

But alas, it was not to be, for owing to circumstances which can be attributed to the war and the conditions arising from it, Mr. Sweetman was able to hold office for a few months only, at the end of which time he found it necessary to resign.

During such time as he held command, the Company continued to work on a very restricted programme, the Sunday morning Bible Class being the only regular and normal meeting for the whole Company. Conditions, admittedly, were difficult, while it is only to be expected - and let this fact be fully appreciated - that inconveniences arose which, awkward and serious obstacles to the carrying through of a normal programme.

There was, however, one particular parade, held in the early part of the season, which is of great moment and significance. It was the Church Parade set apart for the purpose of the Presentation and Dedication of the "Colours" which were a gift to the Company from the gentleman who, fifty years ago, had been its Founder.

Would that all who now read of it could have experienced the emotion attendant at that ceremony, for it had that rare quality of genuineness and sincerity which comes but on few occasions.

Be assured, old boy and old friend, that all that happened was in rightful keeping and perfect harmony with the rareness and solemnity of the occasion.

It was, indeed, a most telling moment when Mr. Hardman went forward and gave over, into the safe and zealous keeping of his old Company, those newly consecrated Colours.

It was a moment, good sirs, far more than mere telling. It was sacred, and hallowed, and Blessed. The Company
..Our Company! was taking unto itself its laurels; Tradition stood by, a benevolent witness; Confidence and Dignity were there as its sponsors; but more than that, there was made manifest the presence of Him who is the Great Captain, and behold, the glory of His presence came as a glowing Benediction.

Thus, came this Company to its Jubilee!

Chapter Six.

On the resignation of Mr. Sweetman, Mr. Wiltshire was prevailed upon to return and to take up temporary command of the Company, holding appointment as Acting-Captain, and it has to be entered in these records forthwith that under his guidance the work of the Company quickly returned to a programme and to conditions which were comparable to those of normal times.

But, unfortunately, before this satisfying state of affairs had been reached, the season was half spent, and the leeway was of such magnitude that it simply could not be fully recovered. Nevertheless, in the face of these difficulties and setbacks which had beset it, and despite the bitterness of the disappointment which still rankled, it can be said with truth that once the Company had settled down it faced up to the changed circumstances with courage and resource, and though it is that little success came to mark and reward their efforts, it is to the everlasting credit of Officers and Boys that the Company entered every Battalion Competition held during that season.

Furthermore, it has to be placed on record that on the 18th day of April, 1940, the 50th Annual Inspection and Display of this Company was held, and though it must be confessed - it would be idle and unfair not to admit it - that the occasion fell far short of what we had so earnestly hoped and desired, it was, nevertheless, one that was, and will always remain, historic.

Despite the shortness of the "working" season, this display made apparent that the enthusiasm and the zeal remained unimpaired among the boys who, in this, the fiftieth year of its existence, stood firm in the ranks of the 2nd Enfield Company. "Perfect Record" & "Efficiency Awards" were conspicuous by their absence, for the rules of the Company concerning such things are strict and are ever abided by (and that is as it ought to be) but even so, there was one N.C.O. who yet managed to earn for himself the award and accompanying honour of a "Kings Badge", and to him - Corporal R. Cussans - there goes hearty congratulation on his fine effort. To another Corporal of the Company went that coveted award of the "Founders Prize", and so it is that Corporal R. Warlow will for ever have the thrill and satisfaction of knowing that, in the Jubilee year of his Company, he was, by general consent, the boy who had rendered the finest service to her.

But though, as you have read, we were denied the fullness of the celebration which should have abounded on this occasion, and though what we saw displayed held out no claim as being of outstanding merit and brilliance, yet were we well content.

For, good followers, we had seen made plain a fact of great and encouraging significance:

In place of the joyous festivity and the so richly deserved celebration, there had come.... the testing time. Yet, and despite the fact that its coming had brought what must have been among the biggest disappointments of its time, the Company had stood the test! Had stood fast.. had stood bravely... had fought back... and had won through!

Fifty years of glorious history and fine tradition
had left its mark!

Let those who read, and who have interest in the future welfare of this fine Company, take courage and inspiration from that great fact, for it has the merit of being a profound truth, and because of that, it should, can, and will, serve to inspire those whose time is yet to be.

.....

It will not come amiss, especially among old boys of the Company, if, before bringing the story of this era of Company history to its close, we digress for a moment from the personal affairs of this Company to bring to mind two other Companies of the Enfield Battalion who, as with us, carry the added distinction of Jubilee status.

