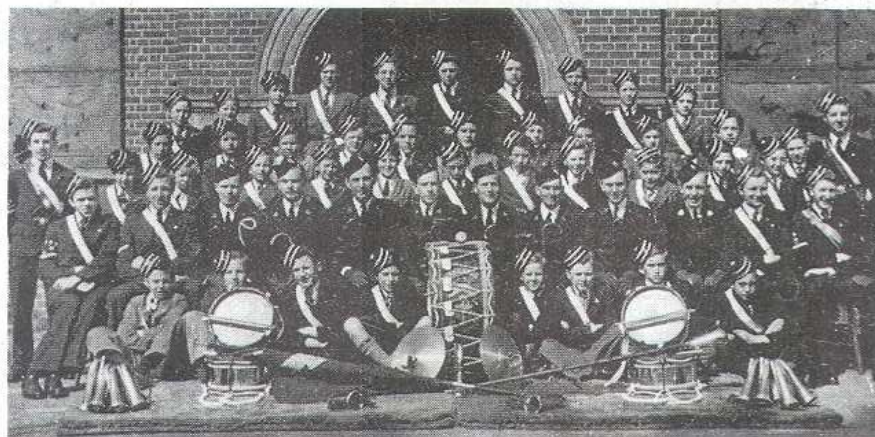


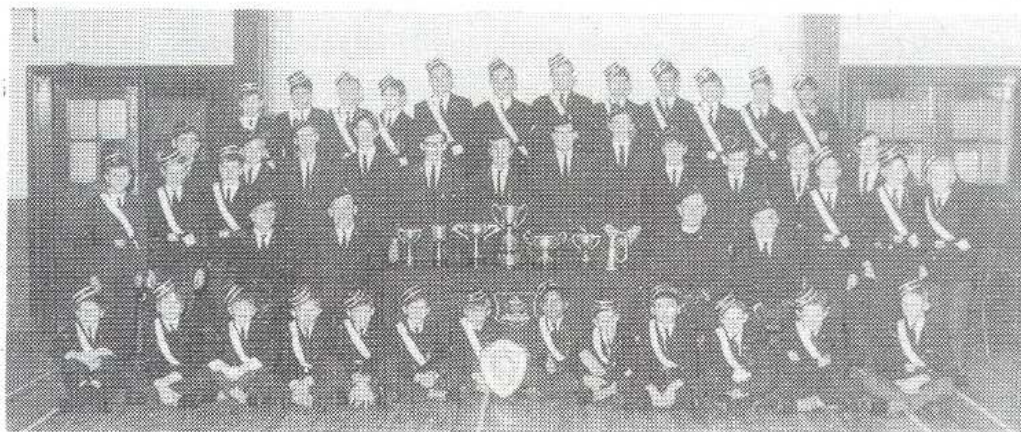
# THE BOYS' BRIGADE



1940s

## 70th LONDON COMPANY

Part of Tooting Junction Baptist Church



1960s

80th YEAR

## Company Display 30th April 1988



1980s

**GRAVENEY LOWER SCHOOL, WELHAM ROAD 7.30 p.m.**  
**Admission 50p**



## CAPTAIN'S TALES

During the 80 years of its existence the '70th' has been blessed by having only six Captains. The five surviving Captains have all been given the opportunity to tell their 'tales'. However, we cannot help but stop and give thanks for the Founder, William Cotsell, who served as Captain for 30 years. A more detailed tribute to him appeared in the booklet "Fifty years of the Seventieth", copies of which are available tonight and mention is made of this great man's work later in this programme booklet.

### H. G. PORTER : 1938-1955

Just 50 years ago I felt a strong compulsion to offer myself as Captain of the 70th, having heard that the Founder-Captain, William Cotsell, and his three Officers were retiring. The Rev Andrew Wright answered by taking from his desk a piece of paper on which my name, alongside with three of my friends was already pencilled. This was rather amazing. I knew nothing of The Boys' Brigade or the heavy administration a Company entailed. Rolly Clark was in a similar position; Chris Nott had been in the 70th for only two years as a Boy but, fortunately, Jack Mayhew was already an Officer in a nearby Company and willingly agreed to join us.

