

COOK ISLANDS BB IS 21



THE BB in the Cook Islands is 21 years of age. And to celebrate the great event, a camp was held at Rarotonga, to which came Boys from the various islands—from Mangaia, Aitutaki, Atiu, Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Mitiaro.

Trucks and bicycles converged on the Avarua School, bringing in about 300 Boys and Officers, with all their belongings, their food and their firewood.

The pile of vegetables grew high, pigs squealed and dozens of chickens squawked in fear of imminent death.

The Boys soon settled in, and paraded in uniform for the opening ceremony, performed by the Resident Commissioner, who spoke highly of the work of the BB.

The quality of the marching and the band was revealed to the local people by the parades, to a football match at Avatiu on the Saturday, and church parades on the Sunday.

Big event of the camp was the arrival of the Celebration plane, bearing the Rev. R. L. Challis, founder

of the BB in the Cook Islands, paying his first visit since 1946.

One day, the whole camp set out on trucks to Muri for the picnic and sports. On the way, they stopped at each village, and the bands played.

Although the Boys had taken a picnic lunch with them, the Ngatangila people brought along food, so there was a big "kai" for everyone.

Another notable event was a march past and display. The Takamoia compound was a fine setting for the parade, at which the salute was taken by the Resident Commissioner.

There was a high standard of marching, the slow march being particularly impressive. Gifts were presented by the outer islands Companies to Mr. Challis and the

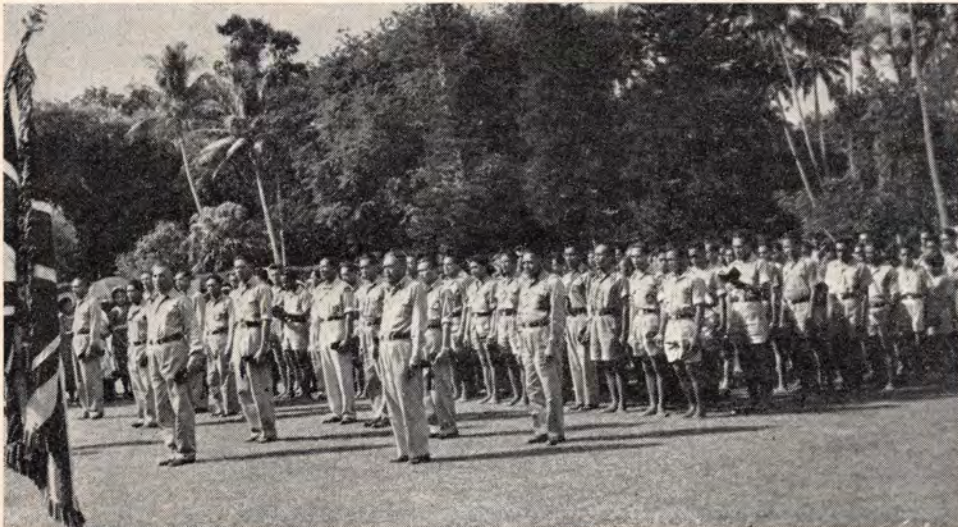
Rarotongan Companies. Then the 21st Birthday Cake was cut.

This was followed by sports, and the programme culminated with a camp fire, before one of the biggest audiences ever seen in Rarotonga, numbering nearly 2,000. Each island gave a display, which included dancing, gymnastics and acted stories.

Climax of the camp was a big outdoor parade service, held in Takamoia, in which the Rarotongan Girl Guides joined. The Rev. R. L. Challis chose as his text the verse used at the dedication service 21 years before—"Be strong and of good courage."

Comments the "Cook Islands Review":—

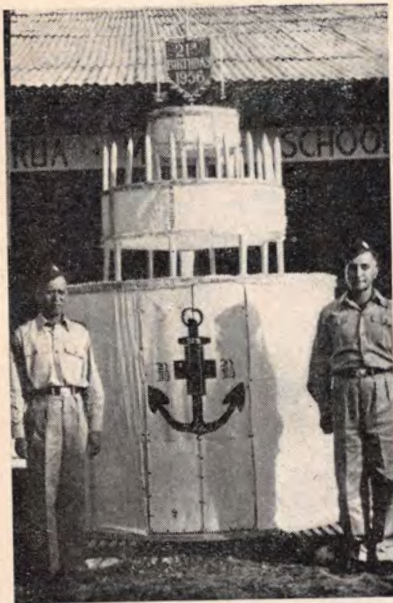
The Brigade has now "come of age" and must now attempt to do a man's task in these islands, by serving the Church and the community in accordance with the high ideals of its Founder.



ABOVE: The Band leading the parade when the Camp marched through the village to the hospital to entertain the patients. As everywhere, the Band attracts the small Boys—plenty of recruits here!

LEFT: The climax of the Camp — the Parade Service.

More pictures at top of next page.



COOK ISLANDS COME OF AGE

(See previous page)

LEFT : The Birthday Cake (made of wood!). A smaller (real) one was well and truly eaten !

RIGHT : The Fatigue Squad prepares a meal. The QM (on the right) was at Eton Camp in 1954.

