

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Founded by
SIR WILLIAM A. SMITH
1883

With which is united The Boys' Life Brigade

OBJECT: 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

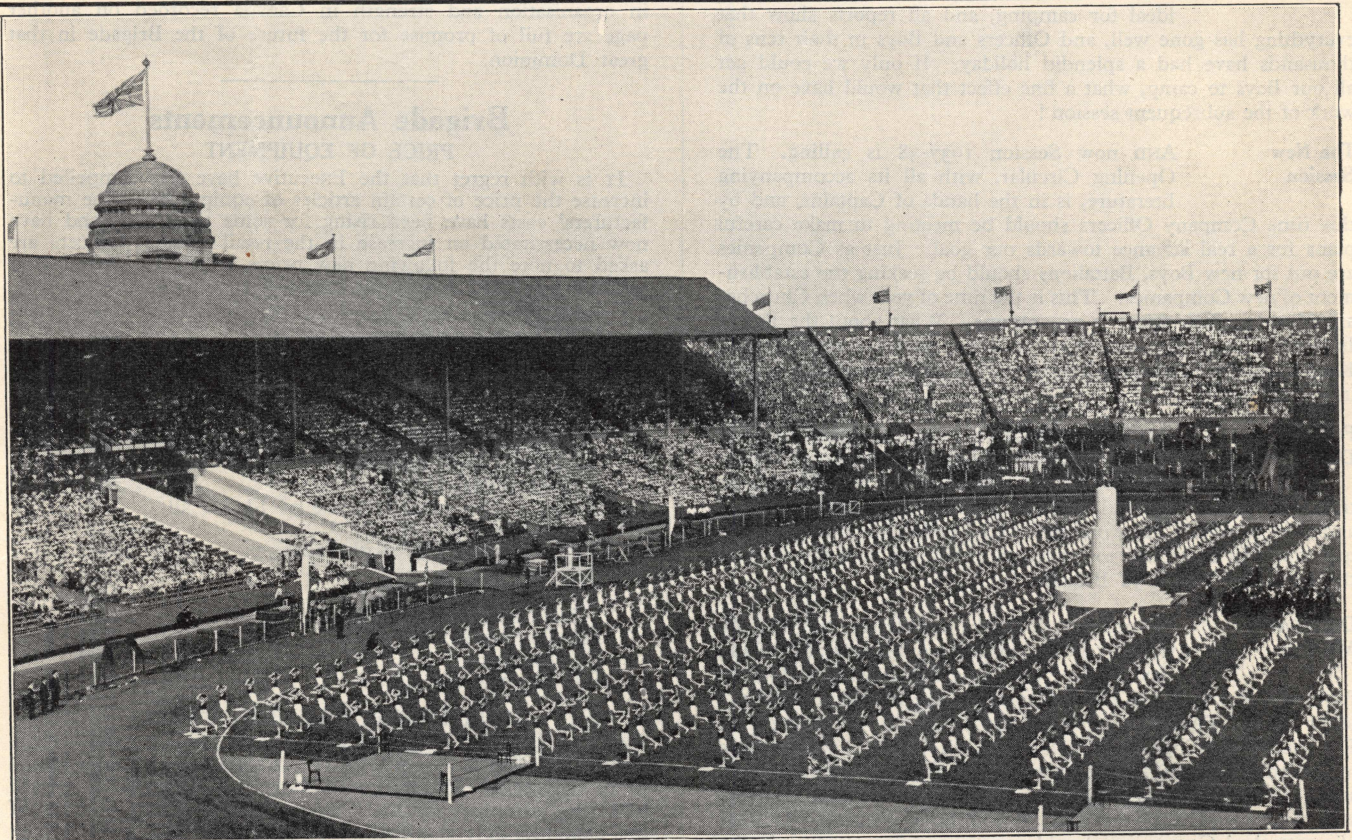


GAZETTE

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THE FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AT WEMBLEY
The Boys' Brigade Physical Training Display

[Photo by Central Press Photos Ltd.]

Brigade Notes

The Brigade Treasurer

THE death on the 20th July of Mr. Arnold Wilson is a grievous loss to our whole movement, and the news was received with real sorrow by all who knew the Brigade Treasurer. His knowledge of the B.B., his love for Boys, and his sterling worth enabled him to render outstanding service to our movement. We shall all miss his genial presence at Brigade Council, and his colleagues on the Executive will feel that they have lost a good friend and a wise counsellor.