In September 1938 we started the new session - 19 stalwart Boys, of real quality, and a keen but woefully ignorant bunch of Officers, apart from Jack. We survived those first few months - but only just. In February 1939 I was confronted by six senior Boys who had decided to leave the Company - they apparently regretted the loss of the high standard of Staff knowledge and efficiency, so typical of the 70th for so long. After a sleepless night I saw the six again and persuaded them to have patience with us. We were learners, but meant well.

As the Staff improved in ability, so the Company increased to a healthy 30. Then came a hiccup. Before our first year ended England was at war with Germany. Threats of aerial bombing almost wiped out our weekly programme, leaving us with Sunday morning Bible Class. Then our Staff Sergeant, Percy Sore, cocked a snook at Hitler and pleaded for a Parade in uniform one Friday night - so in December 1939 we met in the Parlour of the old Church. What a tremendous thrill it was as the Boys lined up and commenced to number! Deep voices from the 17-year olds, "1, 2, 3, 4, 5" - becoming more high-pitched and more difficult to hear as the line went right down the corridor... "22, 23, 24, 25, 26!" No bombs came that Winter so we had weekly drill parades and even resumed First Aid, P.T. and parallel bars...all in the Church Parlour!

Alas, one by one, the Staff were called-up into the Forces, or Home Service and a number of Boys were evacuated. Then came stalwart Will Webb, a policeman, who kept the Company thriving until 1945 when the Staff, one by one, came back to the 70th. Enthusiasm grew: Staff grew and before 1950 the slogan was '70 Boys for the 70th'. We reached 75 one September, but it steadied down to around 65.

For the next ten years, all over the country, the B.B. was booming. The 70th had two football teams, two cricket teams, a bugle and drum band of 25. A Battalion Church Parade saw 850 Officers and Boys in our own Church. Around 35-45 Boys attended joint Camps with the 37th and 3rd Mid-Surrey. The August Bank Holiday



became a first with parents, so that we had up to 120 people coming in coaches and cars to spend Open Day with us in Camp. The Dads v Boys football match was a big feature of the day...the Boys usually won, but I must confess that one year we had 16 Boys on the field, unnoticed by the Dads. Then a goal was scored and as the Boys lined up for the re-start the Dads realised how great were the odds against them!

I have three abiding memories of those years in the 70th. The amazing reliability and devotion of all the Officers. The list of 25 current Boys passed on in 1955 as having all made a decision to serve Christ. The numerous other Boys to whom the B.B. had shown a world of higher standards. I know these three things have been faithfully carried on by all four succeeding Captains, often with difficulties not known by us of earlier years. Long live the 70th!

#### A. B. BOWBEER 1955-1961

Most of us suffer from 'memory enhancement'...which, with the passage of time causes us to think that things were better 'then' than now. There were clearly more Boys then - in the 70th that is. I inherited something like 60, + a strong Life Boy Team...and six Lieutenants + Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants - to say nothing of dedicated Instructors such as Mr Want (Band) and Brian Rance (First Aid). Today's few Officers need our constant prayer-backing if the Object is to be achieved.

Those large numbers created their own problems. It was less easy for the Captain to know all the Boys and the tendency was to 'run it by the book', so that fairness prevailed...but our caring was sometimes on the harsh side. Imagine the feelings among the Boys when, on a Parade Sunday, the Company fell-in in the Hall (now the Church) and it was realised that the Band exceeded one-third of the Parade strength. Imagine too how the Band Officer, Mr Flint, felt as he chose (say) two from the Band to march with the Company and thus obey the rules in 'The Manual'. Hard, yes...but the two unfortunates always played after Church, while two others fumed at being 'dropped'.

First Aid to the injured hardly exists as a Battalion competition today, but in the late '50s it was deadly serious. Mr Rance and young Will Ward pioneered the use of mocked-up injuries, some so realistic with 'blood' and protruding bones that those unaccustomed to such games would turn quite pale...but we won 'the London'.

The 'Duke's Award' was still new then and the oft-repeated tale of the first 'Gold' expedition to Dartmoor shall be told again. Such an expedition, in rough hill-country, required three Boys in the party but we had only two, Ralph Price and Alan Rance, all trained and raring to go. So, gallantly, Peter Ellis volunteered to 'make up the number' although he would gain no award. Whilst carrying all the food, Peter - a non-swimmer - fell into a quite deep stream. Were the others worried? Oh yes.... "The food, Pete, the food" was their only cry. They got their Gold Awards.

