

The Boys' Brigade

Handbook

for BOYS





“The Object of The Boys' Brigade shall be 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.”

—*Extract from the Constitution.*

# The Boys' Brigade

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*Patron : H.M. THE KING.*



## HANDBOOK for BOYS

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Brigade Executive*

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## NOTE.

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THIS Handbook has been compiled for the use of Non-Commissioned Officers and Boys of The Boys' Brigade. Every Boy is expected to possess a copy, and to keep it for reference. It is for the Boys what the *Manual* is for Officers.

Boys are recommended to read it through periodically, and to make a point of being familiar with all that it contains. It should be read in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of the Company to which a Boy belongs.

# The Boys' Brigade.

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THE Boys' Brigade was founded in 1883, when the late Sir William A. Smith formed a Company of thirty Boys in Glasgow under the title of *The Boys' Brigade*.

At the very beginning the Object—with which every Boy should be familiar—was laid down as "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."

The Boys' Brigade is the pioneer organization for Boys. From one small Company the Brigade has grown into a world-wide organization with Companies in every part of the world. Its strength is over 110,000 without counting Overseas Companies. The Jubilee was celebrated in 1933 when great events took place in every centre. An important development of Brigade work was the union on October 1st, 1926, of The Boys' Brigade and The Boys' Life Brigade.

For thirty-one years Sir William A. Smith was Secretary of the Brigade and Captain of the 1st Glasgow Company. He died suddenly

in London on 10th May, 1914, and Boys of the Brigade will ever remember with gratitude the life which he lived for the Boys of Britain.

The work of The Boys' Brigade has long been recognized as of great value to the Nation. His Majesty the King is Patron, His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught is Hon. President, and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are Vice-Patrons.

The Brigade President is The Earl of Home, K.T., and the Brigade Treasurer The Marquess of Clydesdale.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE BRIGADE.

The whole organization is known as *The Boys' Brigade*. The Company is the unit, and Boys should speak of their Company not as "the Brigade," but as the "1st London," "2nd Edinburgh," etc.

Each Company is connected with a Church or other religious body, and is divided into Squads under Non-Commissioned Officers appointed by the Captain. A number of Companies in one town or district are formed into a Battalion, the Officers of which look after the interests of the Brigade in the district.

The whole Brigade is governed by the Brigade Council which appoints an Executive to manage the affairs of the Brigade throughout the Empire.

Boys can join the Brigade at 12 years of age and remain in it until 30th September following the end of the session (31st May) in which they become 17.



An organization for junior Boys known as *The Life Boys* is carried on in connection with many Companies, as a training reserve for the Brigade. It is for Boys from 9 to 12, at which age they pass into The Boys' Brigade. If your Company has a Team see that your young brothers join it.

### THE WORK OF A COMPANY.

While the work undertaken varies in different Companies, nearly all Companies are alike in having a Parade once a week for Drill, and a Bible Class on Sunday. These are the two principal meetings of the week, and every Boy is expected to be present with unfailing regularity. Other departments include Physical Training and Gymnastics; Ambulance Work and First Aid to the Injured; Instrumental Bands (Brass, Fife, Bugle or Pipe); Swimming, Football, and Cricket Clubs; Boys' Club Rooms; Signalling; Life Saving Classes. Companies have a special programme for the summer, and most spend a week in Camp. Your Company probably does not do all these things, and if it does, you may not be able to do everything yourself, but whatever you do, do with all your might, and on no account drop anything you once take up.

### THE UNIFORM OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

Boys should show the pride they have in The Boys' Brigade Uniform, worn by so many thousands of Boys throughout the world, by taking the greatest possible care of it, and keeping it scrupulously clean, special care being given to the brass and leather.



Boys in uniform should see that their clothes are brushed and tidy: that boots are well polished: hands and faces perfectly clean, and hair cut short. A black or dark tie should be worn, and in buying new clothes Boys would do well to remember that *dark* clothes look best with uniform.

In some Companies a full uniform is worn and the greatest care should be taken to keep it clean and to wear it in a thoroughly smart way.

The Public forms its opinion of the Brigade by what it sees of Boys belonging to it. Take a pride in your appearance, and do nothing to bring dishonour on the uniform you wear. Never loaf about with your hands in your pockets, but walk to and from parade in a brisk and soldier-like manner. Remember that the Boy who is not proud to wear his uniform is the Boy of whom the Brigade has reason to be ashamed.

### **Method of Wearing Uniform.**

*The Haversack* will be worn over the right shoulder, both slings passing under the Belt on the left side, the Haversack resting on the left hip, the top edge in line with the lower edge of the Belt. The Haversack should be kept white and clean, and be well starched and ironed, but not mangled, the metal work being brightly polished. In cleaning the metal work great care should be taken not to soil the haversack. When empty it will be neatly folded up.