Mr. Wilson enjoyed the respect and affection of a very large circle of B.B. men, who mourn his passing and feel the deepest sympathy for Mrs. Wilson and her family in their irreparable loss.

Mrs. Wilson desires to express her sincere thanks for the many letters of sympathy, and her appreciation of the senders' kindness. She has tried to reply to all, but as hundreds of the kindest possible messages have been received, it is possible that some may not have been acknowledged.

Cambridge

THERE is every prospect of a good gathering of B.B. men for Brigade Council this year, and in a few weeks' time the cloisters and courts of the ancient University will resound with B.B. talk as men get together to learn from each other something more about that inexhaustible subject—the B.B. Company.

The Cambridge and District Officers' Council are very generously entertaining us on the Friday evening. The Old Schools, where the reception is to be held, used to house the University Library. The rooms, which are centuries old, have recently been restored, and will provide an ideal setting for this very pleasant opening function.

Among those to welcome us is Dr. Hele, Master of Emmanuel, who will be acting as Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Thus the University will be represented by one who knows the B.B. well, for Dr. Hele often camps with the Carlisle Battalion, of which his brother is the Vice-President.

At the Festival of Youth

Of the many engagements fulfilled by the King and Queen during the Coronation Season in London, there was probably none that gave them greater happiness than the Youth Festival at Wembley Stadium on Saturday afternoon the 3rd of July. Under a blue sky and in brilliant sunshine the representatives of over forty societies paraded in the arena to hail Their Majesties on arrival, and we were glad to see the B.B. Contingent, with Colour, in position on the right of the line.

When the King had taken the salute a bouquet was presented to the Queen by Lord Hampden's granddaughter, and a silver statuette was handed to His Majesty by Private Clifford Simmons, of the 62nd London Company, B.B. The authorities had



[Photo by London News Agency]

THE PRESENTATION TO HIS MAJESTY

insisted on the choice of a small Boy for this honour. Clifford complied with this condition, but he was the epitome of smartness, and he acquitted himself well as amid great cheering he went up to King George and accorded His Majesty a perfect salute. Then came the March Past and the B.B. Contingent led the whole parade, which swung by to the music of the Brigade of Guards Band.

The opening display item was provided by The Boys' Brigade. Headed by the finest B.B. Massed Band the writer has ever heard, more than 800 Boys, all over 14, drawn from the London District, marched into the arena with a style and precision that called forth loud applause from the vast assembly of spectators.

Clad in red, in white, and in blue singlets the huge team, which completely filled the arena, performed firstly a training table and then a series of exercises to music, and one's admiration was divided between the marvellous effect of the co-ordinated rhythm of hundreds of healthy Boys and the playing of the massed Band which seemed to many in no way inferior to the Guards who had immediately preceded them.

Their performance over, our Boys as they marched off gaily sang to the music of the Band, and their exit—over 100 ranks of eight Boys abreast—was an effective and rousing finish to the B.B. display. The Band having played the huge team off, then marched past the King, and the Drum Major, throwing his mace in the air, surely broke all altitude records for this feat! We were represented at a later stage of the programme by a team in the gymnastic games item in which all Boys' organizations took part.

The Brigade Secretary had the honour of being presented to the King and Queen and to the little Princesses before their Majesties left the Stadium. The King said he thought the B.B. Physical Training Show was "splendid." He asked how the rehearsals of such large numbers were carried out, and was interested to know that adequate rehearsal had only been possible by means of gramophone records of the music specially made for issue to Companies taking part. There were actually only two full rehearsals, on the ground of the Honourable Artillery Company whose help and interest The Boys' Brigade gratefully acknowledges.

Mr. Stevens, and all the Officers and Bandmasters who worked so hard deserve the warmest congratulations.

Many B.B. spectators travelled a long distance to see the Festival. They all enjoyed the many delightful displays, but they certainly felt very proud of the B.B. whose prominent part in the programme, unrivalled by any other organization for Boys, was a triumphant vindication of the worth of our B.B. training.

Lt.-Col. Douglas-Withers, M.C., Production Manager of the Aldershot Tattoo, who organised the Festival, afterwards wrote:—

"I thought the show put up by your Brigade was truly magnificent. It suggested dozens of massed rehearsals to me, but these I feel cannot have really taken place, unless you have some method of continually getting that large collection of lads together. I was really astonished, not only at the perfection of the display, but at the general bearing of all the lads who took part and the very efficient handling of them."