Memories of Camp are many. When travelling by train to Axminster for Camp at Charmouth (near my present home), the interchange time at Wimbledon was only four minutes...and our faithful Rolly Clark 'didn't think it funny' to heave and help with all the kit in/out of the goods lift. He was heard to ask "Who thought-up this crazy journey?" - looking hard at me - but was the first to say "Hey, Bow, isn't this



smashing country!" as we entered Dorset, and Camp. Music at Camp...the sound of Bach's Toccata and Fugue 'thundering' out from the marquee as Martin Nightingale pedalled furiously at the harmonium: (today, what's a harmonium Mum?). Then - tackling the unexpected...the sight of Percy Sore (who knew more about camping than most), digging out a wasp's nest from the field before the inmates gave too much work to the M.O. Problems such as getting Boys to eat what was good for them were always with us. Liver, for example..."We don't like it Sir"...but when Quartermaster Gordon Ferriman and cook George Blake served it as 'Liver and Bacon Lyonnaise' (or something like that), with stuffing all over it, every morsel disappeared. A lovely problem, but not often enough, was when an Appeal was made at evening prayers on the last night and Boys we had been praying over for years went forward. I wish we knew where all of them are now.....

All I know now is that to have served the Lord as a 70th Captain was a tremendous privilege - and responsibility. I only wish I had known then what I have since been taught about a more effective way of sharing the Gospel with Boys....for 'that's what it's all about'.

#### P. F. KNIGHTS 1961 - 1980

It is difficult to relate the period which can be called 'The changing years'. Turbulent years certainly. Challenging years - when so many aspects of Company life changed. There were Staff changes and, naturally, the Boy-membership continually changed. Uniform changed. Even the Brigade structure changed following the Report by the Haynes Committee. A significant cultural change followed the movement into the district of families from Nigeria, Jamaica, Gyana, Trinidad, Malaysia, India and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe.)

The challenge to maintain the high standards previously set and expected by the total membership was no mean task, but with total loyalty to the high calling as Officers the programme was pursued with endeavour. Boys attained good standards in achievement, awards and competition at both Battalion and 'London' level. First Aid (1962, '63, '65, '66 and '67), Gymnastics (1965, '66 and '67) and Ground-work, 1967 being notable successes.

The Royal Albert Hall Display enabled the Company to present 'Life in their hands', a First Aid item: 'The History of Ball Games' and 'Recipe for Camp' - each receiving good acclaim from visiting Companies from throughout the British Isles.

Staff changes were a factor of Company life - Officers moved from the district or retired. This changing situation placed added responsibility upon the N.C.O.s and senior members, many finally taking their place as Officers and ensuring continuity of the Company programme. Without exception, every Officer was important, for each brought a level of experience and character into their phase of work which proved vital in the leading of Boys towards fulfillment of our great Object.

The Life Boys - latterly known as the Junior Section - saw Staff changes too, but progressed favourably and provided that special 'nucleus' to the Company. The late Mrs Ivy Clark led the Team until 1964, influencing for good so many young Boys who, as men today would readily attribute their early knowledge of their Lord to 'the little lady in the tricorn hat'.



The late-60s saw changes again, including the going of the late Rolly Clark, retiring after 30 years as a 70th Officer - and a large slice of Company life went from us. Three years later Fred Bateman was taken to be with his Lord - a great loss - leaving a very young and inexperienced Staff to move and direct us into the 70s. The 60s had seen the introduction of 'The three-tier system': a revised badge-system and a new uniform (goodbye to the pillbox) - all changes becoming an accepted part of Company life. Bible Class, Drill Parade, Camp, monthly Church Parade never changed, being the basis upon which the Company was maintained and managed into the 70s.

Throughout this period, four Chaplains made their own particular support for the Company, its work, its outreach, as being an integral part of Church Life. They each encouraged support from Church Members and families when ever possible. This was of tremendous value and a source of encouragement to a now small Staff and small Company. External influences on the Boy started to contribute to the decline in numbers.

