

All Part of the Story

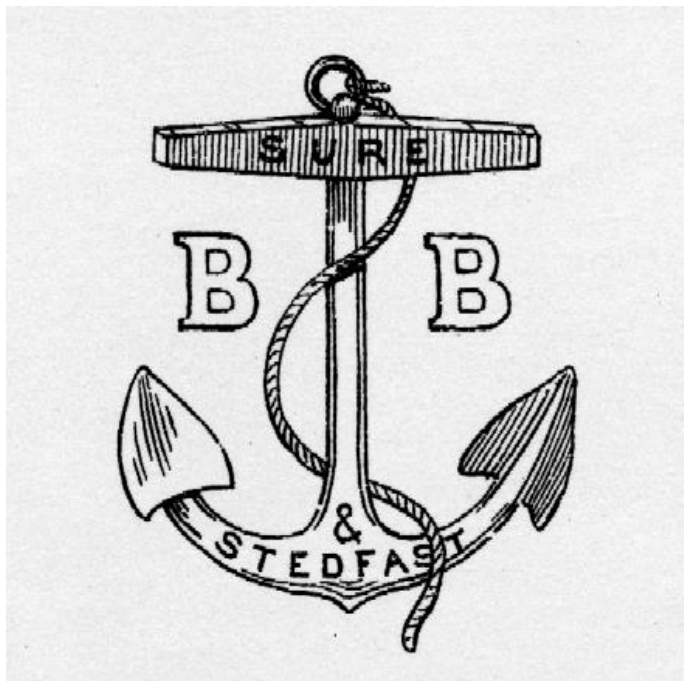
A CONCISE HISTORY *of* THE BOYS' BRIGADE
in the
ANDERSTON DISTRICT *of* GLASGOW



John N. Cooper

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COVER: *Colour Party of the 32nd Glasgow on the steps of Wellington Church, University Avenue, 1936. The Officer carrying the King's Colour is Tom Ewing, and carrying the Company Colour is Andrew McPherson.*

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*John N. Cooper
October 2004*

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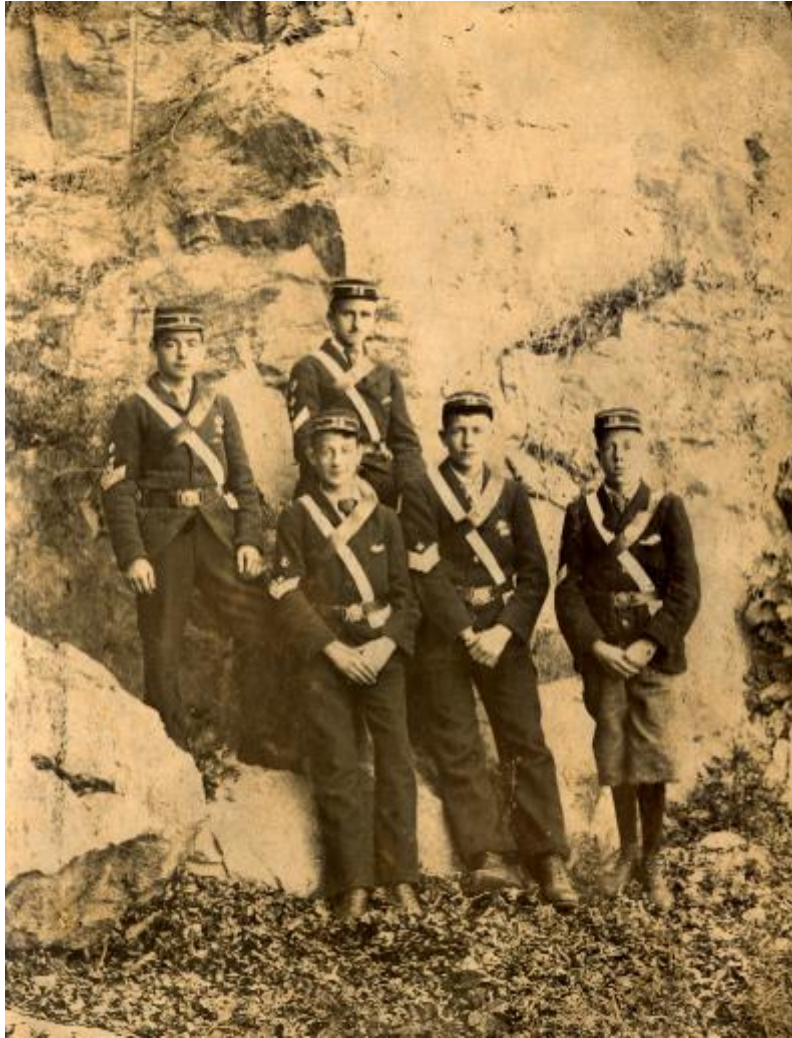
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Sergeants of the 32nd Glasgow - 1892