S.F.G.

The King and Queen in Scotland

THE Boys' Brigade took a prominent part in the various parades of Youth Organisations on the occasion of Their Majesties State Visit to Scotland.

Rally of Scottish Youth—Edinburgh

The principal event—the Youth Rally at Murrayfield on the 8th July—was attended by 6,000 B.B. Boys from all parts of Scotland. Most of the Scottish Battalions sent contingents to Edinburgh, and Companies from Kirkwall to Annan (the extremities of Scotland) were represented. Many from the more distant places arrived the previous day, and were accommodated in the schools. From early morning on the 8th trains from all parts disgorged their precious cargoes of youth, and the streets were alive with happy, eager faces. It was a great day for the Youth of Scotland.

Murrayfield, the scene of many a historic struggle for Rugby supremacy, has never seen so eager and enthusiastic a crowd. By arrangement, all other organisations—Girls' Guildry, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs, and members of Boys' and Girls' Clubs—had taken their places in the arena before The Boys' Brigade was timed to arrive. As they entered through the tunnel, headed by brass and pipe bands (and preceded by a procession of smart Life Boys), a mighty cheer greeted them, the Wolf Cubs throwing their caps in the air, and joining in the shrill cheers of the 10,000 school children on the terracing. Spick and span the 6,000 B.B. Boys marched with splendid precision, in what appeared to be a never-ending stream, to take their allotted places, the Guard of Honour with the King's

Colour in the front rank. A fanfare by B.B. trumpeters heralded the arrival of Their Majesties and the Princesses, and was drowned in the prolonged roar of cheering from nearly 60,000 throats, which could be heard for miles around. The B.B. brass bands played the National Anthem, of which two verses were sung.

Then came presentations to the King and Queen of two members of each Movement, Sergeants Charles Cameron, 22nd Edinburgh, and John Wightman, 17th Leith, having the honour of representing The Boys' Brigade, and the King showed evident interest in the Badges they were wearing, and asked about them.

Before entering the Royal Box Their Majesties drove slowly along the avenues between the ranks of wildly enthusiastic Girls and Boys. Then the arena was cleared for displays. Scouts and Wolf Cubs, surrounded by the flags of all nations, broke into their Grand Howl of Greeting; the Girl Guides followed with a creditable exhibition of "Keep Fit" exercises; The Girls' Guildry, attractively attired, gave a rhythmic display of country dancing; and, lastly, the B.B. presented a series—carried

In Glasgow

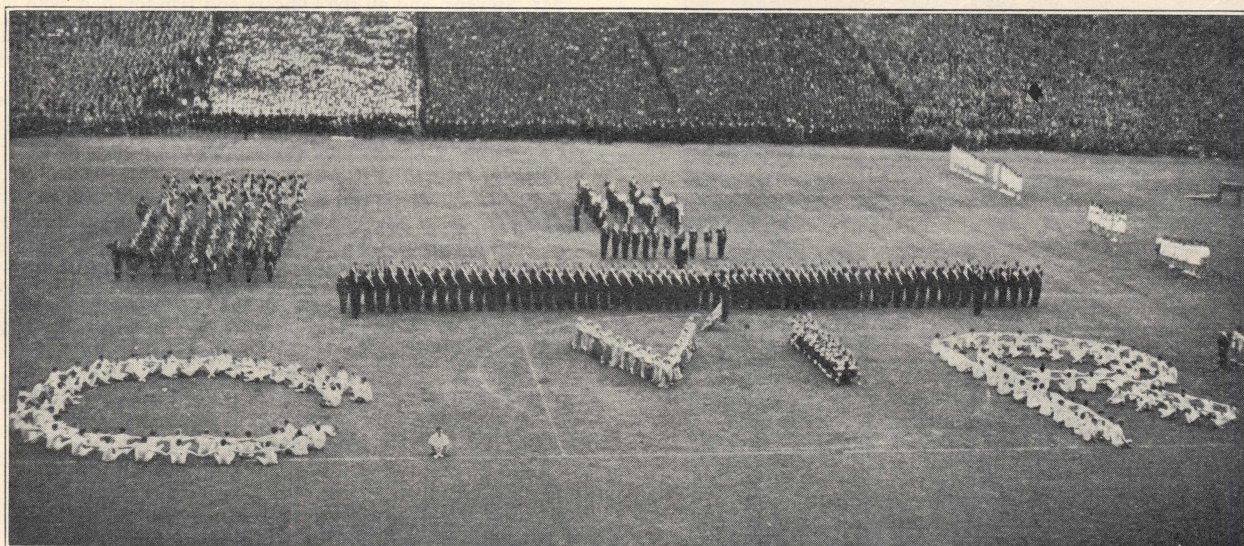
On the day following the Murrayfield Rally the Boys of the Glasgow Battalion were again on parade when Their Majesties visited the site of the 1938 Empire Exhibition at Bellahouston Park. The Battalion had been asked to line a portion of the route inside the Exhibition grounds and, despite the torrential rain that fell before and during the assembly, 3,000 Boys paraded, and occupied all the available space. After a long wait they were rewarded by a splendid view of the King and Queen, who walked down the ranks before entering their car.