It was early in 1980 when my decision to resign was made - and to recommend to the Church that my Lieutenant, Neil Pheasant, should become Captain. He had joined as a Boy, grown and developed as a Christian man and as an Officer such as the 70th expects. During the period 1961 - '80 we had worked faithfully toward the Object of The Brigade and many Boys had found Christ as their Saviour and Lord through the influence of Bible Class, Church Fellowship, Camp and the witness of Christian men and women who had served their Lord and Master in the 70th London Company - part of Tooting Junction Baptist Church. We had celebrated 60 years and 70 years of the Company, occasions when many past members came for re-union or wrote letters remembering days past. All served to encourage Boys and Staff to 'Carry-on' - and maintain the heritage which will always be expected of "The 70th".

#### N. PHEASANT 1980 - 1984

It was very much the end of an era when, in 1980, Peter Knights gave up the reins of the Captaincy he had held since 1961. The thought for me of the 70th without 'Curly', as the Boys (and Staff) called him, was not easy to imagine. However, although the number of Boys was only 14, the Company's foundations were as strong as ever.

My first Drill Parade as the new 'Skipper', fell on the night before my wedding: (my wedding suit was, coincidentally, just the right colour and style for B.B. uniform). I was in 'much fear and trembling' and felt the Boys watching my every move for some mistake or missing point of detail. I was the only Company Section Officer and am more conscious in hindsight of the enormity of the task than I ever was at the time. But God was gracious and provided the necessary assistance in George Bartlett and Jim Ballard, from the Junior Section and Keith Sylvester, new to B.B. work. Others led badge-classes and we were blessed by good, faithful, Christian N.C.O.s - what more can a Captain want or need? Sadly, Keith married and emigrated to New Zealand in 1982, but he was soon replaced by Chris Buss, an enthusiastic ex-Boy and Officer from the 79th London (East Hill Wandsworth) who provided much needed experience. Cont. on page 8



# PROGRAMME

## Opening Parade and Inspection of the Company

By Mr RICHARD DAVIES, London District Secretary

## Opening Service Led by the Rev PETER J. TAYLOR 70th Chaplain

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*

Introduction of Inspecting Officer and Guest of Honour  
by Mr A. Bowbeer, Captain 1955 - 1961.

**THE DISPLAY** Chairman Mr P. F. Knights, Captain 1961 - 1980.

QUICK, SLOW, QUICK, QUICK HALT

AGILE JUNIORS

COOKHOUSE BLUES

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

FROM THE VAULTS

Guest of Honour's remarks.

Mr H. G. Porter, Captain 1938 - 1955

BLIND OBEDIENCE

SPOT THE BALL

MARCHING AND MUSIC

FAST AND FURIOUS AGAIN

The past year in perspective

Final of the Best Drilled Private competition

THE MASTER'S VOICE

## CLOSING PARADE AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Inspecting Officer's Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Closing Prayer and Benediction

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."



From page 5

The Boys too were an enthusiastic lot and hitherto esoteric subjects like Heraldry gained in popularity. We entered Competitions with more optimism than skill and were rewarded in February '82 with the Battalion P.R. Games Trophy - the first cup for 15 years. I seem to remember a celebration in MacDonalds at Balham afterwards, with some very wary looks from other customers. Successes in Vaulting, Groundwork etc soon followed.

The year 1983 was the Brigade's Centenary and the 70th was involved wholeheartedly. It was also the 70th's 75th year. Highlights were a part in the Royal Albert Hall Display, a Re-union of 'Old Boys', a guided tour of H.M. Dockyard, Plymouth, during Camp and a special service with the Church at 8pm on the 4th October - the exact moment when the B.B. was founded. A great honour was the choice of two N.C.O.s and an Officer from the 70th to take part in the Royal Review of The Boys' Brigade by H.M. The Queen at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. The greatest prize was hearing some of our lads giving testimony to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at the Battalion Church Parade that year.

