

# The Boys' Brigade

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## *Memorandum to Captains of Companies*

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### **Special Parades for Home Defence Instruction**

At this critical time in our Country's history every Boy will be keen to be of help and comfort to those in his home. He can only render this service if he knows what to do in time of emergency or danger.

The Brigade Executive feel it is now the duty of Officers to give such training to the Boys of their Companies and recommend that arrangements are made without delay to hold a series of parades for Home Defence Instruction on the lines suggested below, in order that such training may be given to every Boy in the Brigade.

Officers are recommended to use the B.B. Ambulance Handbook and the following instructional leaflets issued by the Government:—

“Air Raids—What you must know.”

“If the Invader Comes.”

“First Aid in Brief.”

Officers will find that the personnel of local civil defence services are willing to help with advice and will possibly be able to provide lecturers and arrange for the Boys to visit depots in their own locality.

It is recognised that many Officers and Senior Boys are already enrolled in civil defence duty of various kinds. The present purpose is that every Boy should have sufficient knowledge to enable him to be of service to his home, and to those around him.

A leaflet for Boys entitled “A Call to Youth” is shortly to be published by the Ministry of Information. It is hoped that every Boy in this country will receive a copy of this from his own juvenile organisation, his Church, his school, or his employers. Copies will be obtainable from the Brigade Offices.

The provision of such training will call forth an eager response from our Boys, so many of whom are deprived this summer of the interest of Camp, and the Executive believe that parents too will be grateful that their sons should be given instruction which may well prove of inestimable value in maintaining that quietness and confidence which are such a source of strength in time of danger.



The urgency of the matter calls for immediate action and the following synopsis of subjects is given for the guidance of Officers:—

## **Outline of Home Defence Instruction**

*(Based on the pamphlets mentioned on previous page)*

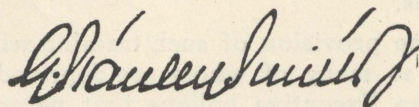
The provision of shelter at home.  
How to protect windows and doors.  
Air Raid Warning and All Clear Signals.  
What to do and where to go in a raid at home, at work, in the street, in a vehicle, etc.  
Behaviour during and after a raid.  
Knowledge of local A.R.P. posts, first aid posts, dressing stations, police station and nearest telephone. How to use the telephone.  
How to deal with incendiary bombs.  
How to put out fires.  
Practice in use of the stirrup pump.  
Alternative methods of fighting fires.  
How to call the Fire Brigade.  
How to rescue people from a burning building.  
Care, use and adjustment of gas masks.  
What to do after a gas raid.  
Emergency first aid for shock, bleeding and fractures.  
How to deal with cases of unconsciousness.  
Treatment for suffocation and burns.  
Bandages and splints and how to improvise them.  
If the invader comes—the seven rules to obey.

Although this training is beyond the normal scope of B.B. activities, parades for Home Defence Instruction should be conducted on real B.B. lines, uniform being worn and a roll taken at each parade.

It is recommended that where possible such a series of parades should be open to Boys of twelve and over who are not yet in the B.B., provided they are prepared to attend regularly at the course. Officers must judge for themselves whether they can cope with additional numbers, but at this time they should feel that they have a duty to help all the Boys in the neighbourhood of their Company, many of whom through this contact may be attracted eventually to apply for full membership of the B.B.

Our aim should be that our Boys know what to do, and what not to do.  
Our duty is to teach them now.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive,



*Brigade Secretary.*

Abbey House, Westminster, S.W.1

*July, 1940*