



Alan Lamer

INTRODUCTION

The 70th London was formed on December 9th, 1908, and thus celebrated its 50th year in 1958. The Jubilee was marked by special items at the Annual Inspection & Display: the Old Boys parading with the Company on one of the nights, and a Dinner was held for all the ex-members it was possible to contact. Also at that time a special booklet was published entitled "Fifty years of the Seventieth". A good many copies of this are still around and it's just possible that a few will be available at the Display when you read these words. Mr. Knights has asked for a simple brochure this time to mark the Company's 60th year, and simple we have tried to keep it, concentrating mainly on the last ten years, and using as many pictures as possible.

We have attempted also to arrive at a list of those members who through the years are known to have made "the Great Decision": the decision to follow Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, for this above all else is the purpose for which a Company of The Boys' Brigade exists. The thought, the worrying, the planning, and the prayers of 70th Officers in every period has ultimately been toward that end: as the Object says "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys"...

THE LAST TEN YEARS

Since 1958 the changes have been many. A Chaplain and a Captain have gone, together with other long-serving Officers. Mr. Rolly Clark retired only last year after 29 years as a Lieutenant: the longest recorded period of service other than that of the Founder.

There have been rumours (nay, plans,) during this ten year period to CHANGE the UNIFORM, but in the end The Brigade could not agree on an acceptable pattern. Uniform therefore remains basically unchanged except for new badges.

The 70th was one of the first 'Guinea-pig' Companies to try out the three-tier system instituted by The Brigade in 1965-66. This provided for a Senior Section, those over 16, who now have a different programme, and differing commitments, as well as a uniform consisting of a S/Sgt's cap, but no cross-belt or stripes. There is still a lot to be learned about this system. The Life Boy team is now called the 'Junior Section' and is an integral part of the Company, whilst those of the middle age-groups remain in a 'Company Section'. "Agonising re-appraisals" of the role and method of The Brigade are still going on.

1958-'68 has been remarkable for the many successes which the Company has achieved in Competitions. We had managed to win First Aid Competitions before this, but when Mr. Brian Rance took over we settled-in for an unbroken ten year run as holders of the Ferguson Shield, and went on in 1962, 63, 65, 66 and 67, to be all-London champions. The local St. John's Novices contest, which we originally entered 'for experience', and won, was eventually denied us. On

one occasion our novices beat a team comprising their own Instructors. Mr. Rance also had the touch-of-gold with Athletics, and assisted by Peter Clark, we brought home the Battalion trophy year-after-year from 1958 to 1964 and again in 1966.

We have always had a good supply of keen gymnasts, and have occasionally been winners, but it wasn't until the mid '60s that Mr. Price led our Gym. team, and our Ground-work team to victory in four successive years. We held the London Gymnastics trophy in 1965-66-67.

Football has suffered in recent years, and the last time we won the league is a very dim memory. Likewise with that most basic subject, Drill, but the Scripture Exam., started in 1964 with studies led by Mr. Clark, has always had 70th Boys up near the top of the lists. Mountcastle was in fact No. 1 in '65; Bartlett in '67.

The Company programme started to include mention of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 1958, and our first Gold Standard recipients were Alan Rance and Ralph Price in 1961. The Instructor was, again, Brian Rance, and since those pioneering days some 10 Boys have trod the carpets of Buckingham Palace to receive their 'Duke's Award'. Perhaps the most heroic act carried out during all the expedition training was the three day, 50 mile trek by Peter Ellis, who went only to make-up the number. He fell in a Dartmoor stream and the only concern of the others was for the food-pack on his back!

During this period the Summer evenings have seen Mr. Bateman faithfully slogging away with the Basketwork class. It's difficult to remember how many years ago it was when he said he would 'have a go'. How many men today have trays, waste-baskets, and what-have-you's in their homes which Mr. Bateman finished? A goodly number.

Camp. In recent years the Company staff have elected to change camp-sites more readily than in earlier periods. While this leads to a lot more work, it ensures a better attendance at Camp. The 1968 Boy is more used to travel, and enjoys new places, whereas the men of yester-year held Camp to be the big annual treat and perhaps didn't trouble very much about where it was.

1910-1914, Goring, Sussex.	1960, Pett Level, Kent.
1919-1939, Stubbington, Hants.	1961-1962, Whitecliff Bay, I.of.W.
1942, Chinnor, Oxfordshire.	1963 Exmouth, Devon.
1945-1950, Ferring-by-sea, Sussex.	1964 Teignmouth, Devon.
1951-1955 Church Hougham, Kent.	1965-'66 Swanage, Dorset.
1956-1959, Charmouth, Dorset	1967 Kingston, Devon.