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Numerous histories have been written recounting the story of The Boys' Brigade (BB), indeed a number of BB Companies have produced localised versions of their own history. To date, no attempt has been made to record the collective presence and work of the various BB Companies who were active in the Anderston area of Glasgow. With the invaluable collaboration of Jim MacKenzie, current Captain of the 231st Glasgow Company (a former Anderston Company), and contributions from a number of other 'BB people', I am taking this opportunity to bring together our collective knowledge of The Boys' Brigade in the area in which we grew up - Anderston.

Wherever friends gather, thoughts and conversation often turn to the 'old days'. Few take time to consider that unless such reminiscences are recorded, they simply disappear. The very mention of the BB will invoke memories of time spent in the Organisation among every ex-member, who will have recollections particular to specific interests be it, Football, Camp, Band etc.. Thinking back to the days of our lost youth is what makes memories, or nostalgia, so potent. Those days cannot be brought back, but memories can be revisited. That is partly the reason why this history has been written but, perhaps more importantly, it is an account that will be available to future generations. This record of the BB in Anderston will provide not only documentary evidence, but will offer insight into how the Organisation worked and what it meant to be a member.

Every BB Company had to have a Church connection and, whilst the future of the BB in Anderston today may be somewhat uncertain, what is not in doubt is the tremendous influence the Organisation has had on thousands of youngsters who passed through the ranks over the years. It is well nigh impossible to fully measure the impact The Boys' Brigade had on the youth of Anderston; suffice to say the Organisation offered thousands of young lads direction and a positive outlet for their energies. The BB was an important part of growing up for many Boys and, through membership of the Organisation, countless lifelong friendships were established. The opportunity for Boys to develop and express hidden untapped skill was encouraged by their Officers, every one of whom was an un-paid volunteer. The positive influence of the Officers and Leaders, who often became role-models to the Boys, is incalculable.

So great was the proliferation of Churches in Anderston that it is no exaggeration to state that there were BB Companies operating within a two hundred-yard radius of one another. This history was originally intended to concentrate on the thirty known Companies active within the confines of Anderston proper but, as there were a number of Companies who became associated through local Churches uniting, or by amalgamation with other BB Companies, the boundary has been slightly extended to include all the Companies that existed close to the immediate periphery of the square mile that encompassed Anderston for they too are '*All Part of the Story*'.

To members and non-members alike, the BB is acknowledged as an important part of our country's heritage. We recognise that the work and existence of many of the BB Companies which operated in the Anderston area might soon be consigned to the vague mists of time and most likely be forgotten. Those who were members and knew the workings of the Organisation have a role to play in preserving this important part of Glasgow's history and, as no one has volunteered, I have undertaken to write the story.

A vast amount of information relating to individual Companies has been discarded over the years; accordingly, detail relating to some Companies is very scarce. We have, however, been fortunate in managing to gather documentary material from the very early days of some Companies. Without the vision of those who recorded and of those who preserved the surviving material, our knowledge and understanding of the past would have been more restricted.

Little did I realise when I joined the 32nd Glasgow Life Boy Team that, half a century later, I would still be associated with The Boys' Brigade. I have stored up wonderful memories of my time in the BB, in particular of the Officers and Boys I knew and of the events with which I was involved. Little can compare to the achievement and the excitement of staging a Company Concert, or forming a Band and hearing the finished product, of heading off to Summer Camp, or being involved in numerous District and Battalion events. There is quiet satisfaction in knowing that a number of our 'Old Boys' are currently giving service as BB Officers in Companies throughout the country.

It is a great pity that the BB is not as evident in Anderston, and elsewhere, as it once was. The lack of Companies means that the Boys of the future will be deprived of the experience that comes from being a member of such a splendid Organisation. It is easy to moralise, but I think it less than co-incidental that the decline in disciplined, Church-based youth organisations is commensurate with the growing problem of youth disorder. The knock-on effect of this problem is that society is experiencing rising crime rates and falling social and moral standards.

I offer no apology that some of this record will be intermingled with personal reminiscences and anecdotes; in so doing, I suppose, in a way, I am putting the 'his' into 'history'. My part in the BB is but a small contribution when measured against the story that will unfold. Hopefully, something of the fun, comradeship and activities that many Boys shared in their formative years will be conveyed to the reader and, thereby, happy memories of bygone youth may be revived.

This history is dedicated to the thousands of Officers, Instructors and supporters who devoted their time, skills, energies and resources to the work of the Boys' Brigade. Whilst this history is primarily focused on the Anderston district of Glasgow, many of the reminiscences will no doubt be applicable wherever in the world the BB had a presence for they, too are "*All Part of the Story*".

*John N. Cooper
Neilston
Glasgow
October 2004*



*A Sergeant of the 32nd Glasgow c1900
The dummy rifle was not capable of being fired.*

All Part of the Story

PART ONE

SETTING *the* SCENE

Defining the Boundary

What area actually defines Anderston? There are those who would argue that Anderston is that part of Glasgow in the immediate vicinity of where Anderston Cross once stood, while to the east is the Broomielaw with Blythswood to the north; to the west is Cranstonhill and Sandyford. Historically, much of those areas formed part of the ancient Lands of Stobcross and it is on this basis that I have adopted the following boundaries for the purpose of this history. The eastern boundary is defined as Hope Street at the Central Station while Finnieston Street marks the border in the west. The boundary to the north is Berkeley Street and Bath Street while the River Clyde provides a natural barrier to the south. The total area is just over one square mile.

Brief Historical Background

John Anderson laid out a village in 1725 on part of his Estate of Stobcross. Perhaps in an effort to gain some level of immortality he named the settlement after himself, Anderson Toun, or Anderstoun, eventually becoming Anderston. The village developed a reputation as an important weaving community and, before long, the success of the textile industry transformed the pleasant country village, nestling on the outskirts of Glasgow, into an industrial town. As the cotton industry gave way to heavy engineering, shipbuilding and locomotive manufacture brought new prosperity. Commercial and industrial success demanded a larger workforce, resulting in a dramatic rise in the local population. In 1824 the town was raised to Burgh status and, twenty-two years later, the Burgh was annexed to Glasgow.

Victorian Anderston

By the latter half of the Nineteenth Century, Glasgow, the Second City of Empire, was highly industrialised, producing every type of commodity imaginable. Despite the industrial wealth of the city, Anderston, with a population of around 12,000, was a haphazard mixture of commercial and residential properties. A great many of the buildings that survived until the 1960s were erected during the 1850-1880 period. There were however, many older dwellings that were dilapidated and barely fit for human habitation. Hardship and poor-health was rife among certain sections of the artisan population.

During the late-Victorian era crime and drunkenness among 8 to 12-year-olds were not uncommon. Barefooted children playing in the streets was a common-sight, a legacy not eradicated until the 1930s. It was against such a background that twenty-nine year old William Smith, a Sunday School teacher in the College Free Church Mission at North Woodside Road, invited Boys aged 12-17 to join his new organisation.

Prior to Smith's initiative, few organisations succeeded in offering activities that were able to cater for the exuberance of youth. Local Churches, always at the forefront of charity work, tried with varying degrees of success to respond to the problem of mischievous, high-spirited teenagers. The value of gathering adolescents into a disciplined organisation was obvious; at a single stroke the youths would be kept off the streets and out of potential trouble whilst, at the same time, Christian values could be instilled into them. A number of institutions did pioneer work with adolescents, chief among which were the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) founded in 1844, the Band of Hope (1851) and the Glasgow Foundry Boys Religious Society (1861).

There was a transparent gap separating the youths of Sunday School age from those not old enough to gain entry into the YMCA, an organisation that appealed mainly to older teenage middle-class youths. It is important to remember that during the late Victorian period many fourteen-year-olds were working and earning a living; no doubt they considered Sunday School inappropriate activity for a 'working man'.

‘REVEILLE’

‘Rise Up O Men of God!’

William Smith, an Officer in the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers (LRV), the Territorial Army of the Nineteenth Century, in consultation with two colleagues, John and James Hill, launched a new Organisation cleverly designed to cater for the physical energies of teenage Boys. In so doing, Smith successfully managed to fill the ‘teenage vacuum’ between Sunday School and YMCA. Smith, who had a good understanding of the Boys in his Sunday School class, launched his experiment in the upper-working-class housing area of North Woodside, on 4th October 1883, in the College Free Church Mission at 329 North Woodside Road. He called the club ‘The Boys’ Brigade’. It quickly became clear to any doubters that this novel approach, to what was essentially an extension of Sunday School work, was proving successful and, before long, groups were being formed in other parts of the city.

A meeting of those who had indicated an interest, or who had established a ‘Boys’ Brigade’ group, was convened in Smith’s home at 4 Ann Street, (Southpark Avenue), Hillhead, on the 26th January 1885. In attendance were James and John Hill, J.B. and J.R. Couper, E.W. Hamlen, F.P.R. Ferguson, William Nicholl and of course, William Smith who presided over the meeting. This gathering established the first Council of The Boys’ Brigade and it was agreed that each new group, or Company, would be allocated a number denoting the order in which they had been enrolled. William Smith’s original group became the 1st Glasgow Company of The Boys’ Brigade. The Object of the new Organisation was agreed as: *The advancement of Christ’s Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.* The word ‘Obedience’ was added to the Object at a later date. The Council also adopted the emblem that Smith was already using for his Company, an anchor with the motto ‘*Sure and Stedfast*’, adopted from the New Testament passage (Hebrews Chapter 6v19); “*Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast*”. The original spelling of ‘Stedfast’ was adopted from the Authorised Version of the Bible.

Why an Organisation based largely on the Volunteer system should choose a naval symbol for an emblem has been the subject of much debate and speculation. Perhaps the answer may lie in the fact that many of the early BB Officers had close association with the Glasgow Foundry Boys Religious Society (GFBRs), founded in 1861. Not only did members of the GFBRs wear a uniform of cap, belt and haversack, printed on the cover of their Hymn Books, published in 1870, was an anchor, not dissimilar to the one adopted by the Brigade some fifteen years later. It is also possible that Smith may have taken inspiration from the anchor, with the wording ‘*Sure & Stedfast*’, engraved on the Bell-tower of the Seaman’s Bethel (1876) a Mission Hall in Brown Street, Anderston. The reason why an anchor was chosen is lost to history, but the BB Anchor is readily identifiable across the world as the emblem of the Movement.

The fact that Smith was able to call a meeting of other like-minded individuals in January 1885 is evidence that a number of groups must have been in existence as early as 1884. However, there being no formal method of registering the very early Companies prior to 1885, it is difficult to ascertain the chronological order of formation, or just how many Companies may have been operating prior to the inaugural meeting of January 1885. Such was the uptake in forming local Companies that by October 1885 there were enough Companies active within Glasgow to form the Glasgow Battalion. Within a few short years news of the BB had spread, not only beyond the city limits but also across the oceans, and by 1886 Boys’ Brigade Companies were being formed as far away as Australia.

In densely populated areas the importance of youth work could not be over-emphasised. Amid the soot-blackened tenement properties of industrial Glasgow the BB carried out tremendous youth work. William Smith placed such high value on each individual member that he always spelt Boy with a capital ‘B’. And so, by way of a tribute to the Vision of William Smith, wherever the word Boy appears in this text a capital ‘B’ will be used.

Throughout this text, to save unnecessary repetition, the appendage ‘Glasgow’ will, from time to time, be omitted from Company designations, for example, the 115th Glasgow Company might appear simply as 115th, or as ‘115’, or alternatively, ‘ONE-ONE-FIVE’.

The BEGINNINGS in ANDERSTON

'Soldiers of Christ Arise!'

Contained within the square mile of Glasgow that primarily encases the district of Anderston, over thirty BB Companies are known to have existed over the last one hundred and twenty years. Why should the BB have taken so strong a hold in such a confined area? The latter part of the Nineteenth Century was a period of Christian Revival. Moody and Sankey the American Evangelists (the Billy Graham of that era) had a profound effect on the British public. Many converts turned to social work within the community and this Christian Revival and endeavour ensured support for the fledgling Boy's Brigade.

Most of the early BB Companies were affiliated to Churches that operated Mission Halls in the poorer, working-class areas and, undoubtedly, the Mission workers realised the merit of having such an Organisation; fuelled by their Christian missionary zeal and vision, The Boys' Brigade quickly became established. It is interesting to note that many of the original Officers serving in the Anderston Companies were not only acquainted with William Smith, the Brigade Founder, they resided in the same well-to-do locality of Hillhead. The first Company to operate in Anderston was the 2nd Glasgow, enrolled in 1885. The Company met in a Mission Hall which stood on the corner of Richard Street and Paterson Street, just behind where William Street Clinic of more recent times stood.

For many Boys, as well as offering an inexpensive evening's activity, the BB opened up new opportunities for personal, social, physical, educational, and spiritual development. Individual Companies set a modest annual levy based on what it was reckoned most families could afford; the sum set was usually about sixpence and a weekly offering of one penny was also collected. All income thus generated was spent on activities for the Boys or on purchasing equipment. Such were the management skills of the Officers, coupled to generous donations from benevolent supporters, that Companies were able to procure uniforms, football kit, camp equipment, band instruments etc.

THE BB STRUCTURE

The Local Company

All BB Companies had to have a direct Church affiliation, or connection to a Christian organisation, whose authorities appointed, or approved, a specific Officer to be Captain. It was the Captain's duty to oversee the administration and smooth running of the Company. Other Officers were appointed to the rank of Lieutenant. A Bandmaster or Pipe Major was appointed if the Company had a Band. Every Company was identified with a local designation e.g. 1st Glasgow; 2nd Glasgow; 1st Edinburgh, and so on.

A Boy was eligible to join The Boys' Brigade as soon as he reached his twelfth birthday. BB members were required to attend Company meetings in uniform and on time. Most Companies issued 'Company Notes', usually included in the membership card, which required *"Every Boy to read a few verses of Scripture every day, and never neglect private prayer, morning and evening. Be a total abstainer, and never use bad language in any shape or form."*

A combination of age and merit usually found a Boy progressing through the ranks to Lance Corporal, Corporal, perhaps finally achieving the rank of Sergeant. Upon discharge from the Company, at seventeen years of age, the rank of Staff Sergeant was conferred on those young men invited to assist with Company activities as potential Officers. Most BB Officers progressed through the ranks of the Company in which they had been members. Through this local recruiting system not only did Officers acquire their skills in teaching various activities, it also ensured that Company traditions were passed on. Without doubt, tradition handed down was what helped give Companies their identity and uniqueness. Pride in Company history helped fuel inspiration for the future.

The majority of the early Companies held their meetings mid-week, on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. The programme was fairly basic, Drill took up a major part of the evening and, to add interest, dummy rifles were later introduced. With the introduction of the dummy rifles, volley-firing practice and bayonet-drill became a part of the programme. Physical Exercises (P.E.) also proved very popular during the formative years. The Boys carried out their P.E. routine while still dressed in their outdoor clothes and uniform! The dummy rifles were also incorporated into the physical exercise routines. As the Brigade grew in popularity a tiered programme of other interests, rewarded with certificates, and proficiency badges, gradually supplemented the core activities of Drill and Physical Exercises.

By the early Twentieth Century, Friday evening had more or less become the accepted Meeting, or Parade Night. A typical Parade Night programme usually included Drill and Physical Activities. Later Classes included Ambulance, Scripture Knowledge and Camp-craft. Most Companies had a separate informal evening for a 'Boys' Room' or 'Club Night' especially reserved for indoor games and social activity. Sunday morning Bible-Class was mandatory for all Companies. However, a number of Companies had difficulty in organising a suitable venue, and simply made use of the existing Sunday School arrangements associated with the parent Church.