*The Belt* will be worn fairly tight round the waist, the buckle in the centre. The buckle should be brightly polished (back as well as front) with metal polish, and the leather should be kept well polished with leather polish. All looseness of the coat should be in neat folds at the back.

*The Forage Cap* will be worn on the right side of the head (seam of cap and buckle of chin-strap to the right), and not more to the back than to the front. The chin-strap round the point of the chin, and the loose end cut off in the shape of a V,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the buckle. Cap numbers should be kept bright by polishing with a soft cloth; the white braid and button on the Cap should be kept perfectly white and clean. The Sergeant's Peak Cap is worn square on the head.

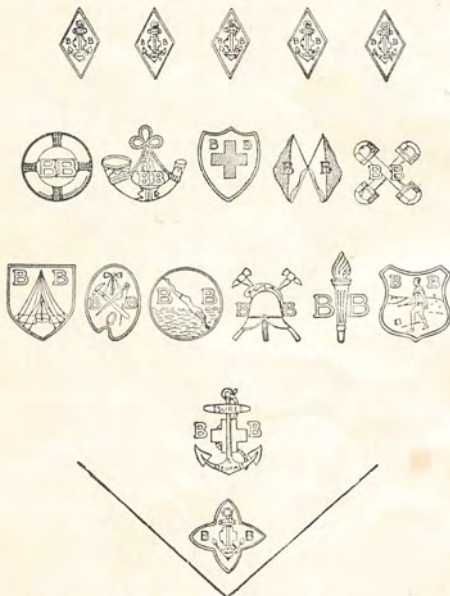
*The Field Service Cap* is worn on the right side of the head one inch above the right ear and two finger-breadths above the right eye-brow. Great care should be taken to keep the badge and number on the cap bright.

Non-Commissioned Officers' Stripes will be worn on the right arm above the elbow, with the point downwards, about midway between the shoulder and the elbow.

### Position of Badges and Medals.

Medals (which are limited to two per Company, not counting the Cross for Heroism and the Royal Humane Society Medal) are worn on the

# Position for Wearing B.B. Badges on the Right Arm.



**NOTE.**—The Band, Drummer's or Piper's Badge is worn in the same position as the Bugler's Badge.

left breast. The Cross for Heroism will be worn on the left breast to the right of any other medal. The Royal Humane Society Medal will be worn on the *right* breast.

The King's Badge will be worn on the left arm, midway between shoulder and elbow.

The Long Service Badge will be worn on the left arm midway between shoulder and elbow, or, if the King's Badge is worn, below that badge.

All other Brigade Badges will be worn on the right arm, above the stripes, between shoulder and elbow, as shown in the diagram on page 10.

Staff-Sergeants will wear Badges in the same positions as Boys, except the Three Year Service Badge which they wear in the V of the chevron.

No Badges other than Brigade Badges must be worn in uniform, and Brigade Badges, except the Boys' Buttonhole Badge, must only be worn when in uniform.

## BADGES, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

The Badge system of The Boys' Brigade is intended as an incentive to duty and proficiency. It covers the whole course of B.B. training, and is based on the four-fold ideal of physical, mental, social and religious development. Badges are given not for self-glorification, but that they may remind you of what the Brigade has done for you and what you have done for the Brigade. In certain cases Battalions have power to raise the standard for Badges.

**B.B. Buttonhole Badge.**

Every Boy who is entitled to it should always wear the *B.B. Buttonhole Badge*, authorised to be worn by Boys who have served in the Brigade for three months with good conduct. A special Jubilee Buttonhole Badge was issued in 1932 which Boys are entitled to wear for the remainder of their service to show that they were Jubilee members.

**One Year Service Badge.**

*One Year Service Badges* are awarded on the following conditions:—

Good conduct throughout the Session.

Not more than two absences in all (and these satisfactorily accounted for) from Company Drill and Company Bible-Class for the Session. No Session can be counted unless there have been at least 25 Drill Meetings and 25 Bible-Class Meetings. If the Company has no Bible-Class, it will be permissible to count certified attendances at Sunday School.

**Three Years' Service Badge.**

The *Three Years' Service Badge* is awarded to Boys who have served for three Sessions with good conduct. It may be worn at and after the Company Inspection at the close of the third Session.

### Long Service Badge.



The *Long Service Badge* is awarded to Boys not earlier than 31st December in the Session in which they attain the age limit, after serving for not less than four years with good conduct.