Camp 1968 is to be at Sidford, near Sidmouth, South Devon.

Camp programmes have varied with each site and with the changing taste of the years, but still include the basic ingredients, early rising (now 7am), plenty of good food, activities available for all, the gospel faithfully preached at evening prayers, and a reasonably early turn-in. Friendships are made, or broken, at camp as they always have been. Boys are introduced to domestic duties never

tackled in their lives before. Practical jokes abound (probably the same ones as in 1910). How many first-year Boys have tried to buy a brailing-spanner? How many have searched for 'the Hoover point by the flag pole.... and clean up the camp square'? And how many Boys have been sent to the C.O. for 'a long weight' (wait)?

The 70th has been blessed with a good accident-free record at Camp. Incidents there have been in plenty, ankles sprained (shoulders, backs, necks tummies, etc) and one thing which literally by a hair's breadth could have been a fatality:- two Boys were pick-axing toward each other in a trench at Goring... and misjudged the distance. The pick of one caught the other a full blow on the head; there was a lot of blood, and a large number of stitches, but Owen Clark lived to tell the tale, (and is expected home from Missionary teaching service in Congo, '69.)

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Started in 1948, the Association is still running a weekly Monday evening meeting, where Badminton and other recreational games are available, and refreshment and good talk. The Bible Class on the first Sunday of each month has an attendance varying between ten and twenty, and follows a specially arranged series of talks and discussions, with different members sharing the duties of leadership. A football team operates under the name of the Association.

During recent years Association members have assisted with or have carried out entirely some decorating and maintainance jobs on church property. The Bible Class offerings mount-up and sums of £30 are sent-in periodically to the Baptist Missionary Society and to other worthy destinations. The Association provides a reserve of instructors for the Company. Roughly half it's members are also members of our church.

The President is Mr. Percy Sore, 34, Glasford Street, Tooting, who will be pleased to supply further information to intending members.

FIGURES

How many members has the 70th had? It would appear to be 1,036. This is the figure in the Company Register, started in 1938 by Skip Porter at 500, by calculation. In the same period, since 1938, just 100 Boys have been appointed as N.C.Os. whilst the names of 25 Officers are recorded, including those on the Staff today.

During sixty years our church has had seven Ministers, and each in his way has served as Company Chaplain. Many of these gentlemen have with good effect accompanied us to Camp.

Few London Companies have run for sixty years with but four Captains: The Founder to '38, H.G.Porter to '55, A.B. Bowbeer to '61 and P.F. Knights at the present time. At various times other officers have been Acting Captain, Mr. R.Clark during the early part of the second War, Mr. W.Webb 1942-46 (ex.Boy, 9th London Coy. B.L.B.) Mr. P.Sore 1947/8, (while Mr. Porter was away on a course), and Mr. G.Ferriman for a short period in 1956.

OBJECT ACHIEVED

The Companies records are unfortunately incomplete. Possibly the Present and the Future have always taken pride of place over the Past, and there are gaps in the Company Register where the entry 'Baptised Church Member' might well have been made. For the pre-1938 period we have almost no records at all apart from the memories of those ex-members contacted in 1958, but we know the Company's work was well and truly done, for we see it in the lives of Christian men, now in middle years, who are known to be serving in churches far and wide. The thirty year period 1908-'38, under the personal leadership of W.E.H. Cotsell, the Founder, were clearly rich in their harvest of Men for Christ. In later generations the general resistance to Discipline, and to organised religion, has made the true work of The Brigade difficult, and the 70th has known times when a new Church Member was rare, but we rejoice with the present staff in some very recent additions.

This list then, is necessarily incomplete. If names are omitted which you know should be there, forgive us, and PLEASE LET US KNOW. Contact with many has been lost. Some, inevitably have fallen away, but where possible the member's present location and Christian work is recorded. The date given is the date of joining the Company.