At Dumbarton

Later in the day Their Majesties paid a visit to Dumbarton, where part of the route was lined by Boys of the Lennox Battalion. Among the display of bunting the 1st Dumbarton Company's Loyal Message of Greeting, strung across the main street, attracted much attention.

Royal Visit to South Wales

The Boys' Brigade was given a prominent part in the arrangements made for the visit of the King and Queen to South Wales



THE RALLY OF SCOTTISH YOUTH IN EDINBURGH
Finale by the Edinburgh Battalion

[Photo by the Scotsman]

on simultaneously—of P.T. exercises, parallel bars, vaulting horse, tumbling, Indian clubs, running maze, and country dancing, all done in a manner worthy of the occasion.

The finale was impressive. On a signal the front was cleared; at the double the B.B. display teams formed a huge "G. V. R." on the cleared field; and, with a picked escort of B.B. Boys, the King's Colour advanced in slow time to the music of the Leith Battalion pipe band, and, halting before the Royal Box, a *Royal Salute* was given, the Colour dipped, a fanfare of trumpets a roll of drums, and *God Save The King*. The Rally which had troubled the minds of the Civic Authorities for months was ended, and there was no doubt about its success; cheer upon cheer was given, and no more effective termination could have been devised. The B.B. had done it.

As the King and Queen left the ground the fervent singing of *Will ye no' come back again?* showed how Their Majesties had captured the hearts of their youthful Scottish subjects. Tired but happy, the 3,000 visiting B.B. Boys made their way homeward, carrying memories they will retain all their lives, and more proud than ever of the organisation to which they belong.

The bands of the Edinburgh and Leith Battalions provided the music during the assembly, and also during the programme.

on the 14th July. The outstanding event from our point of view was the great display of Juvenile Organisations in the Cardiff Arms Park.

The different units assembled outside at 9.30 a.m. and the display opened with a March Past of the organisations. The Battalion paraded at full strength, and as they marched around the field, led by their massed bugle band, particulars of the Brigade were given by means of loud-speakers. As the senior movement we were allotted the leading position in the arena, directly opposite the Royal Box. The Life Boys also had their share in the march past, and a position in the field. The King and Queen arrived soon after 11, and the wonderful welcome they received from the thousands of Boys and Girls, and from the vast crowd of spectators, can be more easily imagined than described.

After the singing of *God Save the King* and the Welsh National Anthem, Their Majesties walked round the field and inspected all the organisations. The Brigade was represented in the programme that followed by a massed P.T. display by about 100 Boys, including some from the Special Area Companies of Glamorgan. Simultaneously two other items, vaulting horse and Indian Clubs, were given by Cardiff Companies. Then followed a Band Tattoo by the massed bands of the Battalion. The B.B. and other large organisations had the whole of the arena for their displays.

The Royal Visit to Northern Ireland

At His Majesty's request one of the principal events of his crowded one-day visit to Belfast was a great Parade of Youth. All the uniformed organisations of Ulster took part, and the B.B. contingent numbered over 4,200, and was the largest B.B. parade ever held in Ireland. The march into the arena of this huge B.B. contingent was a grand sight; and its strength was greater than that of all the other Boys' organisations combined.

The arrival of Their Majesties was heralded by a Fanfare of B.B. Trumpets, and then the Royal Car slowly drove round the arena and along the lanes between the contingents. Three brief items followed including a P.T. Display to music by a squad of 150 B.B. Boys—that this was of outstanding merit was the verdict of all. Then Their Majesties delighted everyone by coming down from the Royal Stand and walking round the various contingents and speaking to those in charge.

