

admits that it must fall far short of one fully embracing the Company's existence, and that it may prove to contain (should it ever be read by someone other than himself) gaps that other people could easily fill; for there must be many people who are more qualified to write of the Company's experience than he who now sets his pen to the task, and who, as he labours at it, is terribly conscious of his shortcomings as a scribe, and of the responsibility he has voluntarily shouldered. Yet again; the effort cannot truthfully be described as carrying official status, though, it is pointed out, it can well be accepted as authentic, for many of the facts made use of have been taken from official records, from old programmes and magazines, handbooks and drill cards, while further information has had a more personal source and has been passed on by gentlemen who include Mr. H.S. Hardman, Mr. Martin H. Jenkins, Mr. Henry Sawyer, Mr. H. Hudson, Capt. A.D. Wiltshire, Mr. Jesse Lacey, and many others, all of whose help is greatly appreciated.

One final word. Indulgence besought here for sins of commission, but more especially for sins of omission, will probably have more effect than if made at a later stage, and therefore the writer does ask the reader, particularly if he be an old boy of the Company, to bear with him and to make an endeavour to appreciate the difficulties that have prevented this book from being more comprehensive than it now is.

And so, steadfastly taking his stand, and preparing to dismiss all comment and criticism with the simple remark that "it's only a scrapbook anyway", the writer humbly presents for your leisurely perusal and (he hopes) your ultimate approval,

JUBILEE SCRAPBOOK.

Chapter One.

The play, which bore the self-same title as this book and of which reference has been made in the Introduction, was destined to open with that mythical character "Father Time" suffering two young, eager, and curious B.B. boys to beseech him to tell them of the Company's past history. The venerable old gentleman agrees to do as they wish and promises that he will conjure for them, from the time-scarred Scrapbook he carries, visions of memorable occasions and thrilling incidents which have marked the road of the Company's progress just as surely as a milestone measures the distance along a highway. At the very outset he briefly tells of the appearance of the district of Bush Hill Park at the time of the formation of the Company.

It might be of interest to the reader to know even now of that appearance, and so let us have Father Time to say his piece and start us off on our journey through the Company's history. Say on then,

Father Time :

The district of Bush Hill Park (says that venerable old gentleman) was, to say the least, a rather outlandish sort of place. Its general aspect was of the countryside, though there had risen up, by the year 1890, a number of cottages and dwelling houses, and yet a few shops, the very first of which - "Rudlands" (Oil and Colourmen) which stood on the South-East corner of the Fourth Avenue, and which, incidently, served as the local Post Office - had appeared in 1878, just twelve years before the time with which we have to concern ourselves. The erection of these houses, which was in the nature of a speculative venture (rents were in the neighbourhood of four shillings, while incentives offered in the effort to induce folk to take up tenancy included the offer of two weeks tenancy free of rent, or the gift of half a ton of coal, etc.) gave promise that the district would eventually develop into a populated area, a promise which we now know to have been abundantly fulfilled.

But our concern is with Bush Hill Park as it was fifty years before the year of grace nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, and of that time it

can be said that, in the main, the district comprised of Southbury Road (known the better in those days as "Nags Head Lane") Percival Road, Lincoln Road (or "Red Lane") the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Main Avenues, East Crescent, and the not fully developed Cardigan Estate. Generally speaking there was nothing in the form of building or property south of the Main Avenue, save for the - then privately owned - Bush Hill Park Railway Station, standing then, as now, within the boundary of Edmonton. This station was approached from Bush Hill Park by a road which led, through fields and open ground, from the Main Avenue. The road, in those days, bore the apt appellation of "Station Road"; but names come and names go, and "St. Marks Road" is its title today.

The area covered by the district was distributed among fields and meadows, farmed land and orchard: here and there were fields of wheat or barley: what we now know as the Bush Hill Park Recreation Ground was then, with the addition of the land now taken up by the Fotheringham and Downs Roads, a huge strawberry field. A pleasant enough place in Spring and in Summer, but much to the contrary in the times of Winter, for then the district took on a cloak of gloom and bleakness. The street lighting did little to alleviate the dismal circumstances, for the lighting system then existing comprised nothing more than oil lamps hoisted up and on to poles which were set up at only the most necessary of places along the rough lanes and cart-tracks which dared to boast the titles of "roads" or "avenues". But of one thing there was a plenitude, and that.....Mud! Indeed, the substance became so much associated with Bush Hill Park that the whole district reposed under the naturally acquired, yet most unprepossessing nickname of "Mud Island" !

Mud, however, may have been plentiful, but such a story of abundance could not be applied to social amenities, for apart from the doubtful one offered by the "Off Licence" which stood on the South-West corner of the Fourth Avenue (opposite "Rudlands") there was little else that held out an invitation for secular and mutual society. There were, however, religious facilities available - and a choice of denominations at that - for in the one instance a Mission, sponsored by "St. Andrews" (the Parish Church of Enfield) served for those whose leaning was toward the Church of England, while for other folk an Evangelistic Mission of a Non-conformist type met and worshipped in a hall which had been erected on a corner of the junction of the Sixth Avenue with the Main Avenue, a hall which, though since re-named, will for ever be remembered by those who knew and were associated with it in the days now past, as the "Avenue Hall" or, maybe, as the "Tin Church" .

Of cart-track and ditch, farmed land and meadow, field and orchard, new house and new people, "Off Licence" and Mission, Oil lamp and mud, mud and still more mud! As such then was Bush Hill Park fifty years ago.

(Our thanks to you, Father Time: wiser folk are we now for having had brought home to us the conditions which were commonplace many years ago. And now, on, and tell us of our Company and its birth, for anxious we are to know of it.)

It was, then, to such a place as this (continues Father Time) that there came men who aspired to a high calling : men who, as they looked around them, were much saddened by a lack of the opportunities by which the young and impressionable lads of the district might better equip themselves; opportunities that would allow for the cultivation of such valuable and Christianlike habits as, Tolerance, Discipline and Self-respect. And so it was that these men took it upon themselves to change and improve upon the unfortunate state of affairs then existing. They had heard, these men, and had been much attracted to, the new Christian Movement for boys, "The Boys' Brigade" , which, in addition to being a new venture, could lay proud claim to the fact that it was the very first of any such organisation. It had as its Object the self-same ideals that these men sought to set before, and so to influence, the boys of Bush Hill Park...."The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect, and all that tends towards a True Christian Manliness" .

We cannot do better (goes on Father Time) than to introduce the founding of the 2nd Enfield Company of the Boys' Brigade by quoting an extract from "The Early History of the 1st Enfield Company"; which Company had been formed in the Northern area of Enfield by Dr. J. J. Ridge, during the year 1888. (Incidentally, the reference to that name will strike a familiar note in the minds of many people, for the name of "Ridge" has long been associated with B.B. work in Enfield and, in particular, with the 1st Company. As a matter of appreciative interest it is mentioned here that the information about to be made use of - the "extract" - was passed on by Dr. R. L. Ridge, a son of the founder, and one who, for many years - in the region of thirty, as a matter of fact, and many of them among the most successful of that Company's great history - has served as its Captain.)

Writing of those early pioneer days, Dr. J. J. Ridge says:

"The most interesting point about the second session in 1889 - 1890 was, that in spite of all the mistakes, blunderings, and floundering, there were others ready to follow; others, who saw the future possibilities of the Boys' Brigade in Enfield as a real movement for the extension of the Kingdom of Christ among Boys. And so it came to pass, that when the next winter, 1890, approached, not one Company, but three, were in existence, Messers Hardman and Hinton forming the 2nd Enfield Company, and Mr. Morris Toms, with Mr. Coote, the 3rd Enfield..... The three Companies worked in close harmony, the finances being provided from a central fund....."

(And now, Father Time, we bid you adieu, and take up the story for ourselves. Again do we thank you for the interesting preamble, and better (or so should it be) is our frame of mind for having learnt in such fashion as we have of much of what was commonplace, and yet of something that was new, very new, to the boys of Bush Hill Park in those days which now are "dim, dark, and beyond recall".)

An interesting point has emerged from the searchings into the early days of the founding of the 2nd Enfield Company: it is, that the Company came very near to being, not the 2nd, but the 3rd Enfield Company! The explanation of this is supplied by Mr. Hardman, who, in some brief memoirs of those far off days points out, " that - so far as my memory goes - it was in the October of the year 1890 that application was made to Headquarters for the official enrolment of the Company; and, at the same time, the Company now known as the 3rd Enfield made similar application. The acceptance by Headquarters of both applications was deferred, as it was not possible for either of the men in charge of these two proposed Companies to assure the Headquarters Staff that they possessed sufficient knowledge of Drill, sufficient, that is, to ensure that part of the B.B. work being carried out in a manner satisfactory to those in charge at Headquarters. Eventually," continues Mr. Hardman, " we were able to satisfy Capt. W. A. Smith, and we were enrolled as the 2nd Enfield Company in the November of that same year."

The "Seconds" had arrived!

The introduction of the boys of Bush Hill Park to the new movement was made by the giving of a display by members of the 1st Enfield Company, at which they demonstrated the methods by which this new movement sought to prove effective. Capt. Toms (who had taken over the Captaincy of the 1st Enfield from Dr. Ridge who, however, was continuing to serve in the capacity of Lieutenant) also addressed the boys on the object and purpose of the Boys' Brigade, and also of the benefits and advantages that could be derived from linking themselves with it. The result of that initial effort was that some thirty or so boys enrolled with the new Company, a result that must have proved extremely gratifying to those gentlemen who had accepted office within the Company, and who, just as with those boys who joined, were "pioneers" in the truest sense of the word.

Now whatever qualifications and talents these gentlemen may have possessed, "Experience" was not among them: for from where was this so useful a faculty to be drawn? The "1st Glasgow", the pioneer Company of the whole B.B. Movement had been in existence only since 1883, and yet, such was the power of this movement which desired "The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys", and which had laid hold of, and had been

accepted by men and boys throughout the length and breadth of the country that just seven years later, in a dismal and outlandish spot such as Bush Hill Park then was, the nucleus of yet another Company had been formed. For seven years the leaven had been at work: for seven years the seeds had been germinating, and now, that one tiny seed which had taken its foundation in Bush Hill Park had bravely, and not a little confidently thrust its head up and through the ground: Life was before it! What; what, would the harvest be? That, for sure, must have been an ever present thought in the minds of those who, fifty years ago, set out as the local pioneers of the first, finest, and greatest Christian movement for boys.

Who were these men and boys? Give us their names that we may know of them, and, in knowing, do them honour!

Fortunate we are in being able to satisfy such request, for the first Roll Book of the Company being, praise be, still in existence and having been made available, enables us to do as is desired, "to know of, and to honour them".

Read then, for yourselves; and in reading, remember, and give unto them their due, for without them a harvest would never have been!

P. Dickasson	H. Rippon	J. Perkins
H. Clarke	T. Beaumont	C. Dickasson.
J. Plume	F. Kent	
W. Farmer	W. Harris	
W. Collingbourne	G. Newell	
H. Adams	J. Sawyer	
R. Manning	H. Cherry	
F. Clarke	W. Lowe	
H. Sawyer	A. Beaumont	
J. Kenny	W. Bale	
J. Kew	B. Clarke	
C. Williams	H. Green	
G. Hayler	D. Evans	
A. Morton	J. Williams	

What reading these names do make! And how familiar do many of them appear! What a thrill to see again, or yet to make initial acquaintance with, those, "who were the first". And if, perchance, a fellow should see his own name set there, let him now know - and full well - the value that is set by it, and how we, who have followed after, have kept faith with them that went before, and how by the keeping of that faith has been forged a tradition that is surely, "Second to none".

Here let prominence be given to a tribute that has been paid to those who, as boys, have served in the ranks of the 2nd Enfield. A tribute paid by one who, from the earliest times, has been intimately connected with the Company. He is referring, in particular, to early recruits to the Company when he writes, ".....and it was from these boys that I learnt to love and respect the boys of Bush Hill Park. The outstanding feature was their loyalty to their Officers and their Company, and through all the years I think this quality has been handed on from one generation to another as a great tradition".

A tribute such as that is one that can well set a Hall-mark on what has and what is yet to be written: it is indeed generous, while as for its sincerity, one has only to mention that it was made by no other than Mr. Martin H. Jenkins to be able to appreciate and accept it, and to know the real worth of the compliment made therein.

And what of the Officers and those who held early charge?

The liability of "inexperience" has been levelled against the gentlemen who had early command of the Company; but, let it be known, against such liability must be set off the vigorous assets of "Faith" and "Enthusiasm". And well it was that such assets were in the keeping of these gentlemen, for the passage of the Company through the early and uncharted ~~early~~ years of its existence, was indeed a stormy one, and without "faith" to sustain and "enthusiasm" to drive, the good ship "2nd Enfield" with its gallant crew, would fain have drifted on to the quicksands of disbandment.

Let us digress, just for a moment, from a contemplation of the early Officers and helpers of the Company while we survey, in brief fashion, some of the chief difficulties that did beset the Company at and after its formation.

The cause of most of the serious troubles came in the strong opposition set against the Company by the hooligan element of the district. So severe was this opposition that not infrequently did the friction culminate in a resort to physical force, a state of affairs most difficult to tolerate. Referring again to those memoirs of Mr. Hardman, from which we have already quoted, one finds expressed an incident which shows clearly the sort of thing that was experienced and suffered during those early days, and one that can be taken as a fair example of the treatment that was meted out to the Company by the "opposition".

"At the end of our second year (writes Mr. Hardman) we held a "Parents and Friends" night, and for the occasion the 1st Enfield paraded their Drum and Fife Band. It was a wet night and, as the roads were not then made up but were full of mud and filth, we were anything but a smart turn-out when we had completed our march. The one incident that stands out on that march is, that one of the hooligans threw a brick-bat right through the big drum and put it completely out of action! "

A tale can also be told of one of the Officers of the Company who resided in Enfield, of how, when he visited Bush Hill Park to attend the meetings and parades of the Company he was accompanied by, "a hefty lad from the 1st Enfield, who came along and acted as a sort of body-guard! " (A tail piece to that little story is supplied by the Officer who is concerned with it, for he says of this "bodyguard", "he must have been well chosen for he developed into a foreman of the navvies for the local Council!")

Passing comment can be made on the tales that have been heard from time to time: tales which tell of bricks shied through windows and skylights; the barricading of doors; rowdyisms, cat-calls and the like; constant interferences of the most exasperating kind. And to make things even more difficult, not all of these troubles emanated from an outside source; for, so loth were the Officers to deny any boy the chances that were there for the taking, manifold chances of improving and developing ones character, that they tolerated much in the way of hooliganism which, alas, fermented even within the ranks. It must not for one moment be imagined that the whole, or even the majority, of the Company gave trouble, for the contrary fortunately applied, but small and troublesome cliques caused much friction and unrest at various times and exacted a heavy levy for the patience and tolerance that was shown them.

But, and let this be to their everlasting credit, gentlemen were always to be found who were ready and willing to sacrifice time and dignity, leisure and comfort, in the service of one who, for them, was a Great Captain, an example and an inspiration; One, in whose steps they sought to tread; of whose principles they sought to preach, to practice, and so to further, and in whose eyes they have surely found favour. And if it be that in the giving of this service they suffered disappointment and humiliation let them now be lifted up, for is it not written,

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake;

for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" ?

Such then, is their reward.

Who were these men?

We give first place, and rightly so, to the founder, Mr. Henry S. Hardman, "to whom (writes a contemporary) must go the credit for originating all which has come after". Sufficient is it to stress the fact that Mr. Hardman was the founder; he, who took upon himself the keen responsibility of launching the new venture; he, whose lot it was to make the final and ultimate decisions on Company policy; he, upon whose foresight and judgement depended the measure of advancement, or the measure of loss, that would eventually emanate as the result of such policy. It must surely be beyond the ken of the great majority to realise the joys and disappointments, high hopes and sudden setbacks, triumphs and defeats, successes and failures that must be the lot of a pioneer enthusiast, yet no one can fail to detect, to acknowledge, and so give tribute to the dogged perseverance that stands high in the characters of such men. And so it is of Mr. Hardman; and we would have him know that while it may well be that we are not able to realise in full detail the arduous work that was concerned with the formation and fostering of the Company we are satisfied that it was so, and we honour him for it.

Not only did Mr. Hardman found, and for many years, Captain the Company, but also rendered he yeoman service with the Christian Mission which worshipped at, and worked from, the Avenue Hall: a Mission which was the fore-runner to the host of Christian folk who now meet and worship within the walls of the edifice of the Bush Hill Park Congregational (George Spicer Memorial) Church. And in the sphere of work bound up with this Church Mr. Hardman has been a valued and zealous worker, and, one believes, that it means much to him that he is now, as has been the case for many years past, "number one, on the Church Roll.

Among other gentlemen who held early office with the Company stands recorded the name of Mr. Hinton, "who (to quote Mr. Hardman) though prevented, by reasons of public work, from giving much help at either Drill or the "Rooms" was a very useful man at Bible Class on Sundays, and in the raising of funds for the maintenance of the work". Others whose names can be recalled include a Mr. Anderson, Mr. Stewart, and a Mr. Taylor, while a familiar name comes with the mentioning of Mr. Theodore Ridge. This last named gentleman was an older brother of Dr. Leslie Ridge, to whom a previous reference has been made, and it appears that the chief interest and charge of Mr. Theodore Ridge was in a Drum and Fife Band which at one time existed. A further, and very interesting point concerning this gentleman - though it is one having little or no bearing on B.B. work - lies in the fact of his great and practical interest in early aviation. He was, in actual fact, one of this country's earliest aviators, and it can be recorded that he took an active part in that famous pioneer air exploit of flying the airship "Beta" over London and round St. Pauls Cathedral. He met an untimely end, as the result of an air crash in 1914, at a time when he was holding the very important position of Deputy Superintendent of the Government Aircraft Factory at Farnborough.

Another gentleman who was a very good friend to the Company in its early days was a Mr. T. Eachus. He is another who lays claim on our attention in respect of pioneer work in another sphere, for he devoted a great deal of his time and talent in the work of X-ray, that remarkable phenomena, which now-a-days in its ever increasing efficiency, is and has been the means of bringing succour and restored health to countless thousands.

Such men as these, then, were among those who strove to bring into and keep in existence the 2nd Enfield Company of the Boys' Brigade. Men of resource and high ideals, of great personality and splendid character, of perseverance and determination, culture and charm; men who sought no other title but that of "Christian Gentlemen".

Yet another who came to throw his weight into a great fight for existence which the Company was forced to face up to in the years

centring round 1895, was a young man who had had experience of B.B. work through service with the 1st Enfield Company; a young Lieutenant who, hearing the call and realising that there was work to be done transferred from the 1st Company to the 2nd so that he might always be available and of the fullest assistance. Of this gentleman Mr. Hardman has paid tribute thus, "He came, and from that time was one with the 2nds, and a finer colleague no man ever had". No old boy of the Company who has had the pleasure and the inspiration of knowing Mr. Martin H. Jenkins will seek to deny the truth and the magnificence of that simple tribute paid by Mr. Hardman to Mr. Jenkins, but rather will he hasten to associate himself with it, and even to supplement it, each according to his understanding.

Others there are of whom mention should be made, but, alas, the passage of time has dimmed our recollection of them, and it is with regret that the writer confesses to an inability to table for your approbation the names of all who served in a helpful capacity, whether large or small, colourful or behind-the-scene. But if we know not their names, we are fully conscious that hard work and willing sacrifice was given - and in no small measure - to a great cause. "By their fruits shall ye know them": by such application are we able to discern their true worth, and so to title them as they would wish to be, "Pioneers of the 2nd Enfield".

And ere we leave this treatise of the early personalities, let us go a short step further (or maybe it should be 'back') and conjure up just a few of those names that would come readily to mind if we should give ourselves over to a survey of, say, the first ten years of the Company's progress. Mention would surely be merited of those who became the first Sergeants of the Company, George Harrison, William Florence, Albert Morton (who eventually became the Company's first Colour-sergeant) William Richards, and Henry Sawyer. Others there are who, for various reasons, distinguished themselves while in the ranks, and whom we should remember with gratitude: Arthur Cundle, Fred ("Bonker") Rose, Tom Masters, George Newell, J. Henry Timmins, Arthur Sleath, Walter Hunwick, Alphonso Eley, Bert Niblow, and Henry Rudland (who went out as a foreign Missionary, and who laid down his life in the service of his Master.) Then there are those several brothers, of the families Zala, Beaumont, Griffiths, Sutton, Lincoln, and Moses. We should find ourselves thinking of Fred Ives, Henry Green, and T. Cockburn, and dozens of others just as well known. "Old boys of the 2nd Enfield" is the tie that binds these names together, just as it binds the veteran "old boy" with him who lately attains to that title.

It affords great pleasure to note in letters that have recently been received from several of these "veteran" old boys - many of whom are in distant lands - spontaneous tributes and testimonies paid to the training that was received by them when serving with the Company; a training which influenced greatly their lives and which has been of immense benefit to them. One also finds expressed in these letters a great joy in the knowledge of the present prosperity of "their" Company, and a thrill in the realization of its attainment to Jubilee status. And "in between the lines" one can discern, in addition to a genuine pride, a real delight in being afforded an opportunity for an indulgence in a remembrance of old times, and of old friends. The song may be ended, but the melody lingers on in the hearts and minds of these gentlemen, as indeed it does with each and every old boy who is worthy of the calling. May that "melody" long continue; for by now all harshness and coarseness must have passed away, leaving only the melody rare, which, in harmony with the deep chords of memory, and the quiet tones of sentiment, must form such a symphony of reminiscence as can but awaken within us good thoughts of bygone days.