### Ambulance Badge and Certificates.



The following awards are made to Boys who reach the required standard, which should be progressive from year to year, and is subject to a Battalion's power to raise the standard :—

1st Year Award—1st Year Certificate.

2nd Year Award—Ambulance Badge.

3rd Year Award—Pocket Ambulance Certificate and red cloth shield under badge.

4th Year Award—Pocket Ambulance Certificate and blue cloth shield under badge.

No Boy can sit for examination unless he has been regular in his attendance.

Examinations will be based on The Boys' Brigade Ambulance Handbook, and the standard is raised each year, e.g., First Year, a 50 per cent. pass; Second Year, a 60 per cent. pass; Third Year, a 70 per cent. pass; and Fourth Year, an 80 per cent. pass.



### Arts and Crafts Badge.



Awarded to Boys over 14 years of age who are members of classes held by the Company for Singing, Instrumental Music (other than Bands), Drawing, Carpentering and Woodworking, Metal Work, Artistic Designing, or other subjects, and who have attended regularly for two complete Sessions of not fewer than twelve classes each, and have attained a satisfactory standard of merit in their work.

### Band, Bugler's, Drummer's and Piper's Badges.



For all these Badges Boys must have served in the Band with good conduct for two complete Sessions, with an average attendance of 90 per cent. of Band Practices, the minimum number of which must be 25 per Session. They must also fulfil the conditions given below.

### Band and Piper's Badge.



For the award of the *Band Badge* and the *Piper's Badge*, in the opinion of the Captain of the Company, Boys must be qualified as above, and have attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency on their instrument.



**Bugler's Badge.**

The *Bugler's Badge* is awarded to Buglers (or Trumpeters) qualified as above, who are able to sound the following calls correctly:—

Reveille (Rouse).      Fatigue.

Warning for Parade.      Double.

Fall In.

First Dinner Call.

Officers' Call.

Dinner Call.

Band Call.

Retreat.

Orderly Sergeants.

Last Post.

Fire Alarm.

Lights Out.

**Drummer's Badge.**

The *Drummer's Badge* is awarded to Side-Drummers qualified as above, who are able to beat correctly the following:—

Long Roll.

Seven Stroke Roll.      Four Flams.

Eleven Stroke Roll.      Four Drags.

**Camper's Badge.**

Awarded to Boys who have attended three B.B. Camps (in different years) for at least 7 days each year with good conduct throughout, and have passed a test in pitching and striking a bell tent. To pass the test, a Boy must, with only the assistance of three Boys who have not already won the Camper's Badge, pitch a tent completely and correctly within twenty minutes, and with similar

assistance strike and pack a tent within ten minutes. He must also pass a written or oral Examination set by the Captain of the Company (based on the B.B. Camp Handbook), in five of the seven following subjects :—

- (a) Camp lay out and site.
- (b) Camp Routine.
- (c) Tent Craft.
- (d) Sanitation and Hygiene.
- (e) The duties of an Orderly Squad.
- (f) Camp Cooking.
- (g) Transport.

### Education Certificates.

The following Certificates are awarded to Boys who attend regularly during the Session Classes held by the Company in the undermentioned subjects (not fewer than 12 attendances per Session), and gain at least 60 per cent. marks in a written Examination thereon. Only one Certificate may be won in one Session.

*Citizenship*.—Based on "The British Citizen."

*League of Nations*.—Based on the League of Nations Union's pamphlets, "What the League has Done," and "Organising Peace," or other book approved by the Brigade Executive.

*Temperance Knowledge*.—Based on Part 3 of the "Handbook on Health Education" published by the Board of Education.

*Scripture Knowledge*.—To be awarded for a Scripture Examination carried out under the auspices of Battalion, Company, Church, or Sunday School on any syllabus.

### Education Badge.



Awarded to Boys who hold one B.B. Education Certificate for Citizenship, League of Nations, Scripture Knowledge, or Temperance Knowledge, and who after attaining the age of 14 attend, for two years, Day School or Evening Classes held under the local

Education Authority or other approved educational institution, subject to the production of a certificate by the teacher that attendance and progress have been satisfactory.

### Fireman's Badge.



Awarded to Boys who have served three years with good conduct, who have attended a course (conducted by arrangement with a local Fire Brigade) of not less than 10 lessons, with at least 90 per cent. of attendances, and have passed an Examination conducted

by the Principal Officer of the local Fire Brigade or his nominee. The Examination must show that the Candidate has a thorough knowledge in the following :—

- (1) The use and construction of First Aid Fire Appliances.
- (2) The system and use of Street Fire Alarms.
- (3) The use of Fire Appliances.
- (4) Methods of rescue from a burning building.
- (5) Artificial respiration and the treatment of burns.