The closing scene was indescribable—the tremendous Ulster cheers—the singing of one verse of "O God our help in ages past," and then of the National Anthem. It is no wonder that, on leaving, the King remarked to the Secretary to the Governor of Northern Ireland that it had been one of the largest and most successful rallies of youth at which he had ever been present.

In all the preparations and arrangements for the parade B.B. Officers had taken a very big share, and very appreciative thanks were given them by the Government of Northern Ireland.

Company Gift to Indian Mission

At a garden party given by the Colchester Methodist Circuit to the Rev. Paul Rangaramanujam of Trichinopoly, Southern India, on the 1st June, Mr. F. Entwistle, ex-Captain of the 1st Colchester, presided. He recalled that four years ago their guest had preached at the Culver Street Church, and had made so great an impression on the Boys of the 1st Colchester that they resolved to contribute to his work in India. By weekly collections they had raised £20, and he welcomed this opportunity to present a cheque for that amount.

Mr. Rangaramanujam expressed his deep appreciation, and assured the Boys that the money would be used for the hospital, where at present there were merely two sheds for the reception of patients; and a tablet would "perpetuate this wonderful gift from the Boys of the 1st Colchester, whose example would be an encouragement to his own Boys," who at times had had to suffer persecution and even personal injury, yet had stood firm.

A Hymn for Old Boys

"GOD MAKE US MEN"

GOD make us men, exultant in life's vigour,
Buoyant in health and strong in sinewed limb,
Restless our eyes that we behold Thy glory,
Sensing Thy voice around us and within.

God make us men, obedient to Thy calling,
Quick to respond "Lord, here am I, send me,"
Clear Thy commands, unhindered our devotion,
Bond slaves of Thine, from earthly fetters free.

God make us men, beholding Thee in reverence
Dwelling within the curtained walls of time,
Brooding o'er all Thy manifold creation,
Linking the human with Thy heart divine.

God make us men, subduing all our passions,
Merging our wills in disciplined accord,
Tuning life's strings to melody harmonious,
Vibrating to Thy touch, most gracious Lord.

God make us men, enshrining Thine own image,
Garments unstained though touched with earthly soil,
Lofty our aim, ambitions for Thy glory,
Guarding with prayerful steps 'gainst tempter's foil.

God make us men, as Christ Himself was manly,
Fearless of men yet serving Thee in fear,
Scorning the praise that bears not Thine approval,
Losing our lives that they in Thee appear.

God make us men, undaunted by the peril,
Scaling the heights that leads us o'er the ben,
Glimpsing the towers of Thy most holy city,
Until we reach the gates, God make us men.

R.G.R.



The Church Old Boys' Association

Scotland's Contribution to the Old Boy Problem

WHEN the problem of the Old Boys was under discussion a year or two ago, the Scottish aspect of the question was left to the Scottish members of Executive, in conjunction with the Scottish Churches. The result is the formation of the Church Old Boys' Association.

At a Conference at Balrossie last year a Provisional Constitution was drawn up which was submitted to the Churches. After conferring with the Youth Committee of the Church of Scotland, certain modifications were agreed to, and the C.O.B.A. is now recognised as an approved society for young men by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, by the Episcopal Church in Scotland and by the Baptist Union of Scotland. It has also been approved by the B.B. Executive and all these bodies are, by the Constitution, represented on the Council of the C.O.B.A.

The Object of the C.O.B.A. is: "To unite young men in the service of Christ and His Church by banding them together in Christian fellowship and training, and leading them to undertake definite Christian service." The C.O.B.A. proposes to do for the age group 17-25 what the B.B. does for the group 12-17, but on lines suited to a developing manhood. Its activities include Gymnastics, Football, Ambulance, Camping, Choirs, Dramatic work, Discussion Circles and Bible Study. Its aim is to permeate the week-night activities of our Old Boys with a Christian atmosphere, and to lead them to take up definite Christian service. Each unit must be connected with a church or group of churches. Where there are not sufficient young men in any one congregation to make the thing go, two or more churches in a district may unite to form a district unit.

It may help to clarify things if it is stated what the C.O.B.A. is *not*. It is not purely an ex-members' association. Any young man over 17 in sympathy with its object may become a member. Its objective is not an annual re-union. However excellent that is, the motto of the C.O.B.A. is "Carry On"; and its aim is "Looking Forward," not backward.

It is not a recreation club where a fellow may drop in and out



[Photo by Newcastle Chronicle]
NEWCASTLE BATTALION ARRIVING AT HAWTHORN TOWER