

Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

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News from the Archives

Continuing our theme of summer Camps, and also in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Belfast Battalions camp site on the 13th July 1924, we have been adding pages to the virtual museum about the dedication of Ganaway and Belfast Battalion Camps. An account of the dedication service can be found on page 3, and a full account, together with the dedication programme can be found by visiting the virtual museum.

The Camp Lyre, newsletter of the Belfast Battalion Camps have recently been scanned and these are also available to read by clicking on the links on the following page. It is worth noting the newsletters are a spoof on the camp activities, and we were particularly interested in an account written in 1932, which envisaged what a camp in 1982 might look like. We have included this on the following page together with some images we found of the 'technology' they have on camp in the 1930's.

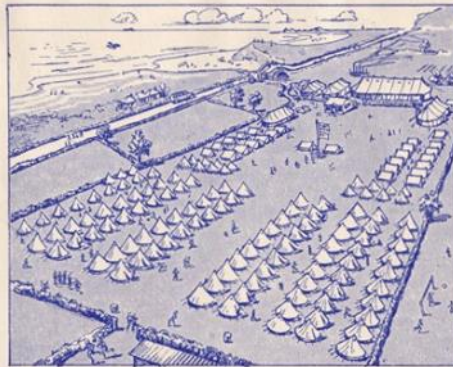
As with all the pages on our Virtual Museum they are continually being update, and more content added to them, so if anyone has any photographs, or film footage from camps at Ganaway please get in touch with us. We are also looking to fill gaps in the Camp Lyre collection, and would appreciate access to these so they can be scanned and preserved for the future, and made available on our Virtual Museum.



archive@boys-brigade.org.uk



THE BOYS' BRIGADE
BELFAST
BATTALION



CAMP AT GANAWAY! JULY 9th—17th, 1937

LIVE for eight glorious days in this great Canvas town. Enjoy with the many hundreds of happy B.B. chums you will find there, all the joys of this best of all holidays—plenty of excellent food, Sports and Games of all descriptions, Safe Bathing, etc. Some of the facilities provided are—**a Canteen, a Camp Bank, a fully equipped Hospital Tent with a qualified Medical Officer.**

There is no holiday to compare with Camping, and there is no Camp to compare with the Ganaway Camp.

Inclusive Charge 21/- Staff-Sergeants 25/6
Camp Deposits due at 15th May

What to bring to Camp.

A good Blanket, a change of Clothes, Underclothing, and Boots, Hair Brush, Boot Brushes, Blacking, Soap, Materials for cleaning Belt, etc., Two Towels, Bathing Costume, Bible, and B.B. Hymnal (Church of Ireland Companies a Prayer Book), Knife, Fork, and Spoon, also an Overcoat, if you have one. Have everything marked so that your property may easily be known.

Come in full B.B. Uniform and bring a spare haversack. A blanket and a palliase will be provided, and each tent will have a floor board.

The ideal Camp rig is Cricket Shirt or Sweater, Shorts, and Canvas Shoes.

ASK YOUR CAPTAIN FOR A WEEKLY PAYMENT CARD

If you have any difficulty in obtaining permission to be absent from business for the Camp period, show this leaflet to your employer, and if it is possible to do so, he will arrange to release you.

April, 1937 Issued from Battalion Headquarters Office, Boys' Brigade House, 14 May Street, Belfast. S. GIHON, Secretary

Belfast Camps

Contact Us



Virtual Museum

A VISION OF THE FUTURE

GANAWAY, 1982

The Officer of the day sat up in bed, and looked at his watch. 9.15! Turning on his elbow, he quickly selected a gramophone record from a rack at his side. This he placed on a large radio-gram at his side, and immediately throughout the camp the rousing strains of "Reveille" through the giant amplifiers were heard. Inside a few minutes the boys' lines were alive. From all the tents came the sound of water splashing as the boys turned on the shower baths provided in each tent.

When the boys had partaken of breakfast, cooked by electricity, and delivered to each table by a system of electric service hatches, the C.O. announced that Tent Inspection would be taken by the Sanitary Inspector for Co. Down, after which there would be a bathing parade in the open air pool, specially heated to a constant temperature

This was all very much enjoyed, and after dinner the Adjutant announced that he had arranged a series of excursions. One was by aeroplane to Blackpool, if sufficient boys desired to go. The second would be by express rocket plane to the Pyramids, where, if conditions were favourable, it was hoped the boys might be allowed on the Pyramid. A Special Excursion for senior boys to Spitsbergen to see the Midnight Sun had also been arranged.

At this point a message came for the C.O. to go at once to the Hospital Tent. At the entrance he was met by Mr Wright. "It's a success," said the Hospital Tent Commandant. "We have just performed an operation for appendicitis. An X-Ray photograph soon showed us what was wrong.

During the evening, as it rained heavily, talking pictures and television relays were shown in the big marquee. A report from Tent Y16 that the electric had fused necessitated sending an electrician to put the matter right. The services of a plumber were also required in D18 and Q3, where the water supply was obstructed.

All bugle calls were played on the Radia-Gram through amplifiers, which also supplied continuous music from morning till night.

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Erecting the camp clock at Ganaway.



Camp Lyre



Virtual Museum

Belfast Newsletter Thursday July 17th, 1924

The new permanent camping ground of the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade at Ganaway, on the Down Coast, midway between Millisle and Ballywalter, was dedicated yesterday day by the Moderator of the General Assembly Right Rev. R. W. Hamilton. There was a big parade of the members of the Battalion and a large number of the parents of the boys and friends of the movement travelled down from Belfast for the ceremony.

The camp is ideally situated, a short distance from the seashore, in a beautiful district, and is within easy reach of Donaghadee. The acquisition of the site was made possible through the kindness of an anonymous donor, who generously bestowed to the Battalion, through the President, Rev. R. H. S. Cooper, a sum equal to half the purchase price. Special efforts have been made by the officers and boys to liquidate the balance, and it is hoped to further reduce the amount still outstanding by other efforts during the coming session. A considerable sum is still required to complete the equipment of the ground, and the help of all interested in this valuable organisation is asked for.

The dedication ceremony was of a very impressive nature, but, unfortunately, a heavy shower fell whilst it was in progress. The boys were paraded to form three sides of a square, the fourth of which was occupied by friends of the lads. The Battalion band led the praise service, which was opened with the singing of the 100th psalm. A passage of scripture was read by the Rev. D Boyle after which prayer was led by Rev. Wylie Blue.

Rev. R.H.S Cooper made a short statement explaining the objects of the service, after which the Moderator solemnly dedicated the grounds "to the glory of God and the use of The Boys' Brigade". He said he regarded The Boys' Brigade as the finest organisation for the development of mind, body, and soul, and paid tribute to the general officer and the friends of the President who had made the purchase of the grounds possible for the use of the boys. He hoped it would be used to the fullest and that it would be a means of assisting the Brigade in a great many ways. The service was concluded with the singing of the National anthem.



1933 Belfast Battalion Camp Ganaway



Ganaway Dedication