No sooner had 1984 started than a series of circumstances enforced many absences and brought into doubt my ability to continue to lead the Company. During the '60s and '70s The Brigade as a whole faced great decisions to meet the ever-changing demands of the times. Sadly, many of the changes served only to further weaken the Brigade and the desire to be 'relevant' so often had the effect of 'throwing the baby out with the bath water'. It is my abiding belief that it is only the refusal of the Company Captain, during those difficult years, to be swayed from the principles of Christianity and Discipline upon which the Brigade was founded that has enabled the Company to enjoy success in the 1980s. Without that faithfulness and single-mindedness it would not have been possible, Praise God that He has been pleased to honour such service!

#### C. BUSS 1984 to present

It seems only yesterday, in fact it was four years ago, that I was asked to become Captain of the 70th and as such my part of its story is yet incomplete. Although I had been a Boy in the 79th London, my Officer-experience was limited to Junior Section work and work with the Target Squad, which had been my main responsibility since joining the 70th in 1982.

In many ways I was fortunate in that I started my captaincy in the less-demanding Summer session and that Neil Pheasant was willing to still serve as an Officer and enable continuity to be maintained. Within two months however we surprised ourselves - and the Battalion - by winning the Athletics meeting for the first time since 1968 and this with a Company of only 14 Boys, each giving of his very best. We have retained the trophy in the three succeeding years.

As recorded elsewhere, Drill and Bible Class have been the backbone of the Company since its start 80 years ago. It is a matter of wonderment to me that so many Companies have diluted their Drill Parade and it is refreshing to hear visiting Officers say how good it is to see a traditional Drill Parade. Drill and Bible Class attendance remain compulsory for continued membership of the 70th.

Camp has continued to be a time of encouragement, if not refreshment, and throughout the 1980s has been shared with the 37th London and the 2nd Herne Bay. Last



year, my first as C.O., I was 'initiated' by the Boys, with the side of my tent flat on the ground after Officers' Supper - and sundry heads looking out from under the brailing to see if I had noticed!

There are two outstanding highlights in my captaincy to date. The first is the travelling! The Company's involvement in London District and National competitions has led to a number of 'away' visits including Hythe (twice), Colchester, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Shoreham, Cardiff, Paisley and Falkirk. The last two were for National Volleyball finals in '86 and '87, when we came 4th and 3rd respectively. The second highlight was two years ago, when five members of the Company were baptised on one night. All five continue to serve in the 70th as either N.C.O.s or Warrant-Officers.

It is with some regret that a number of members of Staff have had to give up work in the Company due to moving, or personal circumstances, but I would like to thank all of them for their help over the past four years. It has been a busy and active time, with success in Battalion competitions and some success in London competitions: P.R. Games ('86, '88); Six-a-side Cricket ('87) and eleven-a-side ('86); Parallel Bars ('87) and five-a-side Football ('88). The Company took part in the London District Display in '87 and '88.

I trust that with God's help the work of the 70th will continue and prosper, so that Boys may continue to hear about the love of Jesus Christ while enjoying the fun and fellowship that the B.B. can provide.

#### THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Although no Company records exist for the period prior to 1938, it has been possible to compile - with the assistance of records held at Brigade House - a complete, or we hope complete, list of Lieutenants, Captains and Chaplains since the foundation year.

NAME	DATES	RANK	REMARKS
William Cotsell	1908-1938	Captain	Company Founder
Rev J. Felmingham	1908-1911	Chaplain	
Frank Taylor	1908	Lieut.	
Ralph Harrop	1908-1911	Lieut.	
Clifford Blazdell	1908-1910	Lieut.	Killed in action
Frederick Cotsell	1909-1915	Lieut.	
Rev Albert T. Veryard	1912-1917	Chaplain	Killed in action
George Alderman	1919-1928	Lieut.	
Percy Alderman	1920-1933	Lieut.	
Harold Barrett	1920s	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Rev Fred H. King	1918-1933	Chaplain	
Stanley Clarke	1922-1938	Lieut.	
Alan Wakeford	1927-1938	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Leslie Owens	1933-1938	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Rev Andrew Wright	1934-1944	Chaplain	
Herbert Porter	1938-1955	Captain	
Jack Mayhew	1938-1941	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Roland Clark	1938-1967	Lieut.	
Christopher Nott	1938-1954	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th



