

Heritage

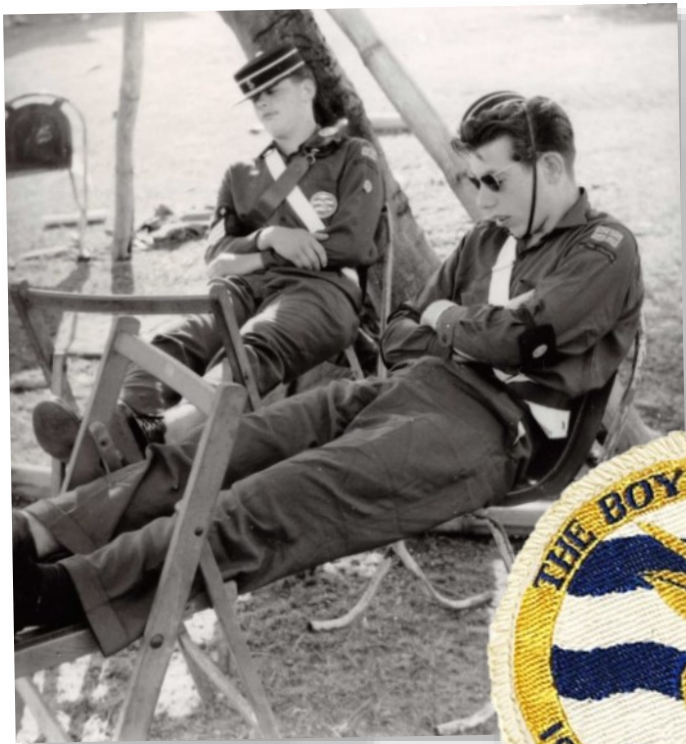
Newsletter of The Boys' Brigade Archives

Vol.5 No.2

15th March 2025

News from the Archives

We have been busy of the past few months going through the pages of the Virtual Museum, filling in gaps in content, adding images of badges and other interesting things, as well as adding a few new pages. One of the pages which got a refresh was the 1958 CariBBean Camp page. Whilst looking for additional content to add to this page we found this terrific photograph of a couple of the UK contingent wearing the camp uniform shirt. We have an example of this shirt in the BB Archive Collection, as well as the cloth badge shown below. The BB in the UK chartered an aircraft, with a capacity of 80, to take their contingent to camp, and together with BB members from Bermuda, USA, Haiti, Costa Rica, Antigua, Trinidad and Canada joined together with the Jamaican contingent to number 650 in Camp. We also have a 20 minute film reel from the Camp in the BB Archive Collection. This is waiting to be digitised and shared on the Virtual Museum. If you can contribute to the cost of getting this film digitised and preserved for future generations and for everyone to enjoy, please get in touch with us to find out how to contribute to this important conservation project. Click on the link on the right to learn more about this Camp



archive@boys-brigade.org.uk

[CariBBean Camp](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Virtual Museum

Pre-Union Awards

The late 1880s and the 1890s were times when the army wore an elaborate dress, khaki not yet being in regular use, and a wide range of badges. Metal badges with brooch or lug type fastenings were common, as were woven wire badges. In keeping with the BB modelling itself on the Volunteers, the various badges which began to appear were inspired by the army. Such badges as Drummer, Bugler, Signaller, Armourer, and Transport were worn on the sleeve, cuff or lapel of the jacket. Badges were not specially made for the Brigade. In fact, only one official, nationally approved proficiency badge was introduced by the BB in the 19th century. That badge, the Ambulance Badge, was introduced in 1891. During the early years of the 20th century many quite legal, locally approved badges were being worn. Little need was seen for new national introductions, but those badges which did exist needed to be regularised in terms of their design and award. Critics were starting to voice their opinions. In 1900, Mr P.D.Adams of London wrote a letter which was read out at the Annual Brigade Meeting and reported in the Gazette: 'I strongly advocate a uniform system. A special sub-Committee should be appointed to draw up the best scheme of marking, and authorize a uniform system of Rewards and Badges, which should be inserted in the Manual, giving the Designs. Ambulance and Band badges are all far too easily obtained, far too frequently worn, and their value is consequently deteriorating.'

To learn more about these awards [click on the link](#) to the Virtual Museum.



Pre-union Awards



Glass Slides



During 2024 one of our Volunteers has been busy scanning 35mm slides, and over 6000 have been scanned, and we are will be sharing some of these on Social media and in the Virtual museum soon.

