

Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

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News from the Archives

Traditionally for the BB, by the middle of the year, the BB session has come to an end, and the focus turns to the BB Summer camp.

We thought we would look back at the first BB camp in 1886, and found a terrific first hand account by William Smith of the camp which we have added to the virtual museum together with some new images.

Click on the link on the right to learn more about the first BB Camp in 1886.



The success of this first camp instilled a strong camping tradition in The Boys' Brigade, and many Companies and Battalions held camps, many of which have had a lasting influence on Brigade members. We have also been able to tell the stories of many of the significant anniversary camp on the virtual museum, and links to some of the more recent international camps can be found on the right.

We hope you enjoy these stories and encourage you to share your camping memories', photos and film with us, so they can be added to the BB archive and preserved for future generations of BB members.



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[1886 Camp](#)

[1986 Ayr Camp](#)

[1991 Aberdeen](#)



Virtual Museum

We have recently added some content to the virtual museum about BLB Cross for courage recipients. Please click on the links to learn more about these heroes.



The Boys' Life Brigade, Code of Rules and Regulations, 1913 – The purpose and tone of the Boys' Life Brigade is Life Saving, and its members are taught to be always prepared to render help to others. In innumerable cases the first aid work learnt so thoroughly in the Company has resulted in lives being saved or suffering alleviated. Many of the boys hold the medal or certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society for saving lives at the risk of their own. It is a fact, recorded with gratitude, that no BLB boy has lost his life in an attempt to save life from drowning. The boys are taught how to tackle a drowning person, and a boy who is proficient in rescue and release drill is fairly safe from the other's frantic struggles. To boys who have distinguished themselves in life saving or first aid, Headquarters grant a special diploma.

In 1922 the Boys' Life Brigade instituted the Cross for Courage to be awarded to members of the Brigade who risked their own lives to save that of another. The Cross for Courage was always awarded together with the Diploma for Distinguished Service.

The first Cross to be awarded, was to Warrant Officer C Hart of the 1st Westcliff Company, "for conspicuous bravery at a fire, at which he suffered personal injury." Unlike The Boys' Brigade which only allow this award to go to young people, The Boys' Life Brigade awarded the Diploma for Distinguished Service, and the Cross for Courage to Leaders and Officers also.

Records indicate that the BLB Cross for Courage was awarded 11 times prior to Union with The Boys' Brigade in 1926. 8 of these stories have been added to the Virtual Museum and can be accessed by clicking on the links on the right.

H Risley (30th London), W Sharpe (10th Leeds) and J White (1st Gorleston-on-Sea) were also awarded the Cross for Courage, and we hope to tell these stories in the future.

We have created these pages about the BLB Cross for Courage using information taken from The Life Brigade Chronicle. However we don't have access to a complete set of these. If anyone can help us with copies of The Life Brigade Chronicle, or have any additional information about the recipients of the BLB cross for Courage please get in touch with us.



[T Bailey - 1923](#)

[H Daniels - 1924](#)

[W Hall - 1923](#)

[C Hart - 1922](#)

[J W Saville - 1923](#)

[Treijans - 1926](#)

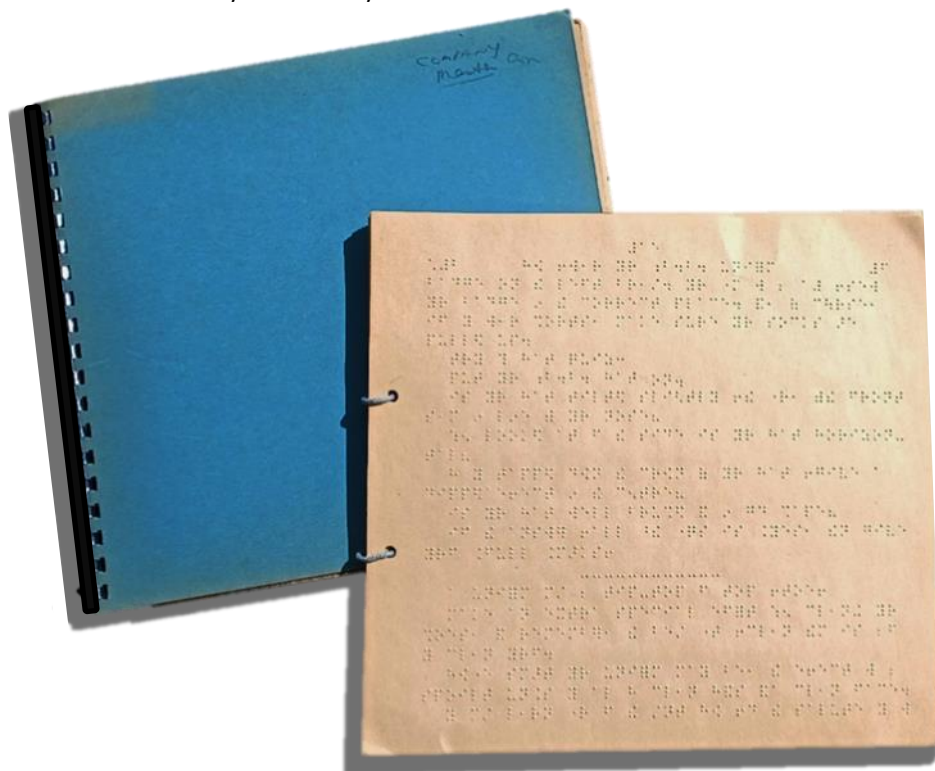
[J Wilding - 1926](#)

