



*The Message*  
*To His Most Gracious Majesty*  
*KING GEORGE VI.*

YOUR MAJESTY,

On the occasion of this Festival Year I have the honour to convey to Your Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen this expression of the Loyal Homage of 166,283 members of The Boys' Brigade and The Life Boys in this Country, and of many thousands more in Your Majesty's Dominions and Colonies overseas.

Our Boys are proud to know that since your Accession Your Majesty has been our Patron, as was your beloved Father for thirty-eight years before you, and the interest and sympathy expressed on many occasions by Your Majesty have been a source of encouragement and strength to the whole Brigade.

The Boys' Brigade for nearly seventy years has been seeking to promote amongst its members habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness. The Brigade stands for the Christian ideals of Peace and Goodwill in the World, and our Boys are learning that these cannot be achieved without devotion and self-sacrifice. We praise God for the example given to us all by Your Majesties of the qualities which we seek to develop in our Boys.

This Year of Festival is a Year of Hope, and we pray that Your Majesty and your Gracious Consort may be granted for many years to come, the happiness of seeing the realisation of Your Majesty's highest hopes for your Peoples everywhere.

The bearing of this Message by relays of Boys running continuously by day and by night from Land's End, from John o' Groats, from Northern Ireland, from Wales and from East Anglia has aroused widespread interest throughout the land. Over 2,190 Boys are covering a total distance of 2,537 miles, and thousands more, with innumerable friends, will line the route in Town and Country, to speed the Runners on their way.

Amid the expressions of Loyalty to Your Majesty's Throne and Person specially evoked in this Year of Festival, none are more sincere than those of the Boys and Officers of The Boys' Brigade, and in pledge of their Devotion and Loyalty they bring this Message to their Beloved Sovereign.

I have the honour to be,

Your Majesty's Loyal and Obedient Servant,

J. P. MACLAY,

*Brigade President.*

ABBAY HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

*April, 1951.*





Dorothy Wilding Photo

# The Boys' Brigade Festival of Britain Run

## A Message from the Boys of the B.B. to His Majesty the King

EVERY Officer and Boy will desire to share in the spirit of the loyal greeting to be expressed by The Boys' Brigade to His Majesty the King—our Patron—in this year of Festival in Britain.

With His Majesty's gracious approval, the B.B. throughout the United Kingdom will organise a "B.B. Festival of Britain Run," when relays of Boy-runners on five routes, from the extremities of the United Kingdom to London, will carry a Message to the King. The Run will be continued by day and night, stopping only on Sunday, and there will be hand-over ceremonies in hundreds of towns and villages through which the runners will pass. Each route will be timed so as to reach London on the 10th of May for the Reception of the Message by His Majesty. Timed schedules for all five routes will be issued at an early date.

We can look forward to a widespread public interest in this romantic exploit, in which our Boys' youthful spirit of adventure and enterprise is joined with a nation-wide tribute of devotion to their King and Country in this Festival year.

Much care and preparation will be called for from Officers and Boys alike. But we know that they will respond and that the whole project will be carried through with enthusiasm to its triumphant conclusion.

The Message will travel by the five routes detailed below. Each route has been subdivided into Sections under charge of a Section Officer. Section Officers themselves will communicate shortly with the Battalions and Companies involved in their Section of the route.

The routes, from which no deviation can be permitted, will be as follows:—

### NORTHERN MESSAGE

(1007 miles, 16 days)

**Route**—John o' Groat's, Castletown, Thurso, Wick, Golspie, Bonar Bridge, Tain, Dingwall, Beauly, Inverness, Nairn, Elgin, Buckie, Banff, Turriff, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh, St. Combs, Strichen, Stuartfield, Longside, Peterhead, Ellon, Udnay, Newmachar, Dyce, Aberdeen, Culter, Bervie, Montrose, Arbroath, Broughty Ferry, Dundee (Ferry), Newport, St. Andrews, Cupar, Markinch, Kirkcaldy, Kinghorn, Burntisland, Forth Bridge, Granton, Leith, Edinburgh, Penicuik, Peebles, Innerleithen, Gala-shiels, Kelso, Coldstream, Wooler, Newcastle, Gateshead, Hebburn, Jarrow, South Shields, Sunderland, West Hartlepool, Stockton, Yarm, Thirsk, Ripon, Ropley, Harrogate, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Elland, Dewsbury, Wakefield, Pontefract, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield,

Dronfield, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester, Lutterworth, Rugby, Northampton, Wellingborough, Rushden, Bedford, Luton, St. Albans, Barnet, Enfield, Winchmore Hill, Palmer's Green, Highgate, Camden Town, St. John's Wood, Marylebone to Buckingham Palace.