(6) Methods of entering a burning building and a room filled with gas.

(7) Methods of dealing with persons whose clothes are on fire.

### Gymnastic Badge.

This Badge is awarded under the following conditions :—



Boys must have been members of a class for Physical Training and/or Gymnastics in connection with The Boys' Brigade for not less than two Sessions of at least 20 weekly meetings each, each

meeting to be of at least three-quarters of an hour's duration. They must have made not less than 90 per cent. of attendances and have a good record for punctuality, discipline, and for all-round progress and efficiency.

### Life Saving Badge.



This Badge is awarded to Boys who will become at least 14 years of age during the Session, have served at least one year in the Brigade, and have passed an Examination based on the

Handbook of The Royal Life Saving Society. The Tests are as follows, and failure in any one Test will disqualify :—

(a) The Rescue and Release Drills on land.

(b) The Schafer method of resuscitation of the apparently drowned.

(c) *Water*.—The drills for (i) First Methods of Release and Rescue combined ; (ii) the Second Methods of Release and Rescue combined ; (iii)

the Third Methods of Release and Rescue combined ; (iv) the Fourth Method of Rescue ; the subject in each case being carried a distance of ten yards.

(d) Execute a surface dive and recover with both hands an object from at least five feet of water, and bring it to land by the First Method of Rescue.

(e) Swim a distance of at least 100 yards by the Breast Stroke and 50 yards by the Back Stroke (without use of the Arms).

### N.C.O.'s Proficiency Certificate.

Awarded to N.C.O.'s who pass a written Examination based on *The Boys' Brigade Drill Book* (Method of wearing Uniform, Definitions, Part I, Part II (beginning at Section 41)), and *The Boys' Handbook* (excepting the Regulations for the award of Badges and Certificates). Both these books should be in the possession of all N.C.O.'s.

The Examination is also open to Privates in the session in which they attain the age-limit, provided that by 1st January they are eligible for the Long Service Badge, and already hold the necessary qualifying badges for the King's Badge.

### Sergeant's Proficiency Star.



Awarded on a Practical Examination open to Sergeants and Corporals who will become at least 16 years of age during the Session, and who hold the N.C.O.'s Proficiency Certificate. Corporals cannot receive it until they become Sergeants.

## Signaller's Certificates and Badge.

*The Signaller's Certificates* are awarded to Boys who pass the following tests :—



*Semaphore Certificate.*—(1) To read a message in Semaphore, consisting of ten groups of letters which are not words, the message to contain two complete alphabets,

and to be sent in two minutes, with not more than five mistakes.

If necessary, Boys are to be allowed a second attempt, the message being changed.

(2) To send a similar message in the same time and under the same conditions as above—no second attempt to be allowed. The Examiner should take the message.

*Morse Certificate.*—To read and to send a similar message, the time allowed being 3 minutes 30 seconds. The other conditions are as above.

*The Signaller's Badge* is awarded to Boys who have attended a B.B. Signalling Class regularly for at least two Sessions, who hold both the Semaphore and Morse Certificates, and pass the following tests :—

(1) To read with not more than three mistakes a message in Morse on the B.B. message form, complete with Call, Preamble, Words, Address to and from, and consisting of :—

(a) Not less than one complete alphabet (including the two formal "V's" and the other letters used in Call and Preamble) ... 34 letters.



(b) Two Figures in Words (= 4 letters)	}	12 letters.
Four Break Signals (= 8 letters)		

(c) Other Figures, Signs, Stops, etc.—each figure to count 2 letters, and each other signal to count the number of letters used in its construction—all these to be correctly phrased and grouped

...	...	14	„
		—	
		60	„
		—	

The message should take two minutes if sent by Buzzer or Tapper, and three minutes if sent by Flag or Lamp; any letters not read within the time stated shall count one-third of a mistake. If necessary, Boys are to be allowed a second attempt on a different message. Where, in the opinion of the Examiner, a Boy has been prejudiced by the rate of sending materially exceeding the test speed he may order an additional attempt to be allowed.

(2) To send a similar message, under same conditions and in same time as above. No second attempt to be allowed. The Examiner should read the message and fail a sender for bad sending.

(3) To answer correctly three out of four questions put by the Examiner on Duties of Signallers engaged on Station Work.

(4) To answer correctly three out of four questions relating to the use of the more



commonly used procedure and miscellaneous signals selected by the Examiner.

(5) To use, without error, the pronunciation of letters as laid down in the Signalling Manual.

### Swimming Badge and Certificate.



*The Swimming Certificate* is awarded to Boys who pass the following tests:—

(1) To swim 100 yards, go as you please, within two minutes 25 seconds, commencing with a dive or plunge.

(2) To swim 30 yards on back without use of hands.

*The Swimming Badge* is awarded to Boys who hold the Swimming Certificate gained in a previous Session and pass the following tests:—

(1) To swim  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, go as you please, within 12 minutes.

(2) To dive satisfactorily from a height at least 6 feet above the water.

(3) To swim on the surface at least six yards, dive, and raise dumb-bell or other 1-lb. weight; or, to swim 20 yards under water, commencing with a dive or plunge.

### Wayfarer's Certificate.

The Wayfarers' Certificate is awarded to Boys with at least one Session's service, who pass all the following tests:—

(1) Be able to tie the following knots:—Bowline, Fisherman's Bend, Reef Knot, Clove Hitch, Sheet Bend.

(2) Know the points of the compass.

(3) Be able to draw a rough sketch (not necessarily from memory, but without the aid of a map) of a route not less than one mile long, showing the principal side streets or roads passed, with noticeable objects on the route, and the compass bearing on the sketch. The route will be chosen by the Battalion or Company conducting the test.

(4) Walk in one day a distance in miles equal to the number of years of his age, at an average pace of three miles per hour excluding halts.

(5) Cover a mile within ten minutes on foot.

(6) Collect, mount, and be able to name any 12 varieties of wild flowers.

(7) Collect, mount, and be able to name the leaves of any 12 varieties of trees.

(8) Be able to name 8 native wild birds from 12 illustrations shown.

### Wayfarer's Badge.



Awarded to Boys who have served two Sessions, hold the Wayfarers' Certificate gained in a previous Session, and pass all the following tests:—

(1) Be able to tie the following knots: — Bowline, Fisherman's Bend, Reef Knot, Clove Hitch, Sheet Bend, and in addition five other true knots chosen by himself.

(2) Be able to take a bearing by the Sun, and by the North Star.

(3) Be able to read a coloured 1-in. O.S. Map and find his way by it, know the conventional signs and understand scales, gradients and contours.

(4) Be able to judge three different distances on the flat, of objects at distances from 20 to 200 yards from the observer, an allowance of 20 per cent. error being permitted.

(5) Walk in one day a distance in miles equal to the number of years of his age, at an average pace of three miles per hour, *including* halts.

(6) Cover 2 miles within 20 minutes on foot.

(7) Be able to identify 12 out of 20 varieties of wild flowers from specimens or illustrations shown.

(8) Be able to identify 12 out of 20 varieties of leaves of trees from specimens or illustrations shown.

(9) Be able to describe the chief characteristics of 8 native wild birds from 12 asked by the examiner.

### The King's Badge.



His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to consent to the institution of the "King's Badge." To be worn when in uniform on the left arm, midway between shoulder and elbow.

The applicant must be recommended by his own Company Captain as suitable.

He must have at least 90 per cent. of attendances for each of three Sessions for :—

- (a) Drill, and
- (b) Bible Class, or Sunday School where a Company has no Bible Class.

No Session can be counted unless there have been at least 25 meetings for Drill and 25 for Bible Class.

If an N.C.O., he must have served for at least three complete Sessions with good conduct; he must hold the N.C.O.'s Proficiency Certificate; and must be not less than sixteen years of age in the Session in which the application is made, and the King's Badge must not be awarded before the end of that Session.

If a Private he must hold the N.C.O.'s Proficiency Certificate, and be in his last Session, and eligible on the 1st January for the Long Service Badge.

He must hold at least four of the following qualifications (a) to (i) :—

- (a) Ambulance Badge.
- (b) Swimming or Life Saving Badge.
- (c) Education or Arts and Crafts Badge.
- (d) Signalling Badge.
- (e) Buglers, Band, Drummers or Pipers Badge.
- (f) Gymnastic Badge.
- (g) Camper's Badge.
- (h) Wayfarer's Badge.
- (i) Fireman's Badge.

In qualifications (b), (c) and (e) where alternatives are given, only one alternative may be counted in each case.



### **The Cross for Heroism.**

The Cross is awarded by the Brigade Executive to a Boy of the Brigade who performs a signal act of self-sacrifice for others, shows heroism in saving or attempting to save life, or displays marked courage in the face of danger.

### **Diploma for Gallant Conduct.**

The Diploma for Gallant Conduct is awarded to Boys who have shown gallant conduct in attempting to save life, or marked courage in the face of danger, unaccompanied, however, by the high degree of heroism which would merit the awarding of the Cross for Heroism.

