satisfactory standards of merit in any THREE of the following subjects:

Agriculture	Household Maintenance
Archaeology	Instrumental Music (other than
Bands)	
Archery	Judo
Artistic Designing	Lino-cutting

Astronomy	Marquetry
Basket Making	Metal Work
Campanology	Model Making
Carpentry and Woodwork	Photography
Cookery	Play Rehearsals
Cycling (including maintenance and Road Safety)	Radio Construction
Dramatics	Tap Dancing
Drawing	Railway Knowledge
Fencing	Rifle Shooting
Football Refereeing	Singing
Harmonica	Stamp Collecting
Highland Dancing	Water Colour Painting
Horticulture	
Household Electricity	
Writing, Printing and Circulating a Company Magazine	

Surely that is a comprehensive enough hobby list for anyone? Even so the Brigade Executive will consider any additional subject that may be proposed whilst advising Companies to undertake only two subjects per Session at most. They would be foolish to do otherwise, in addition to their other work.

Signalling

This is a subject that has maintained its popularity in recent years in the B.B. It is an "individual" activity rather than a team affair, and would-be signallers receive tuition apart from the other Boys – it must never be a means of "cutting" drill or P.T. Signaller's Certificate and Badges are awarded for proficiency in both semaphore and Morse, with Advance Certificates whose requirements demand a high standard in both sending and receiving; pronunciation; and ability to instruct a squad in Flag Drill.

Educational Classes

Someone said "all Boys are brainy – but some are brainier than others" – and there is something in a B.B. Company to meet most tastes. For the studious type, or the Boy who is keen to find out what kind of a world this really is, provision is made to encourage and reward him. Citizenship Certificates and a Badge can be worn in such subjects as:

- Local Government
- National Government
- The Judicial System
- International Relations
- Church Organization and Government
- Social and Moral Responsibilities (including such topics such as Temperance, Gambling, Social Service, etc)

In spite of much criticism of modern youth (some of it, alas, not without cause) there remains a not inconsiderable proportion of the nation's youth anxious and willing to seize on opportunities for public service. International relationships, the life of the

Church and the facing up to social problems of the day all demand a well-informed mind and outlook. This educational aspect of B.B. training is perhaps not so widely publicized as some other of its activities but its importance is very obvious.

The Club Room

One of the first activities of the Founder's Company was "the Boys' Room" – a part of the Sunday School reserved for indoor games, reading and refreshment. Many Companies find their Club Room (as it is usually known nowadays) one of their biggest attractions.

No rigid programme can be suggested here, as conditions differ greatly, but by a committee of Boys and Officers it can be a popular rendezvous for the whole Company. Handicraft classes can be conducted in the Club Room – so can "Active games" (table tennis, darts, basket ball or badminton) and "Quiet games" (chess, billiards, and draughts etc) but not all at the same time!

The Company Concert

A company concert staged in January provides a fine landmark for the first half-year, with the rest of the session left for work for competitions and displays in the spring.

A large Company could produce a play – there are many scripts specially written for B.B. Companies without necessarily having a "B.B. angle". Others will tackle a concert and all such affairs are well worth while. Never overlook the value of a concert when funds are needed either!

The Company Inspection

Even the smallest Company should close its session with an inspection or display. Of necessity a more formal affair than the concert and with a carefully arranged programme, it crowns and gives point to the whole session. In an average Company of 30 Boys the programme could run as follows:

Opening Service (full Company on parade);
Reception of Inspecting Officer;
Inspection;
Drill;
Band;
Novelty Item;
Reports on session;
P.T. Item;
Inspecting Officer's remarks;
Presentation of Awards;
Closing Service.

The Battalion Display

In centres where strong B.B. Battalions exist a display contributed by the various Companies is an important event. Such displays mean hard work for many people but they get better and more ambitious every year.

Outstanding examples of the arena displays are those of London District at the Royal Albert Hall, and of the Lancashire and Cheshire District in Blackpool Tower. Notable B.B.

theatre shows of recent year include "B.B. Fanfare" at Glasgow; "Scotland the Brave" at Edinburgh; and "Nottingham Rock" in the Midlands city. There are many more and, whether great or small, a display provides a great thrill for each Boy taking part whilst the aims of the B.B. are brought before the public in a popular way.

Helping Others

The activities just described mainly concern a Boy and his Company. Whatever his interest he can find an outlet for them in the B.B. and he will obtain much personal pleasure during his Brigade life. But it is wrong to think that no service to others is given in return for the privilege of B.B. membership. It is – in many ways.