<u>William Cotsell</u>	Founder Capt. 1908-'38. A great Christian gentleman.
<u>Frederick Taylor</u>	Lieut. 1908
<u>Ralph Harrop</u>	Lieut. 1908. Attended 50th year celebrations '58.
<u>Clifford Blazdell</u>	Lieut. 1908. Died in action 1917.
<u>Jack Stockwell</u>	1920s. Now at Hayes.
<u>Bob Stockwell</u>	1920s.
<u>'Tot' Thomas</u>	1914. 4th Thames Valley Coy. to 1933. Capt. 2nd Chislehurst Coy.
<u>Con Banwell</u>	1920s Deacon. Ch. Sec. Epsom Baptist.
<u>Roy Pitt</u>	1920s Morden Baptist
<u>Pat Hodges</u>	1940s. Capt. 1st Blackwood (Mon) Coy.
<u>Vic Hopkins</u>	1920s.
<u>Will Smith</u>	1916. Sunday School Supt. here, then Purley Baptist from '49 until his death in the early '60s.
<u>George Davidson</u>	1915
<u>Tom Godfrey</u>	1933. 70th Lieut. Life Boy Ldr. Captain 126th and 138th London Coys. Now Godalming Baptist.
<u>Jack Mayhew</u>	1930. 70th Lieut. Life Boy Ldr. I/C. Captain 1st Farnham Coy. Probation Officer. Farnham Methodist.
<u>Chris Nott</u>	1928. 70th Lieut. Now Barnehurst Baptist.
<u>Will Nott</u>	1920s
<u>Leslie Wright</u>	1937 Captain 7th Mid-Surrey Coy. (Morden) Now Sutton Coldfield.
<u>Ken Collins</u>	1937. Lieut 1st Crawley Coy. Lay-Pastor, Outwood Baptist
<u>Ted Stephens</u>	1935. Deacon, Tooting Congregational Church.
<u>Ron Manning</u>	1937. Now Welwyn Garden City.
<u>Terry Blumire</u>	1949. Choir. Now Burgess Hill Baptist.
<u>Peter Moore</u>	1947. Now New Zealand.
<u>Bert Porter</u>	Joined as Capt. 1938, retired '55 after 17 years. Deacon Morden to 1967. Now Henfield Free Church.
<u>Percy Sore</u>	1932. 70th Lieut. Deacon 1964-67. President Old Boys' Assoc.
<u>Alf Sore</u>	1928 Baptised. Boy Reserves leader. Local Councillor in Balham.
<u>Rolly Clark</u>	Joined as Lieut. 1938. Retired '67 Deacon, & Missionary Sec.



1913, Coring-by-Sea

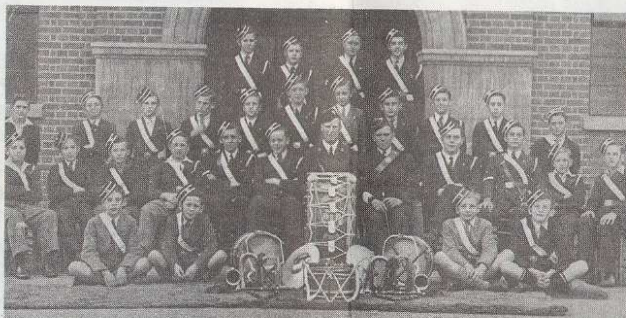
1959, Tooting Bec



1935, Richmond Park

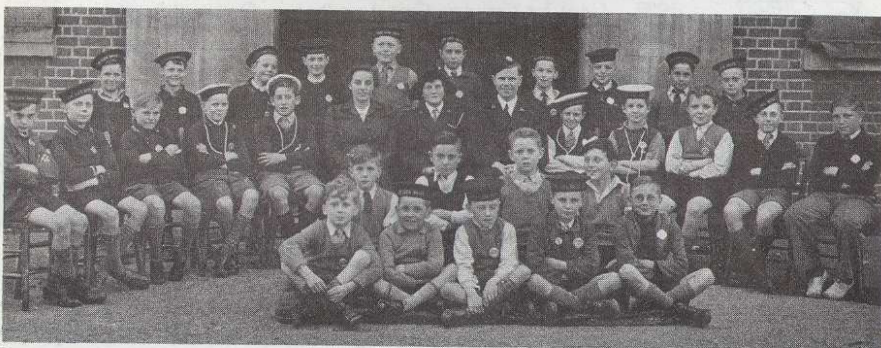


1954 'ish, Hall
1956, Charmouth



Any year.... any Camp!

1942, Hall.



70th. Team. 1947



1961 Buckingham Palace

COMPANY
and CHURCH
'08-'68



1929, Lee-on-Solent

70th men at 50th Year Dinner. Dec. 1958



Thank you, George Blake.



1960, Inspection.

