

# THE LIFE BOYS' FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

## Message from the Brigade President to The Life Boys

I am sure that I am speaking for the whole of The Boys' Brigade when I most sincerely congratulate The Life Boys on achieving their Fortieth anniversary this year.

In this message I am not only saluting the past and hailing the future but wish to try and make sure that all those who at present are carrying on the work of The Life Boys know how much we admire their work. The B.B. and The Life Boys are part of one great Organisation complementary to each other, and indeed could not exist separately. The present generation of Life Boy Leaders are carrying on the tradition and efficiency of The Life Boys with wonderful spirit, and I trust that the two parts of our great Organisation will continue to work together for their Objective, with as much success in the future as they have done in the past.

MACLAY.

## CAREY LONGMORE

### Memories of the Founder of our Junior Reserve

Carey Longmore was a great man—great in faith, wide in outlook, fervent in loyalty to his Church and unbounded in his love for Boys, which love he translated into a devotion to the B.B. A great man, yet in fact a little man almost delicate in stature, with an impish sense of humour. Many were the shafts of wit that, unbalancing his opponent, allowed his serious intention full play.

He was Captain of the 1st Warley Company at Warley Parish Church (Essex) and a member of Brigade Executive when, early in the Great War, he drew the Executive's attention to a serious state of affairs.

Due perhaps to the absence on war service of so many of their more responsible Officers, Companies were recruiting Boys under B.B. age, and there also sprang into existence many forms of "Cadet Corps" with varied adaptations of the B.B. uniform, and offering the rudiments of B.B. Training to Boys under twelve.

"Carey" himself was experimenting; but with a difference. He even then visualised a "nine year plan" although he did not call it that. But he did realise that unless irreparable harm was to be done to the retention of senior Boys in the Brigade, such pre-B.B. activities must be quite different from the B.B.

He urged that if a junior organisation could be sponsored by the Brigade Executive, Captains would have an honest alternative to these unofficial units and to the

recruitment of under-age Boys for the B.B. Moreover, a great reserve of potential recruits would be created and trained along lines suited to their age-group.

It was a bold step that our wartime Executive took, when they asked Longmore to formulate a scheme for submission to the Brigade Council.

At that time I was acting Secretary at Brigade Headquarters in Glasgow and it was my privilege to co-operate with Longmore in drawing up the original scheme. It was while spending many days with him at his home in Warley that I came to understand the source of the respect and almost veneration in which he was held by all who knew him. In his garden stood the 1st Warley Chapel, and Warley Cottage was open-house for his Boys, who shared in the Christian spirit of his home.

In due course the scheme was completed and a Manual prepared, and then on 15th September 1917 the plan was submitted to the Brigade Council who warmly approved the introduction of the new junior reserve and the appointment of a Committee to supervise its development.

The term "Reserve" had just then taken on a new meaning in the army. The Regimental Reserve Battalions consisted of untrained youths; hence the chosen name of The Boy Reserves. The title was changed to The Life Boys on our union in 1926 with The Boys' Life Brigade, who had already coined this name for their own junior movement, formed a few years after The Boy Reserves.

It was Longmore who first realised the potentialities of Lady Leaders—though I must confess that it was I, by this time serving in the Royal Naval Air Service, who inflicted the "Wren" Officer hats upon them!

There is one other thing by which Carey Longmore should be remembered. It was he, through his untiring service on behalf of the Church Missionary Society Auxiliary, who set the pattern for all our great B.B. and L.B. Missionary collections. But the present-day Life Boy movement surely constitutes his greatest memorial.

The far seeing policy and wise control of our Life Boy Committee, which have resulted in the vigorous organisation we know today, are but the development of the foresight and wisdom of Carey Longmore forty years ago.

DOUGLAS PEARSON SMITH.



*The original 1st Warley.*