There is the systematic giving that each year produces considerable sums of money for church and charitable objects at home, and for missionary work abroad.

In 1964 The Boys' Brigade provided over £38,000 and The Life Boys over £26,000 for Overseas Missions and home charities.

Those magnificent figures are not all. Though a B.B. Boy is not specifically pledged to do one good turn a day, he can often be found assisting the less fortunate when need arises. Space only permits mention of a few examples:

The Lancashire and Cheshire District commemorated the 75th anniversary of the B.B. in 1958 by raising £1,200 to purchase and train a number of guide dogs for the blind.

Each year one London Company prepares a Christmas dinner for over 200 lonely old people. A concert and tea for the old folks follows, and though there isn't much of Christmas Day left for the lads when washing-up is done they count it a job well done.

A Warrington Company run a "Wheelchair Cleaning Service" and regularly visit homes of the disabled to service their invalid carriages. The Edinburgh Battalion have a small choir and harmonica band specially to give concerts in old people's homes – and how both side enjoy themselves!

In Plymouth (in co-operation with the Scouts) "Operation Firewood" sees three hundred tons of firewood distributed to old people – Scouts and B.B. Boys chopping it up at the old folks' homes.

The B.B. in Yorkshire runs its "Operation Goodwill" at Christmas on a county basis – it includes all kinds of plans designed to bring joy and comfort to other people at the festive season. It is the first such B.B. effort to be organized on a District scale.

Several companies keep tidy the gardens of old or infirm people who cannot do it themselves, And so one could go on. Many other "Helping Others" activities exist of which readers themselves may know.

Founder's Day

The last Sunday in October is celebrated throughout The Boys' Brigade as Founder's Day in memory of Sir William A. Smith and the majority of Companies throughout the world hold special "Founder's Day Services" in their own churches.

Out Of Doors

The Brigade session runs from September to August with the winter's training extending from September until May.

But summer months, irrespective of the weather, are crowded with B.B. activities too. Some of the most enjoyable feature of the programme, camping, rambling, swimming, athletics, and cricket are in season, and though indoor works is in abeyance, the light evenings, week-ends and holidays are a busy time.

But two important outdoor activities concern thousands of B.B. Boys mainly in winter – football and the church parade.

Association Football

This is the Brigade's biggest outdoor activity, with hundred of leagues in action every Saturday in the season. Some 2,000 B.B. soccer teams play the winter game – which means two out of every three units in Britain have football in their programme.

The Glasgow Battalion alone runs three leagues, divided into 22 divisions in which 200 teams play – some size...some Battalion!

Many top-ranking players have acknowledge their debt to Brigade football and several continue as Officers in the Companies where they were Boys.

A considerable number of B.B. Boys whilst still active members have obtained schoolboy international honours for the four home countries in recent seasons. Some are playing in senior football already, with full international honours perhaps not far away.

Rugby Football

Though the handling code is not as strong as soccer in B.B. circles, an opportunity exists in centres such as Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Leith, the Scottish Borders and South Wales, for aspirants to Rugby fame. Inter-city games are highlights of B.B. rugby seasons.

The Church Parade

Though not really an "activity" the church parade is an important B.B. event.

A B.B. Church parade is not arranged merely for show, but to advance the religious side of Brigade work. It strengthens the link between Company and Church.

Two Battalion parades a year are enough – one of these being on Founder's Day.

A word here about the honour accorded to the Colours (or "flags" as the layman calls them). This does back long before B.B. days, in fact back to mediaeval times when each

nobleman had some distinctive banner to which, in battle, his followers could rally. The varying hues brought the term "Colours" into being, and Colours were carried into battle by the Army as late as the Crimean War of 1854-56.

Now in the Services and Youth organizations alike Colours are regarded as a symbol of loyalty to the Crown and to the traditions of the unit concerned.

The B.B. proudly observes correct ceremonial in parading its Colours. Some Companies have their own; in other districts the Battalion Colours are the only ones paraded. The original Colours of the 1st Glasgow are always borne by Boy N.C.O.s with a Staff-Sergeant in charge. Elsewhere the Colour Ensigns may be young Officers – a responsible task, proudly undertaken.

And so to the summertime activities.