[C Wren - 1923](#)

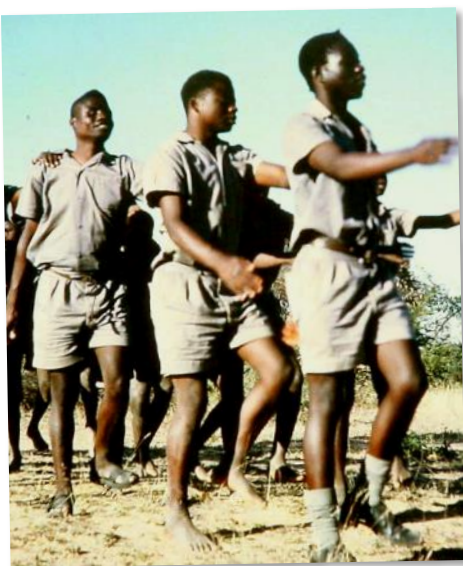


From the Archives

Whilst this book might appear visually unappealing, its appeal is in the fact that it is not meant for the sighted. The Brigade Archive collection contains three handbooks in braille. Produced by at the Morgenster Mission in south east Zimbabwe in 1981, specifically for use by Boys in the 1st Capota Company. which consisted entirely of blind Boys.



The Morgenster Mission was founded in 1891 by The Dutch Reformed Church, with a mission school started the following year in 1892. In 1936 a seminary had been started, a printing press was added in the early 1940's, and by 1948 the mission school was catering for deaf, dumb, and blind pupils.



Photograph - Blind Boys marching c.1984

Since the introduction of the BB in Zimbabwe in 1948, Companies had been primarily within the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist Churches, but with the adoption of The Boys' Brigade as the youth program for the Dutch Reformed Church in the mid 1960's the Boys Brigade in Zimbabwe began to rapidly expand. Two BB Companies were operating at the Morgenster Mission since the early 1960's, and in 1966 the 1st Capota Company was started, catering specifically for blind boys.

The Boys' Brigade program was adapted to cater for the needs of the blind Boys, which including marching by placing their left arm on the shoulder of the Boy in front.



Collecting Tips - Part 1

Essential Tips for Maintaining and Cataloguing your Personal 'BB' Collection

If you're a collector, you know the joy of adding to your collection but also the challenges of keeping it organized.

I suspect many of you reading this will have wives, partners, or children who have expressed an opinion or two on your own collections!

Writing the history of my own Company (5th Swindon) gave me a reason and a need to have a clear system to ensure I could quickly find information from 50 years of records.

Here are some quick tips to help you keep track of your collection:

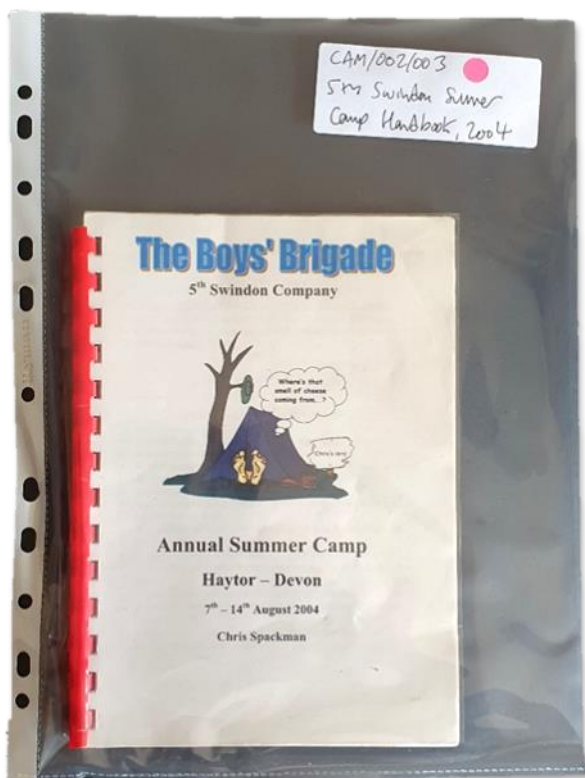
1. Start with a clear system. Begin by deciding a way to organize that works for you. This may be organizing items by type, date, event, or any other category that makes sense for you.
2. Cataloguing basics. Assign a unique description to each item. Include information such as its condition, size, colour, origin, and date.
3. Digital tools. Use technology to streamline your process. I maintain a spreadsheet to create a detailed database that makes finding items so much easier.
4. Regular updates. Your collection will grow and change over time and your catalogue should reflect this.
5. Backup your data. Ensure your digital records are backed up regularly. Use cloud storage, hard drives, or other solutions to protect your data from loss.
6. Labelling. Clearly label each item with its identification number.

By following these tips, you can keep your collection well-organized, well preserved, and easily accessible to enjoy.

Happy collecting!

Dr Chris Spackman

Dr Chris Spackman leads the BB Archive Trust Social Media Team, and is a regular contributor to The BB Virtual Museum.



5th Swindon

Donate

Wiltshire Batt.

Dr Chris Spackman

