

Heritage

Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

Vol.4 No.9

8th December 2024



News from the Archives

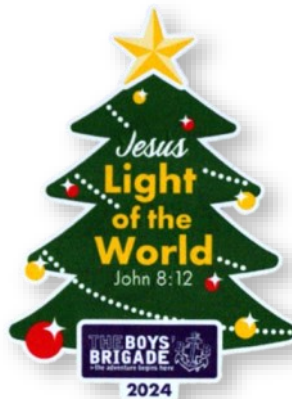


Following on from the posters which we added to the Virtual Museum Library last month, we decided to continue with adding some visually appealing content to the Library. From the earliest beginnings the BB has awarded certificates, and we have been working hard to try and record all of these. The Link to the library is on page three. If anyone has a certificate we have not included please get in touch with us. We will also be looking at adding Battalion, Company and event certificates in the future, so please also share these with us.

Page 4 includes an image of a WWII prize certificate with war savings stamp. Initially introduced as a War Prize certificate, this was replaced by the Victory Prize certificate, both with space for a war savings stamp. The vividly illustrated discharge certificate, above, together with other Discharge and Transfer certificates can be found on page 5. These and many other certificates can be found in the Library of the Virtual Museum.

We have also recently added some more content about the 125th anniversary celebration in 2008. Links to this content can be found on page 3 of the newsletter. If you have any stories about the 125th Anniversary please get in touch with us so that these stories can be preserved and shared.

What is becoming an annual tradition now, the BB have produced a 2024 Christmas decoration. We have been adding these to the BB archives collection since they first came out, and we are constant on the look out for current material to add to the collection. Material produced today, is the history of the future. So please consider depositing current material, both digital and physical objects, with the BB archives. Contact us for further information.



archive@boys-brigade.org.uk

Contact Us

Volunteer



Film

In recent weeks, volunteers have been hard at work updating the video content hosted on the Trust's Vimeo account.

We now have 26 videos available to watch, which you can explore via our new profile . **Click on the link** on the right to visit the Vimeo account

Highlights from the collection include:

Several videos showcasing events from the Centenary.

An excellent film from the 1954 Eton Camp.

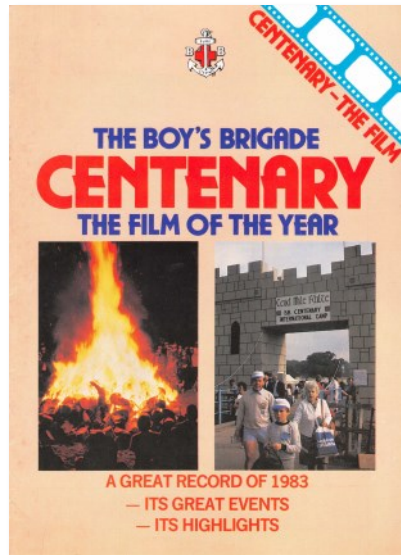
Footage from the 1963 Glenalmond Camp.

Our most recent additions feature two films of Company display items from The Boys' Brigade in Swindon. These videos, edited from a private collection that was recently digitised, beautifully capture the spirit of 'days gone by' of colour party drill and bugle band performances. We're trying to identify the bugle marches featured in the 5th Swindon video—if you can help, we'd be incredibly grateful!

If you have videos similar to these that you would like to share, please reach out to the Brigade Archivist. We'd be delighted to help make your content accessible to the wider community.

We are planning to get the Centenary film digitised and digitally remastered. Whilst we have a digital copy taken from a VHS tape, the quality will be far superior if we get the original 35mm film digitised. This will cost in excess of £600. If you are able to help with the cost of this please **click on the donate link**.

In the next newsletter, we'll provide a comprehensive overview of the Vimeo archive, including insights into the global reach of our video content. Where in the world do you think our videos are viewed the most?