Cricket

No better example of a B.B. cricketer can be quoted than Sir Leonard Hutton, the famous Yorkshire and England batsman, who was a Boy in the 2nd Leeds Company. Few may aspire to the heights attained by Len Hutton, but that does not prevent lads in over 800 B.B. cricket teams trying to.

Many of those teams are connected with Scottish and Irish Companies for (strange as it may seem to English readers) cricket is played North of the border and across the Irish Sea!

Athletics

A summer highlight is the sports meeting. Such sports held on first-class tracks allow Boys to sample running and field events under the best conditions. The Olympic ideal of "not the winning, but the taking part" is given practical application at these gatherings, for individual prizes are not awarded, the Boys competing for their Company alone.

Personal distinction on track or field can however be marked by the winning of some of the B.B. Athlete's Awards, the tests for which must be carried out at Company or Battalion level with the judges being officials of a national Amateur Athletic Association or an affiliated club, or of the Councils of Physical Recreation.

The Athlete's Certificate marks the attainment by a lad of 14 or over of certain standards in his chosen track of field events. The Athlete's Badge is for attaining the 15-plus age group who reach a still better standard with the Advance Certificate for attaining a really meritorious level of performance. For each of these awards it is necessary for a Boy to reach the requisite standard in each of three groups – Running, Jumping, and Field events, though he can choose his own activity in each group. Entrance to the Fitness section of the Edinburgh Award scheme is facilitated by the winning of the B.B. certificate.

Cycling

Many Boys possess bicycles. In the B.B. extra fun can be gained in the Cycling group. A country run on a fine Sunday morning and (with the Chaplain's approval) attendance at a country church or Sunday School preserves the corporate Bible Class attendance.

In many places co-operation with police and road safety authorities in testing machines for roadworthiness constitutes an important piece of work, whose value cannot be over-emphasized.

In August 1958, one of the celebration of the B.B. 75th Anniversary was a sports festival at Lilleshall and a cycle rally from all parts of the country.

Swimming and Life Saving

Surely an "indoor" activity? If conducted as a Company item, with and organized club-night at the local baths – yes. But the swimming club remains essentially a summertime pursuit.

Swimming is one of the most attractive and useful features of B.B. work, with the Proficiency Certificates and Badges and the Annual Gala as incentives to everyone to aim at high standards.

Commencing with an Elementary Certificate for swimming 25-yards free-style a B.B. Boy can next have a shot at the Intermediate Certificate which requires him to swim 100 yards either free-style, butterfly, breast-stroke or back-stroke in certain defined times. A 14-year-old with these certificates must then better his times over 100 yards and show he is a proficient diver and be able to retrieve underwater objects to qualify for the B.B. Swimming Badge. One further requirement is that he shall be able to swim ¼-mile free-style within 12 minutes. The B.B. Swimming Badge plus attainments of standards in two of the groups in the Athlete's Certificate qualifies a Boy in the Fitness section of the Edinburgh Award at Bronze stage. The B.B. Advanced Swimming Certificates (with the athletic proviso) give Edinburgh Award entry at the Silver stage.

Though not all Life Saving requires proficiency in the water, it goes without saying that your competent swimmer is a most useful chap to have around when anyone is in danger of drowning. Working to the requirements of The Royal Life Saving Society, courses of instruction are regularly held throughout the Brigade. In such an important activity there must be no "second best" or "make do and mend" attitude, and all such instructional courses MUST (if not held under auspices of the Brigade itself) have prior approval by the Company or by the local Battalion concerned.

Awards of both the Life-Saving Certificate and Badge demand a high standard of efficiency in water-work; the administration of artificial respiration and a good knowledge of the subject shown by and oral test. Here again there is an Advanced Certificate whose holders can take justifiable pride in their skills – learned and practised

not for any personal advancement, but for the assistance and succor of their fellow-men when in distress.

Signalling and Firefighting

B.B. Signalling was referred to earlier. It can be undertaken either outdoors or inside – in summer or winter.

Firefighting training also knows no restriction of time or place, but for different reasons. Instruction is usually given in conjunction with the local Fire service, and concerns Boys of 15 and over. It is both skilled work and hard work, but is most useful.

The B.B. Fireman's Certificate and Badge is awarded to Boys who have had instruction in, and can prove a satisfactory working knowledge of such subjects as:

- Causes and prevention of fire.
- System of Fire Alarms and emergency action.
- Entry of burning, smoke-filled or gas-filled buildings.
- Elementary fire-fighting methods.
- First Aid treatment. Knots and Lines.
- The Fire Service Organization.
- Means of Escape in public or large buildings.
- Water supplies.
- Methods of rescue.

Here again is another piece of real community service by those who undergo such training. Its importance is acknowledged by the Edinburgh Award authorities who (provided a Boy has been examined and passed for the Badge by a Fire Service Officer) will admit him to the Rescue and Public Service section at the Gold stage with the addition of an "actual service clause".

Camping

Many writers have enthused about the joys of camping. "The crown of the year" and "those shining unforgettable days" are typical phrases, and a description of B.B. camping as being "The Brigade on Active Service" is not far wrong.

Seventy years ago the B.B. pioneered organized camping for Boys and the Founder was considered rash indeed for taking lads to sleep in tents! The historic first B.B. camp in July 1886 was at Tighnabruaich, on the Kyles of Bute, with a programme of boating, games, fishing, a regatta, and rambles. It was a new world to those city lads. Really it was a "sailing camp" but the great thing was that a long-standing prejudice to camping had been overcome. From that beginning sprang scores of B.B. camps in the next few years, with this "new-style holiday" being copied by organized bodies and individual campers alike. Thus from being regarded as a hazard for soldiers, gypsies, or tramps (for that was public opinion 80 years ago) camping quickly grew to become a popular pastime. The B.B. is proud of the start given to camping by its Founder in 1886.

Figures show that about 36,000 Boys attended B.B. Camps in an average year, excluding countless week-end and individual ventures, some of which are quite ambitious. For example in 1964 about 700 Boys travelled abroad to camp – Denmark, Sweden, France, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain all being favoured venues.

The essentials of a good Camp are three in number. Given good planning, a good site, and good catering, any camp (whether B.B. or not) should be a success. But doesn't good weather matter too?

Yes, it does indeed, and fine sunny weather adds immeasurably to camping joys but it is not *essential*. If it were, in our British climate there would be far less camping than there is. Baden-Powell told Scouts camping in a sea of mud that anyone could be a good camper in fine weather – he was right. It is under extreme of weather that camp morale is often highest.

Assuming the weather is kind the routine for a B.B. camp runs on these lines:

- Reveille
- Dress and prepare for Tent Inspection
- Breakfast and Prayers
- Kit and Tent Inspection
- Inter-Tent Competitions; or Bathing Parade
- Dinner
- Inter-Tent Competitions; or Sports
- Tea
- Evening Free
- Supper and Prayers
- Lights Out

The Inter-tent competitions in cricket, football, baseball, treasure hunt, swimming, cross-country, etc., can be held either in camp or on the beach.

A Visitors' Day with sports events is good. Cricket with a local team, and a Sunday morning church parade and an evening Drumhead service are usual. That last evening in camp may be devoted to a concert and sing-song.

Both country and seaside camps have their own special features but a week in a hall or in hutments is no substitute for a real camp under canvas. Any Boy completing his B.B. service without sharing the joyous atmosphere of a camping holiday has missed about half the fun of being in the Brigade at all.

There are of course, good campers and some not so good! But I'll warrant that if you see a B.B. Boy wearing on his right arm a shield-shaped badge depicting a bell tent surmounted with the initials "B.B." (the Camper's Badge) then you have a really GOOD CAMPER. To win that badge he will have had to attend B.B. camps under canvas in three different years, for at least seven days in each year. He will have to have a record of good conduct and have been proved proficient in such camping essentials as tent-pitching and packing; camp sites and layouts; camp routine; tent craft; sanitation and hygiene; camp cooking; transport; and be able to arrange orderly squad duties and fatigues. Yes – I think you can assume that a boy with this particular badge knows his camping from the practical angle (the only angle in this activity of course) and knowing it, likes it too.

Wayfaring

"Hiking" is a modern word – but neither rambling nor wayfaring (which it really indicates) are new pastimes at all. A day's ramble is a part of most camp programmes, and with modern transport a Rambler can tackle some of Britain's best wayfaring country at modest cost.

It is unnecessary to wear a ridiculous "hiking costume", and a heavy bulging rucksack is not essential for an afternoon's outing as many seem to think. The essential for enjoyment are easy-fitting clothing appropriate to the weather, with well fitting boots or shoes.

Some B.B. wayfaring expeditions are quite spectacular. An Ayrshire Company once held their Bible Class 2,600 feet up near Carlin's Cairn, after a wee-end amidst swirling mists and the rocky grandeur of that remote country, gaining experience and practical training for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

A Glasgow Company, camping somewhere in Perthshire, staged a mountain marathon, scaling in succession four mountains of nearly 4,000 feet each. It was a hazardous undertaking but the B.B. spirit carried it through to success.

Less exacting is the annual race to the top of Arthur's Seat and back. This event is open to Scottish Youth organizations and the B.B. is always represented. There are few tougher tests of stamina for lads anywhere in Britain, and B.B. Boys more than hold their own.

From the heights to the depths. Another form of wayfaring growing in popularity is pot-holing. B.B. Companies in Northern England are well situated for fell-walking in the Pennines and underground exploration is now a summer activity of several groups of B.B. Boys.

Nature Study

The love of Nature (like the love of reading) is a habit that can grow and deepen in a Boy or man. Both give lasting satisfaction long after other attractions have lost their savour.

Nature Study is an absorbing pastime and fits in well with wayfaring activities. In fact the Wayfarer's Badge includes recognition of flowers and leaves, and the ability to describe the chief characteristics of numbers of native wild birds and wild animals. Other requirements for this Badge are proficiency in map reading; a knowledge of knots and the uses of compass and protractor. A highlight of the tests for the Wayfarer's Badge is the personal journey – walking in one day the distance in miles equal to the number of year's in one's age at an average rate of 3 miles per hour. Cycling or climbing test can be substituted for this personal hike if desired.

The Wayfarer's Certificate is a less arduous but equally interesting assignment, while the Advanced Certificate, as its name implies, needs a really comprehensive knowledge of flora and fauna; sky, sun and sea and an all-round acquaintance with the open road and the open air.

Seamanship

There is a growing interest in the practice of Seamanship with plenty of fun for any Company based near water, though in fact absence of water need not deter.

Several inland Companies (Bradford, Nottingham, Glasgow, and Slough for example) have boating schemes of various kinds, and there is no shortage of recruits in Companies undertaking Seamanship.

Training courses now bring this healthy attractive subject within the reach of a growing number of Boys, to whom sailing and boating spell magic.

Seamanship awards include the Certificate for Boys over 15 who have had adequate training and pass tests in nautical terms; identification of buoys and lights; knowledge of knots and ropes and have some navigational knowledge. The Badge tests are on similar lines but are more advanced.

Expeditions

Quite new items in Brigade work are the Training Expeditions at various levels. Stimulated greatly by the trends in adventurous training and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award the B.B. expeditions follow a carefully thought out plan and carry adequate safeguards against mishaps, though they are arduous enough by many standards. But they have evoked a fine response from eager, adventurous B.B. Boys in many areas. Self-reliance, stamina and a high degree of personal fitness are pre-requisites for embarking on these expeditions, but for those who make the grade the rewards of personal achievement are equally high. The B.B. Expedition Certificate and Badge carry Edinburgh Award qualification at the Bronze and Silver stages respectively.

Opportunities for seniors (Boys of 15 and upwards) to attend Holiday Centres on the Continent, Ski-ing Holidays in Norway and Scotland; Sailing Courses in Britain and Mountain Activity expedition in Wales, etc., open up vistas almost unthought of to their elders, but whose value few will contest.

Were I to try to sum-up all this Boys' Brigade activity I could perhaps do no better than say "there's never a dull moment". Let's get it right though. Never for one minute would I suggest that any Boy or any Company could savour all the many varied activities I have referred to in this catalogue of Indoor and Outdoor subjects. But, "cutting their coats to suit their cloth" the wise B.B. unit can select the items best suited to their needs and locality and in doing so find they have an attractive, progressive programme for their members to enjoy.

I said earlier that B.B. Drill was a means to an end. So too must be regarded all the extra items that go into most Company curriculums – they hold the Boys' loyalty and interest by stimulating them to reach reasonable standards of efficiency in subjects not always dealt with in schooltime.

Referring back once again to the now-famous Haynes Report I see that they commented on this factor, but in a slightly different vein. Acknowledging the prime purpose of the B.B. Badge system (its interest and incentive) they pointed out that perhaps the main fault of the system was that in almost every case the award was made for personal achievement and not for service to others.

A cogent point; but in my repeated references to the linking of the B.B. Badge qualification to the Duke of Edinburgh Award I have tried to show that this public service aspect can now form an important part of Boys' Brigade training – especially for the older members.