We have recently purchased the equipment to scan the Glass slides in our collection, and a few have been done already. Some examples are shown on this page, and will be added to the virtual museum as required to illustrate and help tell the stories.



We will continue with this project throughout 2025, and anyone who has glass slides are encouraged to get in touch with us, as we would like to get these digitised, and the digital images added to the BB archive collection.

Some of the images we have been unable to identify, and these have been added to the unidentified images gallery on the Virtual Museum. Click on the link to explore this gallery, and if you are able to share any information on any of these images please contact us.



[Unidentified Images](#)



[Contact Us](#)

Archive Shop

We will be adding some new stock to the Archive Trust online shop over the next few days. Click on the link to access the shop.

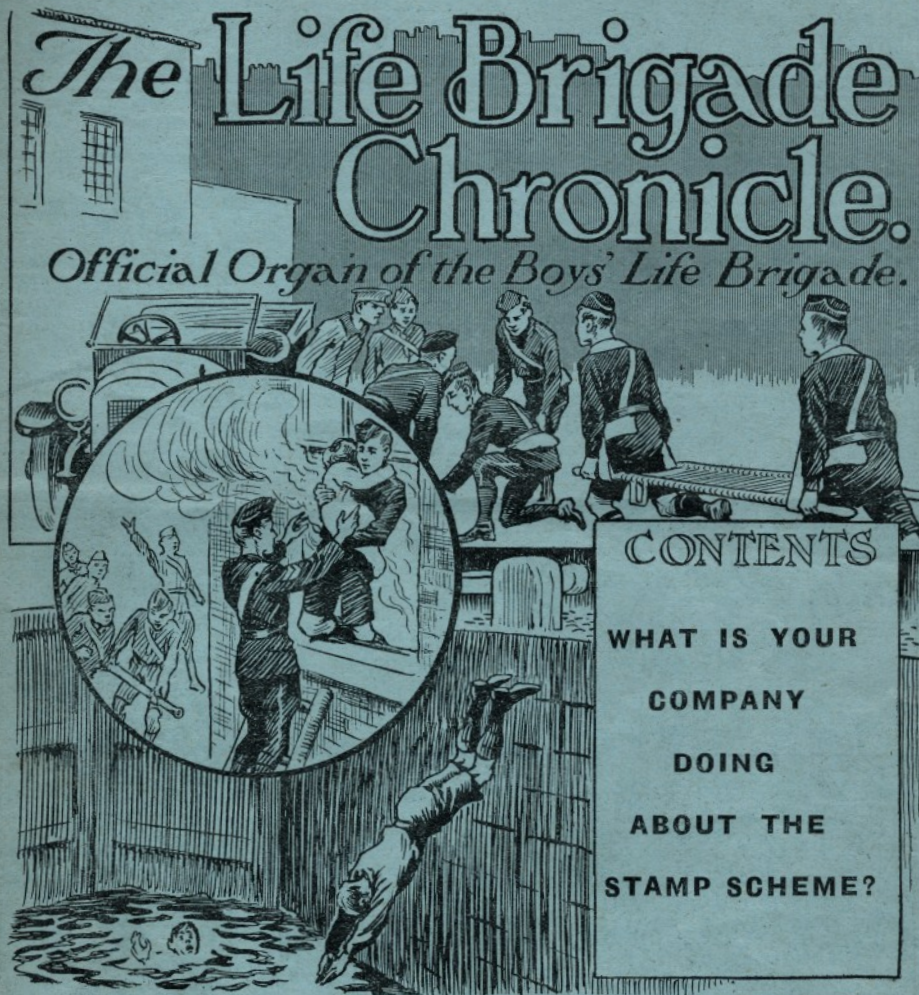
We are always on the look out for stock to add to our shop, if anyone has items to donate, please contact us. All proceeds go towards preserving the archive of The Boys' Brigade and making it accessible to those with an interest in the history of The Boys' Brigade.



[Shop](#)



The Life Brigade Chronicle



Vol.1 No.1 of The Life Brigade Chronicle was published by The Boys' Life Brigade in January 1903, with 11 issues annually as August did not have an issue. Combining with The Girls' Life Brigade, this publication contained information about upcoming events, new program and material, new and changing regulation information, notices about meetings and the all important list of newly formed Companies. We have been busy working through the Life Brigade Chronicles we have access to, in an attempt to compile a list of ever BLB Company to have existed, and hope to have this completed in time for the centenary of the Union between the BB and the BLB in 1926. So far almost 1500 BLB Companies have been added to a data base, and we hope to share this with you soon. We are however missing some of these all important Life Brigade Chronicles. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any BLB Chronicles please contact us.