William Webb	1942-1946	Lt/Act Cap.	Old Boy 9th London
Percy Sore	1945-1952	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
	1955-1961	Lieut.	
Rev Chris Parnell	1945-1951	Chaplain	
Arthur(Tom)Godfrey	1946-1948	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th (Life Boy Ldr.)
Arthur Bowbeer	1946-1955	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
	1955-1961	Captain	
Gordon Ferriman	1946-1962	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Peter Knights	1951-1956	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
	1960-1961	Lieut.	
	1961-1980	Captain	
Rev Edmund Gabb	1952-1961	Chaplain	
Brian Flint	1956-1960	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Fred Bateman	1959-1970	Lieut.	Old Boy 9th London
David Golder	1962-1966	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Rev Alan Hughes	1962-1968	Chaplain	
Ralph Price	1965-1967	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Peter Ellis	1965-1970	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
William Ward	1966-1967	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th (Off I/C Junior S.)
Michael Davis	1968-1977	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Brian Newman	1968-1971	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th (Off I/C Junior S.)
George Bartlett	1969-1983	Lieut.	Old Boy 8th Mid-Surrey (Off I/C J.S.)
Rev David Reddaway	1970-1977	Chaplain	Old Boy 88th London
Anthony Foard	1971-1972	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
Neil Pheasant	1975-1980	Lieut.	Old Boy 70th
	1980-1984	Captain	
	1984 -	Lieut.	
Rev Morrison Frew	1977-1984	Chaplain	
James Ballard	1981 -	Lieut.	Off I/C Junior Sect.
Keith Sylvester	1981-1982	Lieut.	
Christopher Buss	1982-1984	Lieut.	Old Boy 79th London
	1984 -	Captain	
Rev Peter Taylor	1985 -	Chaplain	

The above list shows all the men who served as Officers of the 70th. Since 1966 it would have included Junior Section Officers. Prior to that date Life Boy Leaders were registered separately. The 70th's Life Boy Team was first registered with Brigade in October 1938 and a list of Leaders as compiled from Brigade records follows.

Marjorie Harding	1938-1939	Ldr	
Stanley Blake	1938-1939	Ldr	
Mrs Ivy Clark	1939-1964	Ldr I/C	
Mrs Joan Godfrey	1946-1948	Ldr	Ex 7th London G.L.B.
John Ward	1949-1954	Ldr	
Mrs Ethel Ward	1950-1954	Ldr	
Mrs Vera Bowbeer	1954-1966	Ldr	Lady Lieut. for short period, 1966
William Ward	1956-1964	Ldr	
	1964-1967	Ldr I/C	
Owen Clark	1958-1960	Ldr	Old Boy 70th
Nigel Rigg	1958-1961	Ldr	
Barry Rowbotham	1962-1968	Ldr	Old Boy 70th
Alan Paramor	1964-1967	Ldr	Old Boy 70th
Graham Smith	1965-1966	Ldr	Old Boy 70th



We have no official record of the 70th 'Boy Reserves' - the predecessor of The Life Boys - but many remember the good work done in the 1920s. Among them were Alan Wakeford, Percy Sore, Alf Sore (for a time a Leader) and Jack Mayhew, who in addition to coming back to the 70th as one of Bert Porter's Lieutenants, in 1938, also became Ldr I/C of the new Life Boy Team, handing over to Ivy Clark in 1939.

In addition to all the above, the Company would like to give thanks to all the Warrant Officers, Instructors and other helpers who have contributed to the life of the whole '70th'.

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## BOYS' STORIES

As there are no complete Company Records it is not possible to tell the exact number of Boys who have passed through, but it must be close to 2900. Each would have his own story to tell - and two of them here tell of life in the 70th as they saw (and see) it.

### THE EARLY YEARS. By F. E. Thomas

When, as probably the oldest surviving member of the 70th, I was asked to write about the early days, I found that as soon as I put pen to paper so many happy memories came flooding back. Greatest among them, a Camp at Stubbington, where I found my greatest friend, The Lord Jesus Christ.

The Company had been in existence only six years when in 1914 I joined. In those days you had to be 12; there was no Junior Section and you were 'on probation' for your first three months. Discipline was strict and uniform consisted of a pillbox hat, haversack and belt - which had to be perfect. The braid on the hat had to be 'Blancoed', the haversack lily-white (good old Mum) and its brass runners shining like the buckle on the belt.

One always wore uniform coming to and going from Parade and we carried carbine rifles - dummies of course. Parade was at Sellincourt Road School, once a week during the Winter; Band Practice was at Franciscan Road School and Sunday morning Bible Class, at 10 sharp, was in the old tin building which few will remember. Seats were in rows, one for each squad, with the N.C.O. at one end. Officers sat at the front and singing was from the B.B. Hymnal.

Going back to Band - Mr Adair, from the Scots Guards Band, taught drummers and buglers and one can see him now, all 6ft 2in of him, marching up and down the hall encouraging us. Mr Stockwell taught us First Aid, using his son Robert as a patient. From the start the 70th had camped at Goring-by-Sea, with the 37th, and was able to do so in 1914, just before war broke out. During war-time we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves doing 'exercises' with the local defence force, later known as the Home Guard, or 'Dad's Army'. We would go to Tooting Bec Common, climb trees and keep our eyes on the supposed invading army.

Camping was 'off' during the war, but in 1919 we went to Lee-on-Solent. Camps at Stubbington; Whitecliff Bay (Isle of Wight) followed. All were run very efficiently and one remembers most the last night in Camp, made memorable by Captain John



Godfrey of the 37th playing 'The Bells', as darkness fell. As a Boy, securely rolled in blankets, you would see a group of Officers gather by the flagstaff, some holding open an ancient sheet of music. Others shone torches while John swung his concertina to give us one of the greatest thrills of Camp. Many senior Boys were called-up for war service and some never returned - one being our Chaplain, the Rev Albert T. Veryard and another our Lieutenant, Clifford Blazdell.

Mr William Cotsell was held in great respect. On Parade or at Bible Class he was the Captain, but off-duty he was a great friend, helper, advisor. He had a library of books which he allowed us to borrow and on Saturdays, after Football, he would have small groups of us to tea. We sat on the floor listening to records on the 'Aeolian Vocalion' gramophone and many of us got our first taste of good books and lovely music from those evenings.

In those days, if you wished to go anywhere you walked, or rode a bike, so many a Saturday found us away to Box Hill, Leith Hill, Ranmore Common, or Wimbledon Common and on to Richmond Park. On most occasions we finished up at Mrs Beckett's general store in Ewell, where in the yard was a bath of cold water for us to have a sluice before going in to tea. Everything was 'ad lib'..watercress, bread, butter, jam and cut cake as much as you could eat, washed down by many cups of tea..and all for ninepence - old money! Then we would re-mount and cycle home.

We thought nothing of marching for a Battalion Parade to Stockwell, Clapham, Balham and back to Longley Road - and loved it, as the Bugle Band led the way. The few of us who are left say, 'Thank you Lord', for leading us to Longley Road and the good old 70th. And to you in the Company today, we say, 'for 80 years the works gone on and now it's yours to carry on.'

#### THE RELUCTANT RECRUIT By Andrew Johnson (still serving.)

When a member of the 70th London asked me to join I had my doubts. However, after the first night, I left with the words 'Shut up Johnson' ringing in my ears and I knew that The Boys' Brigade and I would be together for a long time. There was never a dull moment in the Brigade, from swimming to squad drill, cricket to chess and band to badminton. I was promoted early in the second year and this heralded something that goes hand in hand with progression through the Brigade - Responsibility.

We entered competitions and grew from the level of hoping to win, to expecting to win...and went to Scotland for the All-Finals, twice.

At this time I thought going to Church and having a Bible in my room would get me to Heaven. The Brigade was about to prove me wrong. We went to Camp and there Christ suddenly and wonderfully questioned me, but believing I was a Christian already gave me an excuse to forget it. Then I went to a Christian Leadership weekend at Elm Tree Farm and Christ asked me to make a concrete commitment to Him. I got baptised a few months later. The Brigade clearly shows that Christ - not the competitions - is the important thing.

My greatest moment was when Cpl Barrington Green and I were the Brigade representatives at an event for Organisations involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Duke chatted to me and cracked jokes. I hope the Brigade continues to fulfill its Object, as it has for me, for another 100 years.