### **Discharge Certificate.**

The Discharge Certificate for Long Service with Good Conduct is presented to Boys on leaving the Brigade (with good and sufficient reason if under the age limit), after having served for not less than three Sessions. Service as Staff-Sergeant does not count for the Discharge Certificate.

## **RULES FOR SALUTING**

A test of a smart Company is the manner in which Saluting is carried out.

Officers and Boys always salute with the right hand

When a Boy passes an Officer he will salute on the third pace before reaching him, and will lower the hand on the third pace after passing him ; if carrying a cane he will place it smartly under the left arm, cutting away the hand before saluting. Whether carrying a cane or not the left arm should be kept rigid at the side during the salute.

A Boy, if sitting when an Officer approaches, will rise, stand at attention, facing the Officer, and salute.

When a Boy addresses an Officer, he will halt two paces from him, and salute. Before withdrawing, he will salute, turn smartly about, and move off.

A Boy without his cap, or when carrying anything that prevents him from saluting, will, if standing still, come to attention as an Officer passes ; if walking, or on a bicycle, he will turn his head smartly towards the Officer in passing him.

Boys will salute when passing units of The Boys' Brigade, or kindred organizations, commanded by an officer.

In passing a Funeral Boys in uniform will salute the body. If not in uniform the cap should be raised.

For the National Anthem Boys will stand at attention ; when not in uniform they will take off their caps, and stand at attention.

The practice of Saluting should teach Boys politeness in their every-day life. A Brigade



Boy should be recognised by the smartness of his bearing, and by his courtesy and politeness in his relations with others.

## NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

### Promotion.

The highest honour a Boy can gain in The Boys' Brigade is promotion to the rank of Non-Commissioned Officer. It should be the ambition of every Boy to become a Non-Commissioned Officer. To win promotion a Boy must have a good record for attendance, conduct, and character, and must show keenness, loyalty, and efficiency in his Company work.

Stripes are not given as a reward ; but Non-Commissioned Officers are appointed to carry on the work of the Company and advance the objects of the Brigade ; to maintain discipline ; to help to train the Boys ; to set an example of prompt obedience and all that makes for efficiency to the rank and file ; to keep before the Boys the duty of making the Company more successful each year, and to instruct them in its customs and unwritten laws.

Never grumble at the decision of your Officers when promotions are made. To do so is disloyal and mean. The Officers select the Boys they believe most able to serve the Company. If ever you should feel disappointed at not being promoted, remember your disappointment gives you a fine opportunity of showing a big and chivalrous spirit, by loyally backing up your Officers' decision, and by generously congratulating those who have been promoted.



### **Staff-Sergeants.**

On reaching the age limit with Non-Commissioned rank, Boys may be appointed to the rank of Staff-Sergeant, in which capacity they can serve till the close of the Session in which they attain 20 years of age. Service as Staff-Sergeant does not count for awards open to Boys.

### **Duties of Non-Commissioned Officers.**

While the work of Non-Commissioned Officers varies in different Companies, generally speaking it consists of two main features.

1. **TRAINING THE BOYS.**—The Company is divided into Squads, and these are placed under the command of N.C.O.'s, who are responsible for the welfare, attendance, conduct, and smartness of the Boys under them, and for instructing them in the rules and customs of the Company. The first duty of a Squad Commander is to keep his Squad complete, and to prevent the Boys from losing interest and dropping out of the Company. A spirit of comradeship should exist in the Squad, and Boys are expected to back up their N.C.O. in his efforts to make the Squad smart and efficient.

It is the duty of Squad Commanders to look up Absentees according to the Company Rules, which should be faithfully carried out by the N.C.O., no matter what trouble it may be to do so.

Squad Commanders are responsible for their Boys being correctly and smartly equipped. Instruct the younger Boys how best to clean

their accoutrements, and see that they are always well turned out. See that the Boys salute their Officers correctly. Teach your Boys all you can, so that there is no smarter or more efficient Squad in the Company than yours. Correct mistakes kindly. Be firm in matters of discipline, but give your orders in a way which will make Boys glad to obey.

Most Companies have a Squad Competition. Try to win it; but remember that of more importance than winning is the good of your Boys. Specially encourage and help those who have difficulties in attending, owing to work. Never let them feel that the Squad would be better off without them. Your duty is to encourage them, and prevent them losing interest. There is no disgrace in losing the Competition; there may be in losing a Boy.

In Camp you will probably have charge of a Tent. Look after the younger Boys specially. Instruct them in tent-craft, and do your utmost to prevent any Boy from being "out of it" in the general enjoyment of Camp life.