To our friends, the 1st Enfield Company, who celebrated their Jubilee in the years 1937-38, we would say that we shall

forever remember - and with gratitude - that it was the courage and resource of the men who founded the 1st Enfield Company that influenced men of like character to bring this, our own beloved Company, into being, and so gave unto thousands of boys from this district of Bush Hill Park the privilege and the opportunity of developing their lives on sound Christian principles.

It can be said, and they are to be congratulated for it, that the 1st Enfield Company's record of success is fully worthy of, and befitting too, a leading Company of the Enfield Battalion and the B.B. Movement.

Furthermore, it is ready proof that they have been fully alive to that fact throughout the whole of their existence, and have been successful in living up to the prestige demanded of them.

Then there are our good friends of the 3rd Enfield Company, who are celebrating the attainment of their Jubilee in this, the selfsame season as do we of this Company.

Of the "Third" it can with truth be said that there has always existed a close bond of friendship, regard, and understanding between them and us.

Many are the epic battles which we have fought out with them; on the Sports and Football fields, in serious Competition and in friendly contest; yet always - and whether or not we have proved the victor or the vanquished - we have had reason to respect that opinion of esteem and regard which they have consistently given us good cause to hold.

At Camp they have proved themselves fine friends, and good sportsmen; always ready to do their bit, and then - if necessary - a bit more, and to do it all willingly and well.

And surely, one would be lacking in his duty if he was to allow this opportunity ^{to pass} ^{without} paying tribute to one of their senior Officers - Mr. F. D. Chaplin: a tribute to which countless old boys of this Company will be eager to associate with.

It must surely be, that if there is one gentleman who has served in office with this Battalion, and who has commanded (and that word is used advisedly) the affection, respect, and esteem of all who have served in its ranks, then that gentleman must be Mr. Chaplin.

Both at home, and at Camp, the high quality of his personality has been ever apparent. His great goodwill, and his infectious sense of good-humour (and who will ever forget his famous "shorts"?!) his charm, and his courteousness, have endeared him to all, and so it is that this Company is proud indeed of the close interest and high regard which Mr. Chaplin has shown towards it; and though it is that he has ever remained a whole-hearted enthusiast of his own Company, we of the "Seconds" flatter ourselves that our Company stands next in the order of his affection.

The past record and the Traditions of the "Third" are of such a character that they may well be proud; and it is gratifying indeed to see them, in this the 50th season in their history, flourishing to such good purpose as they are, and enjoying a period of fine success, of which the winning of the "Daily Telegraph" Shield is an outstanding example.

Our sincere congratulations then to our comrades of the 3rd Enfield Company. We join with them in their time of joy, and wish them a full measure of success and prosperity in the future.

(18) 52
40 49

To the remaining Companies of the Enfield Battalion, and in particular, to those who, in the manner of years, are but recent members of it, we of this Company would say that we are ever mindful of the gallant part they are playing in the maintenance of B.B. tradition and principle, in and around Enfield.

That their task in anything but a light one we are well aware. We, as a Company, are more fortunately placed than they; for so it is that when we encounter strain, and stress, and rough going, we can turn to Experience to guide, and to Tradition to sustain us, and so, coupled with our own courage and faith to weather such storms as beset us. But with our younger contemporaries it does not, in like manner apply; and so it is that when they are beset and shaken they have to rise again by dint of personal effort, wiser men maybe, but bruised just the same.

That is why, when victory and success goes to them - even at our own expense - we begrudge it not the slightest, but rather are glad for it; for, having experienced the fact for ourselves, we are well able to appreciate the cheer and the encouragement which accompanies such success.

Perhaps it is that in the manner of success "value" these younger Companies have the better of us: in our own case we can do little more with every fresh success which comes to us than to compliment ourselves on the maintenance of fine tradition (not that this is a fact to be despised!) But in their case, every fresh success and every new achievement brings with it that great and exclusive thrill which comes from the knowledge that Tradition is being forged, and the foundations of Reputation well and truly laid!

May it ever be that successes gained by these worthy Companies, over this, and other leading Companies of the Enfield Battalion, will serve as an inspiration, both to them and to us, and so encourage us all to press forward in our endeavours to extend Christ's Kingdom among the boys of our localities.

Think not that the reference we make of being among the leaders of the Enfield Battalion is made in terms of idle boastfulness, for to do so would be to err.