Vimeo

Donate

Heroism and Courage



2024 is the centenary of the award of one BB Cross for Heroism, and two BLB Cross for Courage. We have the stories of two of these recipients of these awards on the Virtual Museum and the stories can be read by **clicking the links on the right**.

H Risley a member of The Boys' Life Brigade was awarded the Cross for Courage in 1924. We don't have his story in our archives, and have therefore not included this story in the Virtual Museum yet. If you have any information about this award please contact us so that this story can be recorded.

H Daniels - 1924

C Randle - 1924



Virtual Museum

125th Anniversary - 2008

To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of The Boys' Brigade in 2008, a number of national events were planned, and Companies, Battalions and Districts were encouraged to organise events to celebrate this occasion locally. All Companies and members were challenged to participate in projects that benefited their local areas and communities, with participation recognised with the award of a special badge that could be worn in uniform.



The Corporation of The City of London, hosted a Review of 125 Queen's Badge and Founder's Badge holders representing The Boys' Brigade from throughout the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The Reviewing Officer, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Her Majesty's Vice Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, accompanied by Lady Craig-Cooper was greeted on his arrival by the Chief Commoner Mr John Barker who acted as host for the City and by the Brigade President. Messages of greeting were received from Her Majesty The Queen and from the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, himself an ex-member of The Boys Brigade.

We have recently added content about the 125 Tattoo. Lindsay Stein writing in the Gazette in 2009: *! Marc Antoine Charpentier's "Te Deum" sounded clear to start the show, then the Colours of the 1st Glasgow Company were marched on to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" – played by a small fife & drum corps. The Pipes & Drums were a spectacle as row upon row filtered through the main door onto the arena, filling the air with music. And so the show continued. We had excitement and enthusiasm from Anchor Boys and Junior Section, the traditional sound of the Bugle Band, then the Precision Drill Team – what a spectacular show they put on. More music from the Wind Band preceded a marvellous display of PT & Gymnastics with boys giving a taste of different physical activities regularly found in the Brigade.*

Click on the Links to learn more about the 125th Anniversary events and badges.



[125th Anniversary](#)