Never be afraid of speaking to the Captain about any matter connected with your duties, your Squad, or the Company. He wants to help you, and he wants you to help him to make the Company successful, and success will only be attained by mutual confidence among all ranks.

2. **EXAMPLE.**—Of even more importance than the duties of training your Squad is the example you set to the rest of the Company. The N.C.O. is a marked man. You have been promoted

because your Officers believe they can trust you to set an example good for the other Boys to follow. This is a great responsibility, and the whole success of the Company depends more on your being faithful to your trust than on anything. Nothing *rots* a Company more than the slack N.C.O. Such elementary things as regular attendance, punctuality and orderliness need hardly be mentioned. If an N.C.O. is not to be trusted in these matters it is clear that his Captain has made a mistake in promoting him. N.C.O.'s should set an example of *keenness*. Go in for everything you can. Make things "go," and never show the smallest sign of slackness or carelessness.

Keep a firm grip on yourself in matters of discipline. Never think N.C.O.'s may take liberties not open to other Boys. Your absolute steadiness at Drill, your quiet orderliness *always*, are vastly more important than in the case of a Boy in the ranks.

Remember the influence of your example does not end with the Company Meetings. You are an N.C.O. *all the time*, and what you do and what you are off parade is of greater importance than your conduct in the presence of your Officers. It is your duty—and in this you have better opportunities than an Officer—to set the right tone off parade, and loyally to uphold all that is good and true, manly and chivalrous, and bravely to set your face against everything which is mean and low and unclean and crooked—everything which hinders the great object for which the Brigade exists.

### DAILY PRAYER.

Members of the Brigade are expected to practise the regular habit of daily prayer. Remember that prayer is not the thoughtless gabbling of idle words. It is intercourse with God, and He should only be approached with reverence and thoughtfulness. Prayer is not just asking for things for yourself. Remember others in your prayers; pray for your parents and friends, your Company and your comrades, and pray for strength manfully to fight against the special temptations to which you may be exposed.

The following Prayers may be helpful to Boys who feel the need for guidance; but you should try and add prayers in your own words.

#### Morning Prayer.

*O God, my Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for bringing me safely through the night. May I feel that Thou art with me, and grant that this day may be marred by no evil.*

*Help me to see and do my duty; make me faithful in small as well as great things. Help me to be generous, thoughtful and kind; and deliver me from all that is mean and disloyal and base.*

*Strengthen me in whatever trials and temptations lie before me. Help me to play the man, and bravely to stand up for all that is good and true*

*May Thy blessing rest upon The Boys' Brigade. Bless my own and every Company; and may every member, past and present, prove sure and stedfast in his fight against evil, and true in his allegiance to Thee.*

*Grant, Lord, that my day may be well spent; and bring me to the evening glad and undishonoured, with a thankful heart and brave spirit, for Jesus Christ's sake.*

### Evening Prayer.

*O God, help me to pray aright, to keep my mind from wandering thoughts, and to pray to Thee as my Father in Heaven.*

*I thank Thee for the blessings of the day which is past; for the happiness I have had; for the good things of life with which Thou hast surrounded me. Help me to be more thankful, and to show my thanks by trying to serve Thee and my fellows.*

*Forgive me, Lord, for the wrong I have done this day; make me stronger and truer in the future; more on my guard against evil, and more determined to overcome temptation.*

*Bless (Parents, Brothers and Sisters, etc.); spare them from sorrow and sadness, and help me day by day so to live that I may bring comfort and gladness to them.*

*Keep and guard me during the coming night. Give me refreshing sleep, and bring me to the morning strong and eager to face the duties of another day, for Jesus Christ's sake.*



### SCRIPTURE READING.

Join your comrades throughout the Brigade in reading every day the portion of the Scriptures laid down in The Boys' Brigade Scripture Reading Card which you will obtain from your Captain. Try and keep up your reading throughout the year without a break. Remember that the Bible is God's Word, and should be read thoughtfully and with reverence.

### ON KEEPING FIT.

Every Boy worth his salt wishes to be healthy and strong. How you live as a Boy will determine your health and strength as a man. Four main things are necessary to physical fitness.

**1. Exercise.**—Get all the healthy exercise you can. If your Company has a Gymnasium, make a point of joining it, and put every ounce of muscle you can into your work there. Go in for Cricket, Football, Swimming, and Bicycling if you can—the more healthy exercise you can get, the better. A quarter of an hour's physical exercise every morning will do much to build up your body.

**2. Fresh Air.**—Remember, you cannot have too much fresh air. An open-air life is the healthiest. Though you may have to spend most of your time indoors, get all the fresh air you can. Always sleep with your windows open. Learn to hate stuffiness. Breathe deeply and through your nose, and see that you have the purest air you can to breathe.