<u>Peter Clark</u>	1948. 70th Athletics Instructor.
<u>Owen Clark</u>	1945. Life Boy Ldr. Now teaching with B.M.S. at Kimpese, Congo Republic.
<u>Harold Barrett</u>	1920s. 70th Lieut. Deacon, Morden Baptist. Now Godalming Bapt
<u>George Alderman</u>	1917. 70th Lieut. to '27. Deacon. Now Sutton Baptist Church.
<u>Percy Alderman</u>	1920 70th Lieut. to '30. Capt. 7th E. Surrey.
<u>Leslie Owens</u>	1920s. 70th Lieut. to 1938
<u>Alan Wakeford</u>	1920s. 70th Lieut. to 1938. Now Hoddesdon.
<u>Stanley Clarke</u>	1920s. 70th Lieut. to 1938. Organist.'
<u>George Ross</u>	1920s. Now Morden Baptist
<u>Brian Flint</u>	1946. 70th Lieut to '60. Now Chelmsford Baptist.
<u>Brian Rance</u>	1949. 70th W/O to '55. First Aid/Athletics/Duke's Award Instr. to '67. Now Dartford.
<u>Martin Nightingale</u>	1950. Young Peoples' Fellowship leader. Choir, Now Preston.
<u>William Cruse</u>	1951
<u>Leslie Mayo</u>	1941, Now Coulsdon.
<u>Reginald Lansdale</u>	1941. Son now in 70th.
<u>Leonard Stacey</u>	1941. Now Gomshall
<u>John Vidler</u>	1942
<u>Alan Tapley</u>	1942
<u>Derek Lee</u>	1944. Now Fleet, Hants.
<u>Edgar Scammell</u>	1945
<u>Kenneth Hill</u>	1946, Choir. Now Beddington.
<u>Alan Smith</u>	1946. 70th W/O to '54.
<u>Keith Holbrook</u>	1947. Present church member.
<u>George Parsons</u>	1947.
<u>Harold Sporle</u>	1941. Now member City Temple.
<u>Ray Gower</u>	1945. Now member Dutch Reformed Church
<u>Alan Bilyard</u>	1951. Deacon now.
<u>Gordon Ferriman</u>	1936. 70th Lieut. Deacon to '64. Now W. Horsley.
<u>Arthur Bowbeer</u>	1936. 70th Lieut, Capt. '55-61. Deacon now.
<u>Vic Sutton</u>	1920s. Capt. 7th Mid-Surrey. Deacon Morden.
<u>Ewart Sutton</u>	1919 Lieut. 47th London. Formed 1st E. Surrey Coy. 1947. Capt. 1st Aston Coy (Oxford) 1950
<u>Will Webb</u>	Joined as Act. Capt. 1942-46. Pres. Old Boys Association. Now Pollards Hill Baptist.
<u>Ron Webb</u>	1941 Lieut 7th Mid-Surrey Now Shirley Baptist
<u>Harold Bird</u>	1910 Church member until his death in 1966
<u>Peter Knights</u>	1941. 70th Lieut Present Captain
<u>Bernard Shaw</u>	1943. Choir. Men's Group Secretary. Now Purley Baptist.
<u>Peter Bryant</u>	1948
<u>Frederick Munro</u>	1948. Now Machynileth . W. Wales.
<u>Tony Stacey</u>	1948
<u>Douglas Strachan</u>	1941.
<u>Ray Holder</u>	1942. Bandmaster 7th Mid-Surrey.
<u>Bob Verrills</u>	1952.
<u>Bob Bristow.</u>	1952. Sunday School teacher. Junior C.E. Now Luton.
<u>Bernard Matcham</u>	1952.
<u>David Golder</u>	1953. 70th Lieut. to '66.
<u>Barry Rowbotham</u>	1954. Sunday School. Junior Section Leader. Choir.
<u>Ralph Price</u>	1954. 70th Lieut. to '67
<u>Michael Allen</u>	1954. Royal Navy.

<u>Gerald Rance</u>	1949.
<u>John Gale</u>	1954.
<u>Tony Bateman</u>	1959. Army.
<u>Douglas Mills</u>	1959.
<u>Graham Smith</u>	1959. Life Boy Leader. Sunday School teacher. Now Morden Park.
<u>John Rowe</u>	1958. S/Sgt. 181st London to '65 (Bonneville Baptist)
<u>Glyn Davis</u>	1950.
<u>David Huddy</u>	1951.
<u>Keith Edwards</u>	1954.
<u>David Welsh</u>	1961.
<u>Roy Norris</u>	1959.
<u>Gordon Davis</u>	1956. 70th Instr.
<u>Michael Davis</u>	1959. 70th W/O now.
<u>Michael Wallace</u>	1957.
<u>Michael Young</u>	1960.
<u>Alan Paramor</u>	1958. Young People's Fellowship Committee. Life Boy Leader.
<u>Peter Ellis</u>	1956. 70th Lieut. now. Church delegate, Council of Churches
<u>Peter Skinner</u>	1963. Young People's Fellowship Committee
<u>Brian Newman</u>	1959. 70th Junior Section. Tags Group Leader. Choir.
<u>William Ward</u>	1955. 70th Lieut.
<u>James Boerio</u>	1961.
<u>Tony Foard,</u>	1963.
<u>David Carmichael</u>	1963. Choir
<u>Martin Hughes</u>	1963. Choir
<u>Michael Bartlett</u>	1965.
<u>Neil Pheasant</u>	1965.