That over one-quarter of the Companies in the Brigade have, and are, participating in the Edinburgh Award scheme is a splendid modern development. A criticism that could be leveled at some of our Companies is that a number of them have been so slow to appreciate the wealth of variety that can be obtained from a well-thought-out selective programme, supplementing and aiding tremendously the good old stand-bys of Drill and Bible Class.

ADDENDUM – A European Conference

Demonstrating its outward-looking attitude to all youth work, the B.B. played an important part in the European Conference of Boys and Girls organizations in Copenhagen last year. The ties with the Danish F.D.F. have already been mentioned. Now the circle of friendship has been extended in Scandinavia to include important youth groups in Sweden and Finland.

Closer co-operation and doing things together was the theme of the gathering. "We need each other," said the Scandinavians and following full discussion (where language barriers were dwarfed by a sense of one-ness in a parallel Christian purpose) a declaration was signed by all the organizations present, affirming these fundamentals:

- a) Each organization is an integral part of the Church;
- b) The activities of each are similar;
- c) Each organization has uniform or other symbol of recognition; and in the belief that we can extend Christ's Kingdom by a closer co-operation, recommend the formation of a European Fellowship of organizations which conform with the above fundamentals

It was signed by representatives of the following national Youth Organizations:

GREAT BRITAIN

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
THE GIRLS' GUILDRY
THE GIRLS' LIFE BRIGADE

DENMARK

FRIVILLIGT DRENGE-FORBUND
FRIVILLIGT PIGE-FORBUND

SWEDEN

ANSGARSFORBUNDET
BORGA STIFTS UNGDOMSFORBUND

FINDLAND

POIKIEN KESKUS
TYTTOJEN KESKUS

CONCLUSION – The best is yet to be

That then is the story of the foundation and progress of the first of our great voluntary Youth organizations – or as much as space allows. There have been many “ups” and “downs” in the B.B. story but the progress has out-numbered the setbacks. What are the lessons in all this?

Sir William Smith gave thirty years of his life to The Boys’ Brigade. In the half-century that has elapsed many changes have taken place in the world, including two major wars and the emergence of what is often called “the affluent society”.

Most of the voluntary youth organizations are facing new problems in this new age and as this book went to press part of the new pattern of the B.B. was emerging. The setting up of the Haynes Committee in 1963/64 to investigate current difficulties and to consider what changes in recruitment, training, uniform, age limits and church relationships were desirable, was a major landmark in B.B. history.

Not all the Committee’s recommendations found favour. That was hardly to be expected, but it was a positive attempt to meet the challenges of today and to set a pattern for the future.

The world of the 1960’s is vastly different place to that of the 1880’s in which the B.B. was born. To revere the tradition is good and, though the theory that the inherent nature of the Boy – the raw material of the Brigade – hasn’t changed much, it is undeniable that this environment has, and greatly.

The recommendations of the Haynes Report (several of which are undergoing experiment for a provisional period as we go to press) should be regarded as an attempt by the B.B. to move with the times without weakening its basic principles of Religion and Discipline, and without surrendering in any way its Object of winning Boys for Christ’s Kingdom.

In the first edition of this book (1959) I drew attention to the fact that a quarter of the Brigade was then based outside Britain. That trend has continued and in the new emergent nations of the African continent in particular the movement can be of the greatest value. This is a new and different challenge from that facing the B.B. at home.

In 1959 I also wrote of developments then beginning (and in the intervening time making considerable headway) to take the B.B. more and more into the open air. The part being played in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme has been referred to, and activities on the sports field and in rambling, canoeing, mountaineering and adventurous training claim ever more adherents each year.

In turn these activities make fresh demands on Boys and leaders alike, but when allied to the Drill Parade and Bible Class – or other form of Christian education – (which must always remain the basis and foundation of the Brigade edifice) we can see the “new look” B.B. making a strong appeal to Boys and young men of this modern age. In short, a Boys’ Brigade catering in different but appropriate ways to the different age groups

forming its membership and offering them a purposeful, progressive programme of activities of the greatest benefit both to themselves and the community.

Assaulted from many sides by the pressures and attractions of the modern society, countless lads and young men on the threshold of manhood can find in the Brigade a positive means of meeting such challenges to their personal faith. It will require them to nail their colours to the mast during their B.B. service but in so doing they are more likely to grow towards true Christian manliness and in turn themselves become leaders of others.