### Section Officers

From	To	Section Officer
John o' Groat's	Bonar Bridge	A. Hood, Ardrol, East Banks, Wick
Bonar Bridge	Elgin	J. F. Gow, 11 Union Road, Inverness
Elgin	Fraserburgh	J. B. McDonald, 35 Cross Street, Fraserburgh
Fraserburgh	Montrose	J. Mearns, The Boys' Brigade, Crimon Place, Aberdeen
Montrose	St. Andrews	A. P. Wilkie, The Boys' Brigade, Bell Street Lane, Dundee
St. Andrews	N. Queensferry	D. C. Dow, 7 Mitchell Street, Kirkcaldy
N. Queensferry	Coldstream	A. R. Ferrier, 17 Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
Coldstream	Newcastle	F. W. Laine, 10 Lovaine Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne 1
Newcastle	West Hartlepool	W. F. Atkinson, 20 Coleridge Avenue, Gateshead-on-Tyne 9
West Hartlepool	Thirsk	H. R. Watchorn, 5 Sutherland Grove, Norton-on-Tees
Thirsk	Dewsbury	J. Smith, 22 Somerset Road, Pudsey, Leeds
Dewsbury	Chesterfield	J. Langhorn, 495 Queens Road, Sheffield 2
Chesterfield	Loughborough	D. Richmond, 20 Cavendish Crescent North, The Park, Nottingham
Loughborough	Lutterworth	H. W. Bow, 7 Surrey Street, Leicester
Lutterworth	Rugby	H. Gay, 10 Moveady Avenue, Rugby
Rugby	Bedford	W. Wright, 92 Earl Street, Northampton
Bedford	St. Albans	A. E. Harris, 46 Craneleigh Gardens, Luton
St. Albans	Highgate	N. Grant, 23 Hillside Gardens, Barnet, Herts
Highgate	The Palace	A. H. Thorn, 120 Melrose Avenue, N.W.2

### NORTH WESTERN MESSAGE

(696 miles, 9 days)

**Route**—Londonderry, Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Ballymena, Antrim, Belfast, then by boat to Glasgow. Then via Uddingston, Bothwell, Hamilton, Motherwell, Wishaw, Carlisle, Lanark, Symington, Abington, Crawford, Beattock, Lockerbie, Ecclefechan, Gretna, Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster, Preston, Southport, Bootle, Liverpool, East Lancs Road, Manchester, Stockport, Macclesfield, Congleton, Tunstall, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, Stone, Stafford, Cannock, Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, Birmingham, Coventry, Warwick, Banbury, Witney, Oxford, High Wycombe, Beaconsfield, Uxbridge, Hillingdon, Southall, Ealing, Acton, Shepherd's Bush to Buckingham Palace.

### Section Officers

From	To	Section Officer
Londonderry	Glasgow	N. Rea, 119 Fitzroy Avenue, Belfast
Glasgow	Uddingston	J. M. Leggat, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2
Uddingston	Beattock	W. N. Pomphrey, 2 Belhaven Terrace, Wishaw
Beattock	Gretna	F. A. Ferguson, 13 Eastfield Road, Dumfries
Gretna	Lancaster	A. M. Macphail, Kilmuir, Etterby Scaur, Carlisle
Lancaster	Stockport	G. A. Harris, The Boys' Brigade, 16/18 Queen Street, Manchester 2
Stockport	Stafford	S. Finney, 14 Ash Way, Ash Bank, Staffs
Stafford	Wednesbury	R. G. Williams, 73 Gower Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32

Continued overleaf



<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Section Officers</i>
Wednesbury	Coventry	S. H. Gilbert, The Boys' Brigade, 24 Union Street, Birmingham 2
Coventry	Banbury	R. Forey, 529, Foleshill Road, Coventry
Banbury	High Wycombe	E. R. Staniford, Athelstan, Staple Hall Road, Bletchley
High Wycombe	Southall	G. L. Munday, 42 Rodney Gardens, Eastcote, Pinner
Southall	The Palace	F. S. Macklin, 45 Kent Gardens, Ealing, W.13

## WESTERN MESSAGE

(236 miles, 2½ days)

**Route**—Llanelly, Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Porthcawl, Bridgend, Barry, Cardiff, Newport, Aust, Bristol, Bath, Corsham, Chippenham, Marlborough, Newbury, Reading, Henley, Maidenhead, Slough, Hounslow, Brentford, Chiswick, Hammersmith to Buckingham Palace.

### Section Officers

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Section Officer</i>
Llanelly	Neath	G. S. Walker, 18 Brooklands Terrace, Swansea
Neath	Aust	S. S. Barritt, 1 Mount Earl, Bridgend
Aust	Newbury	B. H. Ash, 14 Birchdale Road, Hengrove, Bristol 4
Newbury	Slough	E. Appleby, 5 Norris Road, Reading
Slough	The Palace	R. E. Cunningham, 79 Wavendon Avenue, Chiswick, W.4

## SOUTHERN MESSAGE

(425 miles, 7 days)

**Route**—Land's End, Penzance, Redruth, Falmouth, Truro, St. Austell, Bodmin, Plymouth, Totnes, Paignton, Torquay, Newton Abbot, Exeter, Honiton, South Petherton, Yeovil, Sherborne, Milborne Port, Blandford, Poole, Bournemouth, Southampton, Fareham, Portsmouth, Chichester, Arundel, Worthing, Brighton, Lewes, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Bromley, Beckenham, Dulwich, Camberwell, Westminster to Buckingham Palace.