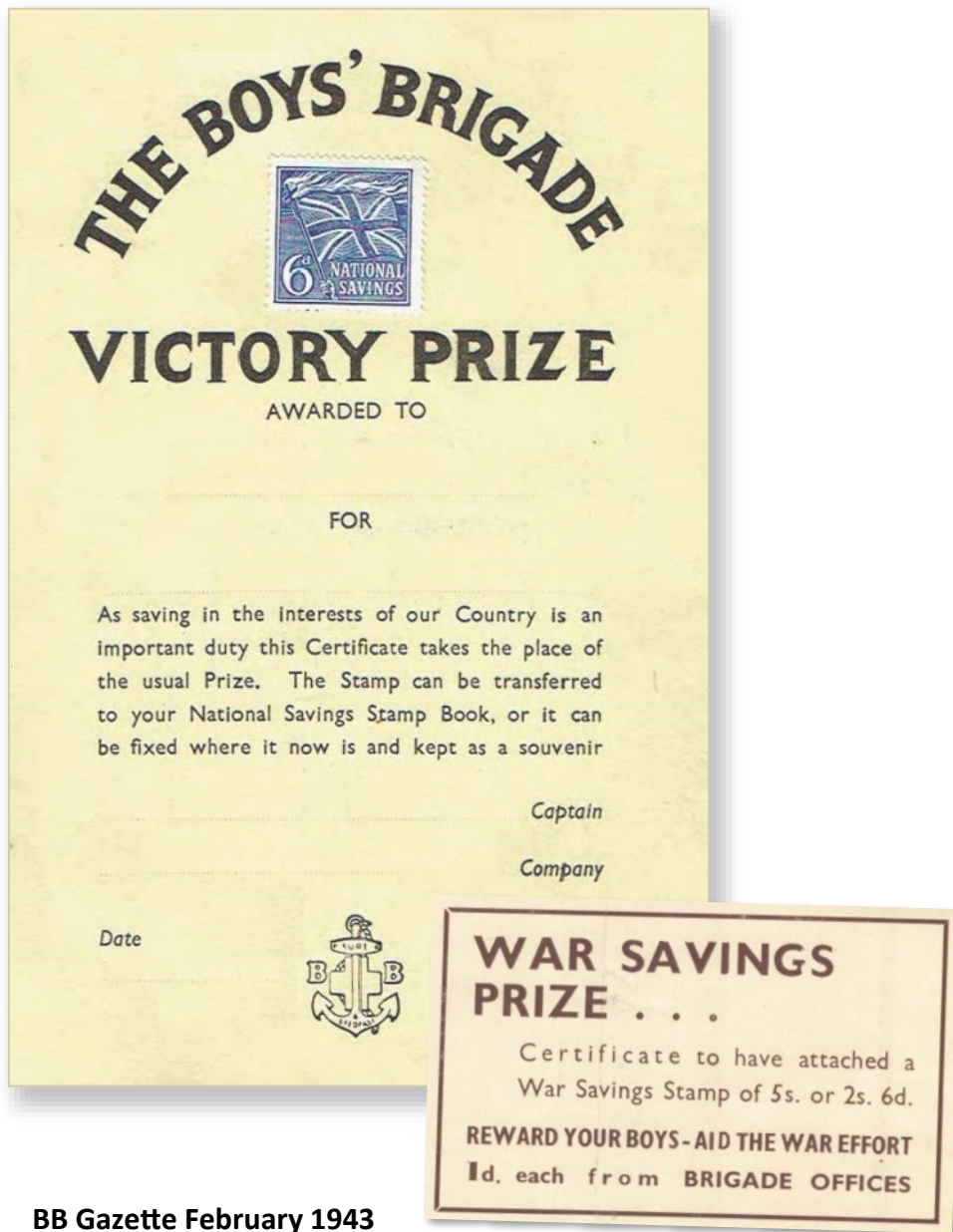
[125 Badges](#)

[125 Tattoo](#)

[Memorial Garden](#)



From the Archives



BB Gazette February 1943

A new form of Prize for which we expect considerable demand and which will aid the war effort is being instituted. It will take the form of a simple but neat B.B. certificate on which a National savings stamp of 5s. or 2s. 6d. may be lightly affixed. This will provide what may become an historical memento of the owner's B.B. service in war-time. The Boy will have the choice of transferring the stamp to his own National savings Book, or if he feels generous and patriotic enough he may firmly attach and cancel the stamp, thereby foregoing his right to redeem its value, and instead making a free gift from himself to the war effort—a nice ethical problem which can be left to the Boy's own discretion. The Certificate only will be obtainable from the B.B.; the saving stamps will need to be purchased at the Post Office, and to the Officer will fall the labour of very lightly gumming them by one corner.



Library

Certificates

World War II



Virtual Museum



BB Gazette Vol.1 No.1 March 1889 - Along with the first issue of the Gazette the Executive Committee send a copy of the DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE for LONG SERVICE WITH Good CONDUCT to every Captain in the Brigade. This specimen copy is mounted on a stiff board and varnished, with a view to its being hung up in the Headquarters of the Company, where every Boy may see it, and so be induced to make an effort to earn one for himself. Discharge Certificates may be presented to Boys on leaving their Companies after having served for not less than three years with good conduct.

The first few certificates were highly decorated and in vivid colour. Later certificates were monochromatic, and by the 1960's were following the styling of the awards certificates. Promotion certificates have continued to still be used by BB Companies into the 2020's



Archive Shop

We are keen to add Company and Battalion anniversary badges to our online shop. Please get in touch if you know of any badges being produced so that we can purchase a supply for sale to our supporters.

Please note our shop will be closed between 10th December and 8th January



Certificates

Boy Reserves