National Service in the essentially military sense was dispensed with some years ago, but surely the true fulfillment of the Object of The Boys' Brigade is still one of the highest forms of National Service of any? This is basically the objective of the third tier B.B. envisaged in the Haynes Report, offering to young men who have gone through the ranks, and opportunity for Service – Service to the Church; Service to the community and Service to the Country.

Changes in uniform; alterations in the age limits and a simpler form of drill are in themselves but means to an end. No individual or movement can stand still – it must go either forward or backwards and all the recent moves to bring B.B. training into line with modern needs have been welcomed within that context.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the B.B. must always be seeking to advance Christ's Kingdom through its basic twin pillars of Religion and Discipline. But let the final word be about the Founder himself. Sir William Smith once said "*If I am to be remembered by posterity I should like it to be as the man who taught people to spell Boy with a capital B.*" How right he was. His memorial stands not just in bronze or stone, but in the living, pulsating life of the Youth of many lands – and in movements other than the one he founded. Many thousands of all races and colours have cause to thank God for the life and work of William Alexander Smith.

APPENDIX – Landmarks in BB History

- 1854 William Alexander Smith born at Pennyland, Caithness (27th October).
- 1869 William Alexander Smith moved to Glasgow on death of father.
- 1874 William Alexander Smith started Young Men's Society in Glasgow.
- 1883 William Alexander Smith founded The Boys' Brigade in Glasgow (4th October).
- 1884 First B.B. Bible Class.
First B.B. Company Inspection.
The second B.B. Company began.
- 1885 Meeting called to organize B.B. on a national basis (26th January).
Five new Companies enrolled (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Glasgow; 1st Edinburgh) – (30th March).
First meeting of Brigade Council – (Glasgow – 12th October).
First English Companies enrolled – London, Manchester, and Armitage Brigade (23rd November).
- 1886 First Annual Inspection of Glasgow Battalion.
First B.B. Camp (Tighnabruaich, Kyles of Bute, 16th-23rd July)
Major J. Carfrae Alston becomes first Brigade President.
- 1887 B.B. started in U.S.A. (later became the "United Boys' Brigade of America").
First Welsh Company (1st Newport, Mon.) enrolled.
- 1888 G. Stanley Smith born.
W. A. Smith became full-time Brigade Secretary.
First Irish Company (1st Belfast) enrolled.
- 1889 *The Boys' Brigade Gazette* first published (March).
B.B. started in Canada, New Zealand, South Africa.
Archbishops of Canterbury and York became Vice-Patrons; Earl of Aberdeen Honorary President.
- 1891 B.B. started in Australia. First native B.B. Company formed in Natal (Zulu Boys).
Church Lads' Brigade formed in Britain.
Douglas Pearson Smith (second son of Founder) born.
- 1892 B.B. started in British West Indies.
- 1895 W. A. Smith visited Canada and United States.
The B.B. Magazine for Boys published (ceased in 1899).

- 1897 H.R.H. The Duke of York (afterwards King George V) became B.B. Patron.
- 1899 Boys' Life Brigade formed (united with B.B. in 1926).
- 1900 H.R.H. The Prince of Wales became B.B. Patron.
Formation of Girls' Guildry; the Jewish Lads' Brigade; and the Catholic Boys' Brigade.
The Brigadier magazine for Boys published (ceased in 1904).
- 1901 First London Office opened – Paternoster Row (building destroyed in air-raid 1940).
First Royal Albert Hall B.B. Display.
- 1902 The Girls' Life Brigade formed.
The Frivilligt Dreng-Forbund (Danish B.B.) formed.
First Royal Review of the B.B.
- 1904 The Boys' Brigade "comes of age".
- 1906 Baden-Powell's article "*Scouting for Boys*" appears in *B.B. Gazette*.
- 1907 Baden-Powell's First "Scouts" camp – B.B. members took part.
W. A. Smith again visited United States.
- 1908 B.B. 25th Anniversary Celebrations.
The B.B. started in Nigeria.
The Boy Scouts formed.
- 1909 Sir William A. Smith knighted.
Lord Guthrie Brigade President.
The B.B. started in Kenya.
- 1910 H.M. King George V becomes B.B. Patron.
The B.B. started in Nyasaland.
The Girl Guides formed.
- 1914 G. Stanley Smith appointed Assistant Brigade Secretary.
Sir William A. Smith taken ill at Executive Meeting, London and died (10th May).
World War I began (4th August).
- 1915 B.B. "Founder's Day" inaugurated (last Sunday in October).
The Brownies started.
- 1916 The Wolf Cubs started.

- 1917 B.B. Boy Reserves started (became The Life Boys in 1926)
- 1918 World War I ended.
- 1919 Sir John A. Roxburgh Brigade President.
- 1921 “B.B. WEEK” inaugurated.
- 1925 G. Stanley Smith appointed Brigade Secretary.
- 1926 Union of The Boys’ Brigade and The Boys’ Life Brigade.
- 1927 Brigade Headquarters established at Abbey House, London, S.W.I.
- 1928 First B.B. Company in Bechuanaland and India.
- 1930 First B.B. Company in Singapore.
- 1933 *B.B. Jubilee Celebrations:*
The Earl of Home becomes Brigade President.
First B.B. Company in Uganda.
- 1934 First B.B. Officers’ Training Course at Bolobo (Edgware, Middlesex).
- 1935 Opening of Scottish Training Centre, Balrossie (closed in 1940).
First B.B. Companies in Cook Islands and British Guiana.
“De Boys Brigade” begun in Holland – 1st Amsterdam Company enrolled.
King George V Silver Jubilee – B.B. “Jubilee Run” with loyal message of greeting.
- 1936 King George VI becomes B.B. Patron.
First B.B. Companies in Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, and British Honduras.
G. Stanley visits Nigeria.
- 1937 W. H. McVicker (Overseas Secretary) visits Canada.
B.B. started in Mauritius.
- 1939 World War II began.
Government’s “Service of Youth” scheme inaugurated (partnership between voluntary and statutory bodies).
W. H. McVicker visits South Africa.
- 1940 First B.B. Company in Samoa.
- 1943 B.B. Diamond Jubilee – Royal Review at Windsor Castle.

- 1944 B.B. started in Falkland Islands and Bahamas.
- 1945 World War II ended.
Opening of B.B. Training Centre, Carronvale, Scotland.
- 1946 First B.B. Company in Niue (Pacific).
- 1947 Lord Maclay Brigade President.
- 1948 First B.B. Company in Southern Rhodesia.
- 1949 Opening of B.B. Training Centre, Felden Lodge, Herts.
- 1951 B.B. "Festival of Britain" Run to Buckingham Palace.
H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth presides at B.B. Display, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 1952 H.M. Queen Elizabeth II becomes B.B. Patron
B.B. started in Ghana.
- 1953 *Stedfast Magazine* for Boys started.
H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh presides at B.B. Display, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 1954 Founder's Centenary Year – world-wide celebrations of centenary of birth of Sir W. A. Smith.
B.B. Festival of Boyhood at Wembley.
First International B.B. Camp at Eton.
Mr. G. Stanley Smith O.B.E., M.C., retired from Brigade Secretaryship.
Major-General D. J. Wilson-Haffenden C.B.E. appointed his successor.
Thanksgiving Services St. Paul's, London and St. Giles', Edinburgh.
- 1955 B.B. started in Gilbert Islands.
- 1957 B.B. started in Northern Rhodesia and Haiti.
- 1958 75th Anniversary celebrations, which included International Camps in New Zealand and Jamaica; the "750 Training Camp", Lilleshall, Shropshire; and the review of 1,200 B.B. Officers at Balmoral Castle by H.M. The Queen.
First B.B. Companies in Costa Rica and Southern Cameroons.
- 1959 B.B. started in Tokelau Islands (N.Z.)
- 1960 B.B. started in Hong Kong, Bermuda and the Solomon Islands.

- 1961 Appeal for funds for new H.Q. building - £100,000 target reached.
The *Life Boy Link* magazine started.
B.B. started in Sarawak, U.S. Virgin Islands and Ellice Islands.
- 1963 The 80th Year. International Camp at Glenalmond, Perthshire.
World Conference of The Boys' Brigade inaugurated.
Lord Maclay retired as Brigade President to be succeeded by Lord Bruce, D.L., J.P.
B.B. started in Liberia, Papua and New Guinea, French West Indies and Suriname.
A Committee under the chairmanship of Sir George Haynes, C.B.E., appointed to consider the work and future of the B.B.
- 1964 B.B. started in Burundi and Ivory Coast.
Report of the Haynes Committee on the future of the B.B. published (February).
The Brigade Council meeting at Cambridge discussed the Haynes Report (September).