### Section Officers

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Section Officer</i>
Land's End	Truro	J. West, County Hall, Truro
Truro	Plymouth	J. West, County Hall, Truro
Plymouth	Honiton	H. E. Hazelden, 87 Wardrew Road, Exeter
Honiton	Blandford	A. C. Riggs, Beacon House, Beaconfield Road, Yeovil
Blandford	Southampton	F. Edwards, 32 Dunkeld Road, Bournemouth
Southampton	Hilsea	N. V. Lucas, 95 Wilton Road, Southampton
Hilsea	Chichester	P. B. Cawte, 72 Belmont Street, Southsea
Chichester	Tunbridge Wells	G. L. Gilroy, 59 Stanmer Villas, Brighton 6
Tunbridge Wells	Bromley	F. W. Thomas, 18 Portland Avenue, Sidcup, Kent
Bromley	The Palace	H. Phillips, 422 Brockley Road, S.E.4

## EASTERN MESSAGE

(173 miles, 2 days)

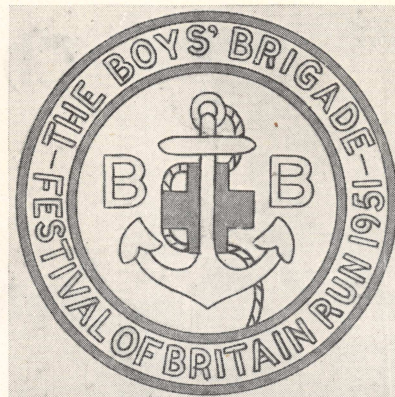
**Route**—Cromer, Norwich, Gt. Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich, Colchester, Maldon, Chelmsford, Brentwood, Romford, Ilford, Stratford, Stepney, City, West End to Buckingham Palace.

### Section Officers

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Section Officer</i>
Cromer	Lowestoft	B. W. Remington, 11 Beaconsfield Road, Norwich
Lowestoft	Ipswich	F. W. Edmonds, 121 Worthing Road, Lowestoft
Ipswich	Colchester	D. G. Spall, 6 Everton Crescent, Ipswich
Colchester	Chelmsford	G. A. Morley, 141 Mile End Road, Colchester
Chelmsford	Romford	Dr. D. T. Maclay, 9 Parkway, Shenfield, Essex
Romford	The Palace	T. F. Cobb, 45 Ethelbert Gardens, Ilford

Each Message will be contained in a silver baton which will be carried by a series of Bearers, and each Bearer will be accompanied by two runners as Escort, one on each side. Escort Boys will not carry the Message, except in an emergency due to the failure of the Bearers. With the Message will be carried a Roll of Bearers to be signed in the presence of an Officer by each Bearer on receipt of the Message.

Bearers will be senior Boys, N.C.O.s or Staff-Sergeants, preference being given to holders of the King's Badge.



Bearers and Escort will wear white running costume of shorts and vest with suitable shoes.

A woven Commemorative Badge, as illustrated here, will be worn on the left breast of the vest by Bearers and by the Escort.

Each Bearer, with Escort, will run a distance of approximately *four* miles. The total number of Boys actually running will be about 2,000.

The timed programme will allow an ample margin for an appropriate Ceremonial Transfer of the Message at important points, when the Message will be read to the assembled crowds.

Civic and Church authorities should be invited to attend the Ceremonial Transfers even where these occur in the middle of the night. Local Mayors or Provosts will thus have an opportunity to express the goodwill of their fellow townsmen to the Boys carrying the Message. Suggestions will be issued regarding a short prayer asking God's Blessing on the Run.

Local newspapers should be advised of this unique event of the Festival Year and everything possible done to ensure the attendance of Press photographers and cinema operators. Police co-operation should also be arranged.

Although only some 2,000 Boys will be actively involved in the Run, it should be arranged that all B.B. Companies in the locality through which the runners are passing should be present in uniform to see the Message to the King go through, and to cheer it on its way, whether by day or by night. At important transfer points there should be a Guard of Honour.

All Battalions and Companies in towns actually on or close to the route will have the opportunity to take part. Those further out who wish to participate in the carrying of the Message may apply to the Section Officer concerned by the 15th of February and an endeavour will be made to include them.

Battalions and Companies will be entirely responsible for any expenses incurred, including the provision of the commemorative Badge for Boys taking part and for ensuring that their Boys, whether as runners or spectators, are conveyed to and from the route at the proper time.

Detailed instructions and precautions will be notified in due course to all concerned.

All ranks of the Brigade will be gratified to know of the interest which His Majesty the King has expressed in the Run. This should be a stimulus to all concerned to play their part in this great exploit.