70th Staff who joined from other sources.

<u>Fred Bateman</u>	Boy in 9th London. 70th Lieut '54 - now
<u>John Ward</u>	Life Boy Leader 1950s
<u>Stanley Blake</u>	Life Boy Leader 1938
<u>Mrs. Ivy Clark</u>	Life Boy Leader and Ldr. in Charge 1938 - 1964, Sunday School
<u>Mrs. Vera Bowbeer</u>	Life Boy Leader, 1942-44, and '54-'66. Sunday School. Choir.
<u>Will Ward</u>	Life Boy Leader, and Ldr. in Charge 1964-1967. Now Wrexham.
<u>Nigel Rigg</u>	Life Boy Leader 1959-'63. Choir. Now C. of E. at York.
<u>Mrs. Joan Godfrey</u>	Life Boy Leader 1946-'48. Now Godalming Baptist

We cherish EVERY Boy who has joined the Company. What of the many who came, and went, apparently unmoved, untouched by the gospel? We take comfort from the words of a visiting speaker at Bible Class some fifteen years ago who said, "When YOU came through that door to join the 70th London it was part of God's plan for your life, it will never be quite the same again".

PROGRAMME

60th Annual Inspection and Display.

Friday 26th. April & Saturday 27th. April.

FRIDAY

Parade of Company

Reception of Inspecting Officer — A. Bowbeer Wandsworth Batt. Publicity,
former Company Captain.
and Chairman — Rev. A. G. Hughes, Company Chaplain

Inspection of Ranks

Meet the Juniors

Best Drilled Private Competition

Accidents do Happen

Have Car - Will Travel

70th. v 3rd.

Chairman

The Achievement Scheme

Fitness Counts

A Close Shave

Lightweight Contest

Combined

Company Drill

The Past Session

Presentation of Company Awards

I. O. s Remarks

Closing Service

Throughout the programme there will be various observations made by former members of the company, about the company during the past sixty years.

SATURDAY

Parade of Company

Reception of Inspecting Officer — G.H. Walker, London District Secretary
and Chairman — H.G. Porter, former Company Captain

Inspection of Ranks

Meet the Juniors

Drill Demonstration by Finalists

Accidents do Happen

Have Car - Will Travel

70th. v 3rd. v 1st.

Chairman

The Achievement Scheme

Fitness Counts

A Close Shave

Lightweight Contest

Combined

Company Drill *

The Past Session

Presentation of Awards

I.O.s Remarks

Closing Service conducted by
Rev. A.G. Hughes Company Chaplain

*

On Saturday there will be a parade of past members of the company following the item 'The Past Session. Will all former members form up in the Junior Hall under the command of Mr. A. Bowbeer following the company Drill Item.



Following the Display there will be light refreshments available and an opportunity to visit the company exhibition in the Junior Hall.

- 1 WE thank Thee, O our Father,
Before the memories fade,
For all Thy love around us,
And for The Boys' Brigade.
O help us to be mindful,
As daylight fades away,
Of blessings showered on us
Throughout the passing day.
- 2 For joy of life and freedom,
And strength of limb and mirth,
For duties done with gladness
On this Thy glorious earth,
We praise Thee, O our Maker,
And pray our hearts may be—
As voices are uplifted—
In harmony with Thee.
- 3 For friendships growing stronger
Beneath Thy radiant sky,
The fragrance and the sunshine
That tell that Thou art nigh ;
For human love we thank Thee,
But this we surely know—
That it is but reflected
From Thee to us below.
- 4 Lord, in our camp Thou walkest,
We feel that Thou art near ;
Thy strength has made us stronger,
'Tis afterwards we fear !
When back amidst temptations
Which daily duty brings—
'Tis then we pray for courage
To rise to higher things.
- 5 Then give us strength, O Father,
Wherever we may be,
To crush what's base within us,
And play the man for Thee ;
To serve with hearts undaunted,
Stedfast and unafraid,
Loyal to Thee and duty
And to The Boys' Brigade. *Roger Stephen Peacock*

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."