**3. Cleanliness.**—One of the chief rules of health is cleanliness. Keep your body scrupulously clean. Have baths frequently—a daily cold bath if possible. Clean your teeth thoroughly and regularly. Dirty teeth mean decayed teeth—besides looking nasty and being horrible.

Avoid the objectionable habit of spitting. It spreads disease, and is an unpleasant, dirty practice.

Live cleanly ; avoid every sort of uncleanness. Keep your speech and your thoughts clean, and remember that without clean living you cannot have true physical fitness.

**4. Temperance.**—Boys of the Brigade abstain from the use of alcohol. "Total abstinence makes the head clearer, the heart lighter, and the pocket heavier," and Boys will do well to make temperance in all things a rule of life. Do not over-eat or over-sleep ; a glutton or a sluggard is not a nice person.

### GENERAL HINTS.

**Attendance.**—When you join the Brigade you promise to attend regularly and punctually. This applies to every branch you join of the Company work. Make it a point of honour to let nothing stand in the way of your regular attendance if you can possibly help it. When compelled to be absent, if possible let the Captain know beforehand.

**On Sticking to it.**—Make up your mind that whatever you take up in the Company you will



stick to, and see through to the end. Do all you have to do with all your might, and resolve to serve in the Brigade till you retire with honour on reaching the age limit. Then you should make a point of joining any Old Boys' Club or Association there may be in connection with your Company.

**On Leaving.**—Should circumstances prevent your remaining a member, resign your membership in a decent way. Do not just stay away and leave it to your Officers or N.C.O. to find out why you are not present. To do so is just bad manners. Write, or better still see your Captain, and explain the difficulty. On leaving return promptly any equipment or Company property you may have, and clean it well before doing so.

**Payments.**—It should be the aim of every Boy to pay his way honourably and to avoid getting into debt or behind in Company payments. In case of difficulty tell the Captain in a manly, straightforward way.

**B.B. Week.**—B.B. Week is celebrated annually during the first week in December. During this week Officers and Boys are expected to do their utmost to collect contributions from those personally known to them. The amount collected is divided between the Company and the Brigade. Every Boy should make the most of this opportunity of serving his Company and the Brigade.

**Recruiting.**—One of the best ways in which Boys can serve their Company is by introducing

the right sort of Boys as Recruits. Remember yours is the best organization for Boys. See that your friends have the benefit of belonging to it.

**Thrift.**—Avoid foolish and selfish waste of money ; practise the habit of saving and putting by for a rainy day, so that you may enjoy the "glorious privilege of being independent."

**On Giving.**—Make a rule also of giving. Be generous and mindful of others. The Boys of the Brigade have founded, and are maintaining, a large number of B.B. Cots in Hospitals in the Foreign Mission Field. If your Company collects for this, or any other good purpose, give what you can, and avoid spending all your spare cash on yourself.

**Sportsmanship.**—Take up what sports and games are played in your Company. Every Boy should learn to swim. Play all your games in the spirit of a true sportsman, generously and pluckily, for the good of your side and not for your own glory.

**Smoking.**—It is because smoking is bad for a Boy's health that the Brigade sets its face against smoking by Boys. When you have passed out of the Brigade on attaining the age limit, it will be time enough to decide whether you will smoke as a man or not. Till then have nothing to do with it.

**On Gambling.**—No loyal B.B. Boy bets or plays for money. Gambling is a foolish and crooked practice, and has been the ruin of many a Boy who might have made a success of life.

**Bad Language.**—Speech is the index of the mind. The loyal B.B. Boy keeps his speech clean and free from oaths. The worst forms of bad language are blasphemous language—wrongly using the name of our Lord, and obscene language—using vile expressions, and talking in a filthy, unclean way. Have nothing to do with any form of swearing or unclean conversation. It is a sign of lack of self-control and is unworthy of a gentleman.

**Camp.**—If your Company goes to Camp, let nothing stand in the way of your attending. It is the healthiest and best holiday in the world, and gives a Boy the opportunity of showing the stuff he is made of. In Camp be unselfish, and get your enjoyment by giving pleasure to others.

**As an Old Boy.**—When the time comes for you to be discharged from the Brigade, and to join the ranks of the Old Boys, endeavour to repay something of what you owe to the Brigade; never miss an opportunity of helping your old Company, and determine always to uphold in your daily life the principles and traditions of The Boys' Brigade. Keep in touch with your old Company and Officers, and utilize to good purpose the spare time which will now fall to you. Maintain connection with your Church; be regular in attendance at its Services, and never miss an opportunity of helping forward the great purpose for which the Brigade exists.

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