Whilst we have a few gaps elsewhere, we are particularly looking for issues from: January 1906 - May 1907 and June 1917 onwards. But please contact even if you only have one issue, as that one issue will contain a lot of valuable information which we are currently missing.

[Contact Us](#)



Boys' Life Brigade

Research into the Boys' Life Brigade is continuing, as we prepare content for the Virtual Museum about the Boys Life Brigade. If anyone has any Boys' Life Brigade material, we encourage you to contact us to help us tell the story of the BLB. We have managed to borrow a number of volumes of the Life Brigade Chronicle, however this set is not complete. If you have any issues of the Life Brigade Chronicle please get in touch with us.

Our archivist found these articles in the Life Brigade Chronicle, which we have decided to share with you.

As Companies are now arranging route marches in view of longer days and finer weather, it may be worth while calling their attention to a case that came before the County Courts last year.

The Captain of a B.B. Company was sued in the County Court by the London General Omnibus Company for £40, being the value of a trace-horse which the plaintiffs alleged was frightened by the Company's band and, running away, collided with a lamp post, broke its leg, and had to be killed. As, however, it was proved that the band was properly looked after, that it stopped playing some time before reaching the horse, and did not recommence till some distance after passing it, the judge gave a verdict for the defendant with costs.

Life Brigade Chronicle Vol.3 No.1 January 1903

OUR BROADCASTING NEWS.

The British Broadcasting Company have altered the time of our message from 6.15 to 6.45. B.L.B. News is transmitted on the second Monday in every month, and no doubt the later hour will be more suitable to the majority. Listen in on June 9th, but as this is Whit Monday watch the Radio Times to see if it is altered to June 16th.

Life Brigade Chronicle Vol.24 No.10 July 1924



ROTHERHAM AND DISTRICT BATTALION, CYCLE SECTION.
(1st Prize Winners, Carbrook Medical Aid Wheel Parade, 1911.)

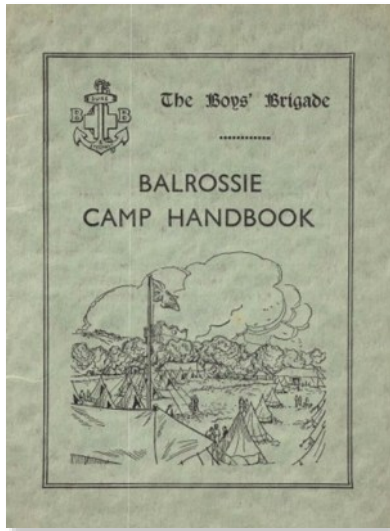
Life Brigade Chronicle Vol.10 No.7 January 1912



Boys' Life Brigade



Virtual Museum



We are constantly update pages on the virtual Museum.

A recent addition is the Balrossie Camp Handbook featuring some iconic Tom Curr artwork. This can be found by clicking the link on the right and scrolling down to the flip books at the bottom of the page.

Thank you to Steve Carter and Bill Powderly who both sent us images of stained glass windowws via Facebook. We have added these to the memorials page of the Virtual Museum.

If you have any material which you feel could compliment the material already presented on the Virtual Museum, please share this with us, so that we can include it and share it globally.



Balrossie

Memorials

Archive Collection



BB Gazette Vol.31 No.10 June 1923 - The Executive have published two series of B.B. Picture Post Cards, illustrating (1) General B.B. Work, and (2) Camp. Each set contains twelve different cards, and the price is od. per set. It is anticipated that there will be a great demand for these Cards for sale to the Boys in Camp. Only complete sets win be supplied, and in ordering it should be clearly stated whether the General Series or the Camp Series is desired.

We have only 7 of the Camp Series, and 5 of the General Series in the BB Archive Collection. If you have any of these in your collection, please contact us. We look forward to be able to present these sets on the Virtual Museum in the near future.

Contact Us

Photographic Competition, 143 Notice to Correspondents, 148

B.B. PICTURE POSTCARDS. In Two Series. NOW ON SALE.
 (1) General B.B. Work. (2) Camp.
 Price 9d. Per Set of 1 Dozen Cards. All Different.