There will be but very few people who will seek to deny the accuracy of that statement, but many who will - and right willingly - adhere to it.

Apart from the standpoint of the many and varied successes which - as you will have read - have come, during a period of fifty years, to bless and reward the great work which has been carried on through the medium of this, the 2nd Enfield Company of the Boys' Brigade, there remains one further important fact which will, if need be, give substantial support to such claim to leading status as might be made.

Surely, a Company upon whose Officers there can safely be entrusted the additional responsibilities of Battalion management, is one that must of itself be well and truly founded, and as equally well maintained?

So it is then with this Company; for if you hark back to the past, or search among the present, you will find among the Convenors of the varied branches of Battalion activity, and among those who have held, and those who now hold high office in the Councils of this Battalion, those gentlemen who have also served - with commendable efficiency - the 2nd Enfield Company.

At the time at which we now write, it can be recorded that the responsible position of Battalion Secretary is being ably filled by one who is a Lieutenant of this Company - Mr. Ernest Page. He is one, among the many, who will be remembered by old boys and friends of this Company, for, as a lad in the Company, his career was distinguished. And no less distinguished and valuable has been the service he has rendered to his old Company during the years he has held his commission; and so we set it down that the Company, and those who cherish it, make a ready acknowledgement of his "services rendered", both to ~~the~~ Company and to ~~the~~ Battalion.

It is, perhaps, only fitting that as we reach the end of this story of fifty years of 2nd Enfield history, we give thought to a branch of B.B. work which serves, so admirably, as a "feeder" to the main Movement.

Our reference is, of course, to the "Life Boys", that off-shoot of the Boys' Brigade which caters for those keen youngsters who are not of the age where they can enter into full membership of the B.B.

This Company has been fortunate in the fact that for many years an effective "Life Boy" section has been run in connection with it; and, in the respect of this, there is owing to Mr. George Hammond, an expression of sincere thanks and appreciation for the fine work he has rendered in the management of that Section.

It is indeed, a true and worthy fact that the 2nd Enfield Company of the Boys' Brigade has benefitted considerably ~~by the~~ reason of the many enthusiastic boys who have been passed into its ranks after a period of service with the "Life Boys": lads who, as a result of such service and the training they have received, are not unacquainted with Discipline and the principle of Fair play: who enter the ranks of the Company fully alive to the responsibilities they will be called on to accept, and who yet enter it with a determination to employ to the full the opportunities which will be held out to them.

We of this Company, and those who support it, will do well to remember with gratitude those men who have given, and those who now give, of their time and ability in the management and the development of boys who, being young in heart and mind and body, are possessed of an exuberance the control of which calls for special tact and a wealth of patience.

And so it is, good friends and followers, that at this stage, and with the end of this, our Jubilee season, in sight, we reach the end of our story, and "Jubilee Scrapbook", with its ordered references and records of fifty years of progress and endeavour, having - we trust - served some sort of useful purpose, prepares to make its final bow, ere passing into History.

To old boys of this Company - and throughout the length of this book they have been constantly in mind - there can be but one way in which leave can be taken of these fifty historic years.

In its manner, this way takes the form of a time honoured and much esteemed custom: one that consistently draws men close together, warms their hearts, sets high their heads, heightens their sincerity, and fosters their true sentiments.

In its traditional form it would have had its honoured place among the Jubilee celebrations. Why then should we be denied this privilege upon which we so much set our hearts?

Gentlemen, there is no reason: and that is why we seek your attention, for I ask of you that you will take pleasure in a Toast to this Company.

Come then, gentlemen; have charged your glasses! Charge them with what you will, and if it be there is nought else, then take to yourself a glass, or a tankard, in the manner of Make-believe; fill it to the brim with that precious nectar drawn from your own deep store cellar of Memory, and let us all be upstanding, for, Gentlemen Old Boys of the 2nd Company of the Enfield Battalion of the Boys' Brigade, the toast is.....

"Your Company!..... THE Company" !

.....

So ends the story.

Yet loth are we to leave it at that, and if it is that there is one final thought we would have to serve as an Epilogue and an inspiration to those whose task it will be to carry on this great work and uphold the fine traditions which are our legacy to them, what better can it be than in an adaption of the cheering words of that "Jubilee Song" which served so admirably as a keynote to the occasion of the B.B. Jubilee in the year of 1933, and which serves with equal appropriateness for this more intimate occasion: