

Let us now turn our interest to the progress of the Company, of the way it fared, and the manner of its experiences, as it traversed the highway of its History.

It was during the winter season of 1896-97 that the Company won for itself its first honours in the field of competitions. Those who know the Company well will no doubt express surprise to learn that this, the very first of any competitive success, was obtained for proficiency at Drill. The other contestants for the honour were the remaining B.B. Companies of Enfield, known then - whenever reference was made to their collective form - as the United Enfield Companies.

We can well envy the boys of that time, not only for their success in the Drill Competition - with which they must have been well pleased - but also for the fact that it was their very special privilege to make personal contact with a very great man - none other than Major (later Sir William) Smith, the founder of the B.B. Movement.

In the year of which we write - 1897 - there were, so a Company Card informed us, two occasions on which the founder addressed the boys of the Enfield Companies. The second of these two occasions is not without having some significance, but before that significance is made plain it is necessary to digress for a moment to speak of a building - now, alas, no longer with us - that was once a rather important edifice in Enfield. This building stood on the right-hand side, and about halfway up, Windmill Hill, Enfield. Its official title was that of the "Bycullah Athenaeum", but it was equally as well-known as the "Assembly Rooms", and also - in potted style - just "The Bycullah". We have written of it as being 'rather important', and the fact is that this building was the automatic choice for the housing of any meeting or gathering which was of considered importance. The results of local Parliamentary Elections were declared from its balcony, and it is safe to say that anyone wishing to put a venture over in a 'big' way, took, as its venue, the "Bycullah". The destruction of this famous building by fire, some years ago, took from us an edifice of not a little historic interest and sentimental association. It follows then, that anything worthy of presentation at the "Bycullah Athenaeum", was also worthy of public notice, and it is here that the "significance", mentioned earlier on, comes in, for on Monday, February the 1st, 1897, there was held, by the Enfield Companies of the Boys' Brigade, a "Grand Demonstration at the Bycullah Athenaeum", at which, says the announcement, Major W.A. Smith (Founder of the Brigade) is expected to speak.

Accept this then - for it is indeed truth - as insistent proof of how the Boys' Brigade Movement was establishing itself in Enfield and its environs, and of how it was taking its lawful place among the accepted Christian and Social activities of the district. And let us too, take pleasure in the fact that to those who laboured for the cause there must have come, at such a time, a glowing thrill in the realization of how they, and the B.B. Movement, were steadily winning through.

The Company success in the Drill Competition was repeated in the season of 1898-99, and again in the season following on that.

The year of 1901 is worthy of note by reason of the fact that the United Enfield Companies of the Boys' Brigade took on the official status of "Battalion", and this Company was proud to become the 2nd Company of the Enfield Battalion of the Boys' Brigade.

There is yet another reason why the year of 1901 should not be passed by, for it was in that year that Mr. Hardman resigned from the Captaincy of the Company. For twelve years had he been at the head of

Company affairs, years - as you have read earlier on - that were fraught with trial, trouble, and difficulty; yet they were not without their reward, and it must surely be that pleasure, which is born out of those early years, still comes to Mr. Hardman, to cheer him and to serve as a measure of recompense for his pioneer industry and resource.

Mr. Hardman was succeeded as Captain by Mr. Martin H. Jenkins, who had, heretofore, rendered valuable service to the Company in his capacity of Lieutenant.

Here let us give space to an item of interest - not without its own significance - which has been recalled by Mr. Jenkins. He points out that, "Our Company served equally as well for St. Marks Church (which, incidently, had its foundation much about the same time as did the Company) as for the Avenue Hall, and so many of the Church boys attended the Company that for a time it was my practice to attend service once a month at St. Marks with them. When the C.L.B. was formed - and, by the way (says Mr. Jenkins) I had the honour of taking their first drill - naturally we did not get so many, but I think we have always had in our ranks some boys who were otherwise attached to the Church of England."

Touching on this aspect, Mr. Jenkins goes on to point out the extent our Company has been helped by friends and Officers who were Anglicans. Of these men he writes as follows, "... at one time I was assisted by four of them; it was when we had hoped to form a B.B. Company in connection with St. Stephens. Everything concerned with its formation had been arranged, but the project was vetoed by a responsible Church dignitary of that time." Mr. Jenkins comments on the short-sightedness of that dignitary's policy, and points out that several of the gentlemen who were to have held office in that proposed Company remained on and did sterling work in the Enfield Battalion. Mr. T. Eachus, of whom reference has already been made, was one of these gentlemen, while another, of whom reference has yet to be made, was a Mr. Harry Langley: further reference to him will be made at a later stage in our story.

So it was then, that "J" became Captain; and the Company prospered.

That its prosperity was well founded and moving in right paths is made apparent by this extract which has been taken from the 16th Annual Report of the Avenue Congregational Church:

"The 2nd Company of the Enfield Battalion of the Boys' Brigade although under-officered, has a hold on our boys as no institution has ever before had. The boy who is over 12 and under 17 connected with this Church and does not belong to the 2nd is such a rarity as to be an exception. Although Drill is used as a means to an end it is essentially a religious organisation whose motto is the extension of Christ's Kingdom among boys. As a proof of what it is doing in this respect 5 made a public profession during the year and were admitted into full membership of the Church. There are 2 Officers, 2 Staff-Sergeants, and 48 N.C.O's. and boys on the roll, with an average of 32 at Bible Class at 10 o'clock on Sunday mornings. A Bible Class conducted by one of the Officers is also held on Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock for the elder members and old boys, and has on its register 30 members. The class is very much overcrowded."

Such a report makes comment unnecessary.

On the cover of this Church Report from which we have just seen quoted an extract, there is set out the names of the gentlemen who hold office within the Church. Several of these names will, in all probability, prove familiar to many of the old boys and friends of this Company, for set there are the names of George Spicer J.P., F.J. Hinton, R.L. Wates, G. Newell, C. Stotter, R. Burford, M.H. Jenkins,

and S.E.Chappell. There is also the name of the Minister of that time, Mr.B.Farrington, and that of the Church Secretary and Treasurer, which is the familiar one of Mr. Hardman. What the writer specially seeks to draw attention to is the fact that the name of the latter gentleman is prefixed with the title of "Mr. Councillor", and of that title there is an interesting tale to be told.

Though Mr. Hardman was no longer Captain of this Company he had not, by any means, ceased to take active interest in the work of the B.B. Indeed, at the time of which this story concerns he was acting as President to the Enfield Battalion. The starting point of the tale comes at a time when the ground in Baker Street, which served as a Sports Field for the Enfield Companies, became no longer available. The Officers used every endeavour in an effort to obtain another suitable ground, but all to no avail, for, though there was plenty of ground that was eminently suitable, the farmers and owners refused to let. Things looked black: ground they must have; for football, cricket, and athletics were playing their part of particular importance in the work and development of the B.E., and to be compelled to stifle these lively interests was a condition which just could not be tolerated. "And so one day, in desperation," writes Mr. Hardman, "I said at a meeting of Officers, 'If you fellows will back me up, I'll put up at the next election for a seat on the Enfield Urban District Council, having only one plank in my programme, "Open Spaces". Soon afterwards," continues Mr. Hardman, "a vacancy occurred: I was nominated, and, strangely enough, I was elected. In my second year on the Council I was made Chairman of the Parks Committee, and, at the end of my first year on that Committee the Town Park was purchased: at the end of my second year the Durants Park, while during the third year the Albany Park was secured. Up till then, Chase Green was the only public open space in the whole Parish of Enfield".

(In the play, "Jubilee Scrapbook" a boy, on hearing of the above comments on it as being "Nice work". Many will there be who will willingly subscribe to the great truth of that pithy comment.)

There was yet another generous action on the part of Mr. Hardman towards the Enfield Battalion. It occurred in the year 1903 and took the form of a presentation to the Battalion of "Colours" which were to be set apart to serve as the award to the Company winning the Annual Drill Competition. In an up-to-date list showing the past winners of this much coveted trophy, the mention of this, the 2nd Enfield Company, is conspicuous only by its absence, and it sad indeed that there must be recorded the fact that those "Colours", presented by Mr. Hardman, were never once won by the Company he himself founded!

It must not be imagined that the negative success in this direction was due to lack of endeavour, for such an opinion would be entirely erroneous. It has always been among the policy of this Company to take the opportunities that are afforded by participation in competitions; for it has been the considered opinion that the comprehensive experience offered by such participation - in preference to the actual winning, though such a thing, of course, has always been the chief aim - is of the utmost value. Ofttimes, valuable lessons can be learnt from the experiencing of defeat, lessons which are often denied the victors: and so it is with this Company's record in the field of competitive Drill. Defeated, maybe! But never disgraced! And many are the lessons that have been learnt, and acted upon, to the ultimate advantage of the Company.

In the realm of sport, the Company, by this time, was becoming a force to be reckoned with, and in a periodical dated December, 1903, and bearing the title of "The Brigadier" there is included a supplement dealing with matter concerning the Enfield Battalion, among which matter is a report of a football match played between this Company and the 5th Enfield. In his reference to this Company's team the contributor passes comment thus:

"... I have since seen the 5th play, and can confirm the news of their excellent football. On Nov. 21st they entertained the 2nd and gave them a defeat by 3 to 1. Readers will remember it was an awful windy afternoon, and I think this high wind was more against the 5th than the 2nd..... The 2nd were without Eric Moses, but had the assistance of Charlie Lincoln; they will have to combine better before they can do much this season; but in this game they played in the most plucky manner, Hanks, Ives, Rudland, Harold Moses, J.Zala, F.Lincoln, and W.Hawkins all doing excellent individual work."

There was also noticed in this Battalion Supplement a list showing recent promotions, and leave is taken to reproduce herewith the names of members of this Company who had been so honoured:

To be Corporal:-

J.Zala	(2nd Enfield Co.)
F.Ives	( " " " )
C.Rudland	( " " " )

To be Lance-Cpl:-

A.Morby	( " " " )
E.Zala	( " " " )

One other item which took the writer's eye as he perused this ancient periodical was found under a heading of "Answers to Correspondents". The item concerned was a reply addressed to an individual whose name, or 'non de plume', was Tertius, and it briefly said, "You really can't expect to get a decent tie for 3d. (!!) (The exclamation marks are the authors.)"

1903 saw the appearance of a Swimming Shield, put up for competition between the Companies comprising the Enfield Battalion. To this Company went the honour of being the first holders of that fine trophy, and, such was their competence, they succeeded in retaining it for the two following years. But in addition to their competence, it also showed a very marked keenness, for a reason which Mr. Jenkins has indicated for us in this recollection of those times. He writes thus, "For many years we were the leaders in the Battalion Swimming: this was all the more remarkable because we were about 4 miles from the Enfield Lock Baths which could only be reached by walking. On Wednesday evenings about 30 Officers and boys would make this journey, with the result that many learnt to swim and to swim well."

We have now arrived at the season 1906-07, and here again, is a season which lays claim to noteworthiness, and on three counts. The first is for the fact of the Company Football Team's success in winning, for the first time, the Battalion Football League Shield. That shield has been won many times since, but one does not doubt that that particular victory must have had a sweetness and joy of its very own.

The second feature is provided by yet another victory in the field of sport, and again, by reason of its being an initial success, was it an occasion for exceptional rejoicing. Think you not, that to win a trophy at the 15th attempt is more than ordinarily noteworthy? Such was the case with this Company and the Athletic Sports Cup, a Cup which nowadays is famous throughout Enfield, and, indeed, further on than the boundaries of that district. Here are the words of Mr. Jenkins who writes in brief fashion of that notable occasion, thus, "..... and what a day that was! The Cup was carried by Percy Roddis, standing on Fred Lincoln's shoulders, all the way from the Town Park. All Bush Hill Park seemed to turn out, and I think one has to admit that the customers of the "Salisbury" came out to give us the heartiest cheer of all!"

So came the Sports Cup to Bush Hill Park in the year of 1907. And so has it come on many occasions since, and always have the people

of Bush Hill Park given to the Company congratulatory applause with a show of right goodwill. Even when the Company has returned home without the Cup (and this has, on occasions, been known to happen!) that show of interest and affection has not been lacking, and in place of the congratulations have come expressions of encouragement and cheer for the future.

It is an honour indeed, to take this opportunity of extending to those people of Bush Hill Park who display such interest, and loyalty, and pride, in a Company which is obviously very dear to them, the very sincere thanks and appreciation of all who have served in the ranks of this, the 2nd Enfield Company of the Boys' Brigade, and who have had the thrill of being "welcomed home" in such warm fashion as has been, and, we pray, forever will be.

We come now to the third reason why the season 1906-07 is worthy of special notice, but the setting for this item varies considerably from that which concerned the two points of interest just previously expressed. And yet there is something of a connection between them and this fact which we now introduce, for we find ourselves concerned with one who at once was a very great gentleman and a fine sportsman... the Rev. Henry George Gray. He had succeeded Mr. Farrington as Minister to the Avenue Congregational Church, and had quickly established himself in the affections of the boys of the Company, for he was possessed of those two valuable qualities which, perhaps more than any others, earn for a man the sincere respect and the popularity of boys, Sportsmanship and Good Humour.

It was, perhaps, at Camp, that Mr. Gray came really into his own; and, known affectionately - and in no way impertinently - by his nickname of "Dolly", he was always a welcome guest. Camp gave full scope to those assets of his, and be sure, he employed them to the full in his endeavours to make life more fuller and of useful purpose for the boys with whom he came into contact. What old boy who heard it will forget the sermon he preached at one Camp when he took as a text part of the 13th verse from the 5th chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew, ... "Ye are the Salt of the Earth." True it is that the ever lively Staff, always on the lookout for some fun, pounced on that text and insisted, with naive impudence, that they, at least, were the Salt of the Camp! But perhaps it was that the good natured humour that Mr. Gray brought to play on these fellows did much to drive home the profound truths that lay behind his words.

But mention of the nickname that was attached to Mr. Gray, has prompted the thought of how such names have become associated with many members - Officers as well as boys - who have served with the Company. It seems probable that each succeeding generation has coined and attached to the personalities of its time a name that is appropriate to that individual - or to circumstances applying to them - (though often the underlying significance of these pseudonyms is lost once they have become "stuck"). It may, however, be of more than passing interest to some folk to be reminded of some of the nicknames which were - and in many cases, still are - used to define a particular person. There has already been reference made to Fred ("Bonker") Rose; to the nickname of "Dolly" which was reserved for the Rev. H.G. Gray, and also to the brief "J" which serves as an affectionate title among old boys of this Company whenever they refer to Mr. Jenkins. Then there is "Jumbo" Hewitt, and "Smudger" Smith, both of whom, in their time, were excellent goalkeepers for the Company football team: "Huffy" Barrett (two editions, senior and junior) and "Dusty" Sidders, all of whom were fine footballers: "Tich" Adams, a splendid swimmer; "Earwig" Page, "Nesty" Smith, "Rimp" Faulkner, "Chick" Payne, "Jelly" Coleman, and "Nunk" Playford. There is "Stew" Harrison, and those twin brothers Frank and Earnie Edwards, who gloried in those twin names of "Sausage and Mash"! And should it be that the mention of those last few names has set you wishing for a relish, then we offer you "Pickle" Perkins, who will be well remembered as an exponent of the "High Jump", the Battalion record of which he held for several years before that honour was taken from him by another 2nd Enfield lad, "Tec" Edwards, who, though he too has since lost his title of High Jump Record Holder, can still boast of his magnificent leap of 5ft. 7in. which

1930, won for him the, at present unbeaten, Battalion record for the 'Open' Long Jump. Then there is Percy Roddis who bore, stoically and uncomplainingly, the nickname of "Shirty". Mention of him has once been made - in that brief description by Mr. Jenkins of the coming of the Sports Cup to Bush Hill Park - and a further, and deserved, reference of his service to the Company in a higher capacity will be found later on in this book.

"Tod" Thompson was another nicknamed one who distinguished himself in Athletics (as did - though they bear not nicknames - his brothers before him, Will and Harry). Of late years the manner in which he used, while at Camp, to manage to get himself involved in "bundles" and "rough houses" earned for a present Officer of this Company the expressive attachment of "Shindy"! And so one could go on; but perhaps it is that the reader will be able to call to his own mind many such instances of those amusing nicknames which have, throughout the years, established themselves and those who they served to designate.

Returning to Company History, it can be explained that the good form displayed by the Company's representatives on the Sports field was maintained during the season that followed, .. 1907-08, and as a result of their endeavours the boys brought honour to the Company by recording themselves as winners of the Football, Sports, and Swimming competitions. Yet further distinctive honour was to come the way of the Company during the course of this season, and it is indeed a pleasure to record the nature of it. The Annual London Demonstrations, which from 1892 had been (and still are) a feature of the B.B. Movement, had by now grown so vast that it was necessary to house them in the Albert Hall, and it was there, in the year 1908 that the 2nd Enfield Company had, to their great credit, the honour and the privilege of putting on a Pyramid Squad. This achievement of the Company took place before the writer was born, and so he is unable to pass a personal opinion as to the manner, style, and execution of these Pyramid Routines! but, nevertheless, he has been assured that it was a display fully worthy of the occasion, and of great credit to the Company.

There has also to be set down, in writing of this season of the Company's History, the fact of Mr. Jenkins' resignation from the position of Captain of the Company. His great personality and ready assistance, however, was not lost to the Company, for he remained on to give fine service as a Lieutenant. His successor was a gentleman who, in many ways, had rendered splendid service, not only to the Company - with whom he served for a number of years - but also in other spheres of public work. Perhaps even now we can get a glimpse of his great character from the tribute paid him by Mr. Jenkins, who writes of him as being "one of the most lovable of men". This gentleman was, Mr. Harry Langley, and, it may be remembered, that mention has been made of him once before in this book, at the time when we were dealing with the B.B. Company it was proposed to form in connection with St. Stephens Church.

It is indeed good to know that the failure of that proposal to materialise did not rob the B.B. movement of such a great man as Captain Langley, and the 2nd Enfield Company have reason to be grateful to the good fortune which was theirs when that fine personality - Harry Langley - came to share in service with them.

We change the subject now to mention that the Annual Inspection March Past, and Sports of the Enfield Battalion had not, at the time

of which we write, yet come to be held in the Enfield Town Park. Nowadays, of course, such is the worthy hold of the B.B. on the people of Enfield, that a Whit-Monday without the B.B. Inspection and Sports in the Town Park is unthinkable; and it is true to say that thousands of people make an eager and anticipatory pilgrimage to the Town Park each Whit-Monday to give their support to, and to be entertained by the Enfield Battalion of the Boys' Brigade, of whom, there is no doubt, the people of Enfield hold in high regard. Neither can it be denied that this Sports meeting is unique unto itself. It is governed by a few simple and straightforward rules - which have varied little since they were first laid down: it has a picturesqueness which is entirely its own (the various Company colours - among which the Yellow of the 2nd Enfield has always been prominent - ensures that) while the fact that there is no prize, medal, or other award - other than that honour of being a member of a Company team winning the trophy - has effectively shut out any mercenary motive that might have otherwise crept in, and ensured that, in keeping with the principles of the B.B., the earnest endeavour of all who take part in the various athletic events shall be prompted by feelings of true Sportsmanship alone.

The 2nd Enfield Company is justly proud of its association with, and the reputation it has made at, these Annual Sports Meetings. In the sphere of success it has distinguished itself time and time again; in point of fact, the Company stands second on the list showing past winners of the Trophy, totalling a number which amounts to 16 in all, acknowledging the superiority - in the manner of past victories - of only one Company, the 1st Enfield, and to set against that fact is this one: that since the occasion of their first victory there is no other Company which has a record of success as the 2nd Enfield. But the Company's reputation has stretched beyond the boundaries of numbered victories, for it widely embraces the ready acknowledgement of friends, followers, onlookers, and rivals alike of being possessed of a fine and practical spirit of all that is right and proper in the conduct of sport, and the Company is, perhaps, as proud of that singular reputation as of the one that this latter forms a part.

It is only to be expected that, with a record of victories, such as now stands to the credit of this Company, there have risen in its ranks fellows who have distinguished themselves at the Sports to such good purpose that their performances have earned them the additional distinction of ranking as "records. An up-to-date list of Battalion Record Holders discloses that there are five records which stand to the credit of old members of this Company. In three instances the record performance is shared with fellows of other Companies who have succeeded in equalling, but not surpassing the record. Of the remaining two, one is the 'Open' Long Jump record by G. Edwards, of which a previous mention has been made, while the other one is the record time of  $57 \frac{3}{5}$  for the 440 yds. Open, which was set up by W. Thompson in the year 1909! One offers no excuse for drawing special attention to this record, for, as we write, it is full thirty years since, on the ground of the Enfield Football Club - then in Cherry Orchard Lane - that record was set up, to defy challenge and to remain until this day the second oldest of the Battalion Records. The oldest of these is the throw of 94 yards - in the Cricket Ball event - made by W. Lovett, of the 1st Enfield Company, in the year 1906; and, just as our friends of the 1st Enfield must look with pride on that magnificent achievement by one of their number, so do we of the 2nds look with like pride on that record "440", and upon the man who, as a lad, attained to such fine distinction.

We pass on now to the season 1909-10, and, once again, we find a season full of interest and incident.

The Battalion Football League Shield was won again, this victory making the fourth; all of which - having been won in successive seasons - testifies to the consistent strength and ability of the team, and leads one on to think that maybe the good advice offered them by, and through, the medium of the contributor in that "Brigadier Supplement" of 1903, mentioned earlier in this book, had been taken to heart (as should all good and sound advice) and profited by!

Also, this for the sixth time, came the Swimming Shield again to the Company. But more important than these victories stands the fact that once again the Company was honoured by being afforded the privilege of appearing at another Albert Hall Demonstration. The Squad which was chosen to represent the Company demonstrated Physical Exercises which were based on Sports and Pastimes, and such was the novelty and the excellence of this display that the Squad was invited, at a later date, to repeat that self-same display before the members of the Brigade Council, who had assembled in the famous "Dome" at Brighton. Incidentally, Mr. Jenkins, who, with the commission of a Lieutenant was still serving with this Company, held the responsible position of "E.C." at that Brighton demonstration, and, if we choose to pause here and to couple those two facts together, there is made, quite apparent, evidence of how this Company and those concerned with it, had made for themselves a name and a reputation which demanded the acknowledgement and respect which is the legitimate award to a great Company and great men.

We cannot pass on from this season of 1909-10 without placing on record one other noteworthy fact which intimately concerns this Company. There has, in this book, already been one brief reference to the Bush Hill Park (George Spicer Memorial) Congregational Church, and it was during the course of this season that the ceremony of the laying of its Foundation Stone was performed. This Company was privileged to be present at that momentous ceremony - which, with its wealth of hope and promise, meant so very much to those fine, enthusiastic and zealous stalwarts of the pioneer days - and, in its attendance supplied a Guard of Honour for the occasion. And so rose up a building, and with it, a Church with which this Company has remained in close connection, and it can be well said that the association, one with the other, has been happy and prosperous. It is with pleasure that one is able to record that many members of this Company have graduated into membership of the Church - even when they have been serving with the Company - a fact that has brought considerable joy to the Officers of both Church and Company, and brought immense benefit to the individual.

Season 1910-11, and the Company "became of age"! Yes indeed, we have progressed twenty-one years through the Company's history: and as we look back - as, at such a time there must have looked back the folk of that time - we can see made abundantly plain the great good and the immense benefit that had, up to such a time, resulted from that small and arduous beginning, now twenty and one years distant. Mr. Langley was still at the head of affairs, while of the Company it can be said that it remained well up to its high standard. It was during the course of this season that a Cup, to be competed for at Gymnastics, was put up by the Battalion. As seems to be the natural order of such events this Company succeeded in proving victorious, and one more trophy had the distinction of being won, on its first appearance, by the 2nd Enfield Company!

This success was repeated in the season 1911-12 which followed; the Swimming Shield came yet again to a victorious swimming team of the 2nds, while the Sports Cup - which for the past two seasons had been in other hands - returned for the fourth time to the safe and jealous keeping of this Company.

It is of passing interest to note - while mention is being made of the Athletic Sports - that the Enfield Town Park was by now



the established venue for them. For this privilege - and it is indeed that - the Battalion is ever ready to express its appreciation and thanks to the Enfield Urban District Council by whose generous permission this delightful and ideal place is annually made available.

It was with considerable surprise that, during the course of the research which was necessary for the collection of data and material on which to base this book, the writer unearthed the fact that there was, during the season 1912-13, a healthy "Scouts" section running in connection with this Company. Conclusive evidence of this section came when the writer was privileged to see a photograph which had been taken of four such members of this section standing together and with an Officer (who is Mr. Rose) and complete with those poles which are so much acquainted with Scouts. Add the fact that they are arrayed in Scout raiment - including the distinctive hat - and there seems little doubt that the section was going in for this idea of "Scouting" in a big way, and a certain amount of enthusiasm.

The reason for such a section may seem a little obscure, but it was probably centred in the fact that the Officers of the Company were constantly on the look-out for features that would prove popular and of benefit - in the respect of promoting good principles and sound ideas - among the boys of the Company, and at the same time, serve to uphold their interest in the B.B. movement generally. And this idea of "Scouting" had much to commend itself: it was very probable too, that the association which was formed in 1908 by Lord Baden-Powell - and which is now known the world over as the "Boy Scouts Association" - was holding out an interest to the boys that the Officers would have been foolish to despise. Therefore those boys of the Company who so wished for it were given the opportunity to indulge and interest themselves in this business of "Scouting", which, with its call to the open-air, and the interest stimulated in the process of working for its many and varied badges, has had marked influence on the characters of thousands of the boys who have passed through its ranks. It is only natural to find that there is a close bond of fellowship existing between these two fine organisations, "The Boys' Brigade" and "The Boy Scouts Association", for both have at heart the welfare and well-being of the boys of today..... the citizens of tomorrow. Evidence of this mutual regard is furnished by the fact that, on two occasions, Lord Baden-Powell has taken the chair at the B.B. London Demonstrations, an honour the B.B. has held in high esteem.

1913: Peace - 1914: War. Such a sub-title serves to introduce another season of the 2nd Enfield Company of the Boys' Brigade. Apart from the unfortunate importance attached to it through the aspect of the war, there are numerous other features which bring this season into prominence, and the most major of these concerns, once again, a change in the Captaincy of the Company, Mr. Percy Burford succeeding Mr. Harry Langley to that position of responsibility and honour. And there is attached to this change - important as it in itself undoubtedly is - a further fact of additional interest and considerable significance, for, with the acceptance by Mr. Burford of the position of Captain, it came to pass that the Company had at its head and for its leader, one, who, as a boy, had served in its very ranks! Such magnificent proof of the lasting value of service and association with the Boys' Brigade was deserving of better reward than that which proved to be, for, alas, it has to be recorded that, after serving in such capacity for only a few months, Captain Burford was compelled to relinquish his position that - as went the man whom he had succeeded - he might give active service in defence of his King and his Country.

Try as we may, it is difficult, when writing of this season, to get away from that shadow of war. Even at Camp was its effect felt, though, despite the disappointment that was manifest, there occurred an experience which was not without its touch of interest, excitement, and humour. It arises from the fact that at the time

when war was declared the Company had only just settled down to a keen anticipation of spending a week or so under canvas in Camp at Felixstowe. At the declaration of hostilities instructions were received from the Military Authorities that the Camp was to be immediately disbanded - and all boys returned to their homes - with the minimum of delay. (This order, of course, had as its probable object the fact that, being situated on the East Coast, there was an increasing risk of danger from hostile shipping.) One can well imagine the feelings of all those who were at that Camp, and though maybe the feelings of intense disappointment and reluctance were manifest, that order was obeyed without hesitation, and within a few hours the Camp had been struck and the Officers and the boys - with the exception of a few senior members who remained behind to supervise and carry through the final packing and dispatching arrangements - were on the way to home.

Judge then, for yourself, the surprise which came to those fellows of the "rearguard" when, some while later, they were approached by the Military Authorities who demanded of them an explanation of their presence in a zone which was now under the control of the Military. Explanations, one may be sure, were readily forthcoming, but, more for the interests of their personal safety rather than the fact that they were dis-believed, the fellows were taken into some sort of "protective custody", and for a time - and one is tempted to suggest that it was to their secret delight - they were "lodged" in one of the Martello Towers, of which several stood along that coastline.

But though, in that incident, there is a touch of humour and lightness, the sordid fact that the horror of war overshadowed the world cannot be denied. One expects to find nought else than the fact which is recorded here that many who had been members of this Company answered the call and went out to give service with the Colours. Officers and Old Boys, went they forth to fight in defence of their Faith, their King, and their Country. And many there are who are with us today and who bear upon them the scars of battle: some there are who returned to us robbed of precious faculties and talents, and yet display a courage and a cheerfulness that can put to shame those of us who suffer no such affliction. There are those who, as prisoners of war, endured hardship and great tribulation such as will for all time remain engraved on their memory, grim perpetuations of repugnant and dead past: each and all, they returned with a legacy that will not be shaken off.

And there were those who went forth, but did not return: who, on Flanders fields, or on the sea, in foreign land, or in the air, made, as had their Great Captain, the Sacrifice Supreme.

Be well assured, ye who now read, that the occasion of this Company's Jubilee was not to pass by without tribute - simple yet sincere - being paid to those of this Company who laid down their lives that evil might be overcome; that peace and justice might be restored; and that Christ's Kingdom might be brought ever nearer.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

In all reverence, let such be their epitaph.

And such was their example, that again, in this Country's hour of need, have gone out our young men. And, as went their fellows before them, so go those of our time in the belief that we shall respect their cause and honour their faith; asking only, that whatever sacrifice they shall be called on to give shall be used as a foundation for the setting up of a true and lasting peace, amid a new, and right, and honest Social order, such as Christ himself exhorted us so to do.

Let us see to it then - for it is of our concern - that faith be kept with those who sacrifice, even though it be of their all.

But though perhaps we may be excused the thoughts of war that are inclined to predominate our minds as we think of those years of 1914-1918 - and the parallel which, alas, is with us as we write today - and though it is well that we let our thoughts bear on the sacrifices that were made, let us not forget the Company and those who, by constant service in her ranks, kept her sound, and strong, and ever ready to play her part among the lads of Bush Hill Park, who, perhaps then, more than ever, turned to the Company to seek the means and the assurances that are to be derived from good comradeship and mutual regard.

And despite the many difficulties that came to beset her during those dark years of war, the Company continued to prosper, and to good purpose.

Among the many indications of the keenness and enthusiasm which prevailed at that time comes the fact of the distinction that came to two N.C.O.'s of this Company - Sergeants H.H.Hudson and A.W.Smith - ~~of~~ being the first recipients in the whole history of the Enfield Battalion to receive that coveted award, "The King's Badge"; an award, exclusive to Sergeants, and calling for a very high standard of all-round efficiency. Now it maybe a coincidence, but it is at least interesting to note that those two Sergeants are among those fellows who appear in that "Scouts" photograph of which mention was made earlier on. Scouts, as we know, are expected to perform "good turns", and, bearing that in mind, it will be readily admitted that Sgts.Hudson and Smith performed a very fine and worthy good turn, not only to themselves, but also to the Company, when they so distinguished themselves in qualifying for that high, and rather rare, award.

And if proof should be needed of the general efficiency of the Company, turn your attention to the season of 1914-15, which, by the way, was important unto itself for it was the 25th in the Company's history. In that season, 17 Perfect Records, and 32 Efficiency Badges were gained by boys of this Company, and, it must be said, that there have been very few occasions - if ever - in the whole history of the Company when such a magnificent record has been equalled.

A programme of the Annual Company Display of that season makes interesting reading, for it has listed in it the names of all who qualified for those awards. It will probably be of interest to many folk to renew acquaintance with those who were so very successful and efficient in their service with the Company; that being so there is appended here the lists that set out their names. The Perfect Record Awards were obtained by:

Serzt. A.W.Smith	Pte. C.Pollard (2)
Corpl. J.Griffith (4)	" E.G.Phillips
" G.King (2)	" A.Pike
L/Cpl. A.W.Phillips	" E.A.Rook
" F.Woodruff	" A.Farmer
" C.Staker	" C.Webb
Pte. J.E.Stearns	" H.Miles
" W.Hollyer (2)	" L.Saith (3)
" G.N.Kingsley	

(The numbers set in brackets indicate the number of Perfect Records now standing to the credit of those fellows against who the number is set.)

The Efficiency Badges were awarded, in addition to those who have been mentioned above, to the following:

L/Cpl. S.Griffith	Pte. J.W.Hogg	Pte. H.Thompson
" G.E.Simmons	" N.Stevens	" J.Killer
Pte. W.J.Pollard	" E.Brown	" H.Tyler
" F.White	" E.Denny	" A.Woodruff
" S.G.King	" L.Apps	" A.Simmons

Old boys, friends, and acquaintances of this Company will quickly recognise in those lists the names of many who, by reason of their genial personality, their talents, their good fellowship or exceptional enthusiasm, became exceedingly popular members of the Company, and typical examples of the sensible and cheery lads who, throughout its long history, have served with distinction in its ranks, and of whom the Company is deservedly proud.

It may well be - for so had it proved in years that had passed - that the great personality of Mr. Jenkins had much to do with the fine spirit and keen enthusiasm which prevailed in those times, for it has to be recorded that - as has constantly been the case when the Company has been in need - "J" stepped in and filled the breach, serving as Acting-Captain until such time as conditions returned to something more normal and favourable.

On the Sports and Athletic fields the Company continued to distinguish itself, and during the period covered by the four seasons 1915-16 to 1918-19, the Football and Swimming Shields, Sports and Gym Cups, all, at some time or other, found their way to Bush Hill Park. Indeed, the Company even succeeded in breaking fresh ground when, in the summer of the season 1918-19, they proved themselves the best of the Company teams of the Enfield Battalion, and so brought yet another trophy - the handsome Cricket Shield - home to the Avenue Hall.

But, more welcome than any Trophy, more sought after than any distinction, and more coveted than any honour, there came, in the course of that season..... Peace!

And, oh! how grateful were we for it!

#### Chapter Four.

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It seems fitting that, at this stage, we choose to start a fresh chapter, for was it not, that with the coming of Peace, there appeared to be presented a glorious opportunity for the taking of a fresh lease on life? The fact that - as we now know, and may it be to our profit - the appearances belied themselves is one to be deplored, and there is little need for us to dwell on the grievous difficulties, trials, and tribulations which, alas, effected so many of our number before the wheel of general prosperity began to slowly turn. Yet it is strange, and not a little remarkable, that the first full "Peacetime" season of this Company - 1919/20 - was one of outstanding merit, and exceptional in its prosperity. The record of the Company's successes during that season is indeed impressive: the Battalion Football League Shield was won again - this victory making the 11th standing to the credit of this Company: The Distin Cup - a trophy competed for at football between B.B. and C.L.B. Companies and Scout Troops of Enfield and district - was won for the 6th occasion and the 6th in succession. The Swimming Shield was, once again, and for the 10th time, awarded to this Company, while the previous seasons success in the Cricket competition was repeated. The Gym Cup - for the 5th time - and the Sports Cup - victory Number 7 - came, yet again, to Bush Hill Park. Nor do we stop there! for a new Battalion Trophy had appeared