Boys of the 9th & 32nd Companies dressed in their 'Sunday Best' (1892)
The original photograph was taken during Summer Camp at Strachur, Argyll.
Three rows of braid on a Boy's cap indicated his status as a Bandsman.

All Part of the Story

PART TWO

‘BB COMPANIES ACTIVE in ANDERSTON’

Everyone will have their own opinion as to which Company was the best. The answer, I suspect, is that whichever Company we were attached to earned that title. The secret of a successful Company was the willingness, commitment and enthusiasm of the Officers, which sparked a positive response from the Boys who, in turn, further motivated the Officers.

The strength of the BB lies not in decisions taken at BB Council Meetings, in massed Parades or in Battalion events; the secret lies in the work carried out by ordinary Officers who share a common vision for the work of the Company and the Boys. Each Company was, and remains, the most important basic unit. Those with an interest in, or understanding of, BB work will no doubt endorse the statement that “*BB Officers are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job*”.

For administration purposes the Companies of Glasgow Battalion were quite early formed into Districts. The Anderston Companies were affiliated originally to Western District, from part of which the later Kelvingrove District was created. The designation was altered to Blythswood for a number of years, before reverting once again to Kelvingrove. The two surviving Companies currently active in Anderston today now form part of Partick District.

Given the close proximity of the various Companies within the area, friendly, and sometimes intense, rivalry was often in evidence. The keen competition ensured that the Officers had to be on their toes; there was no time for complacency if a Company hoped to remain numerically strong and competitive. Of necessity, the following record focuses mainly on Company Officers, rather than the Boys. Quite simply, other than those members who went on to become Officers, it is impossible to know what became of the thousands of Boys who passed through the ranks of the local BB Companies.

Both World Wars had a debilitating effect on the work of a number Companies. Officers and Instructors ‘called up’ for military service were no longer available to run Company activities. Blackout restrictions coupled to the unavailability of premises and resources during wartime, meant that some Companies had to restrict or suspend activities.

Anderston was predominantly a working-class area and, despite the difficult circumstances experienced by many families, there existed a supportive community spirit. Aware of the plight of certain families, neighbours offered quiet support and encouragement in times of need. Like most areas of Glasgow, the community took great pride in local achievements, and no more so was this expressed than in support of “their Boys’ Brigade Companies”.

Those acquainted with Anderston could not fail to notice, or wonder, how the number of Church properties that were at one time dotted throughout the community came to be. The brief explanation is, that following internal conflict within the Established Church (Church of Scotland), referred to as the ‘Disruption of 1843’, breakaway groups formed congregations which erected new Church properties under the auspices of the ‘Free Church’. The passage of time saw the formation of other denominations, hence the number of Church buildings that once stood throughout the area. It is interesting to note that the evangelical spirit and drive of the Free Church saw the formation of more Companies during the early days of the BB than did any other Christian denomination.

In spite of surviving the deprivations of two World Wars, the destruction of the Anderston community caused by the ill-planned Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme of the 1960s brought about the final demise of many BB Companies. Quite simply, BB Companies cannot exist where there are neither Boys nor Church.

REGISTER of ANDERSTON COMPANIES

1880s	1890s	1900s	1910s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s
2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1938	
7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	-	Disbanded - 1966	
9 th	9 th	9 th	9 th	9 th	9 th	-	-	-	Union with 32 nd - 1936		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 th	14 th	Disbanded - 1970	
-	-	-	17 th	17 th	17 th	17 th	17 th	17 th	17 th	Union - 41 st 1974	
22 nd	22 nd	22 nd	22 nd	-	-	-	-	-	Union with 2 nd - 1919		
25 th	25 th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1894	
28 th	28 th	28 th	28 th	28 th	28 th	28 th	28 th	-	-	Disbanded - 1951	
31 st	31 st	31 st	31 st	31 st	31 st	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1934	
32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	32 nd	-	32 nd	32 nd
33 rd	33 rd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1899	
-	-	33 rd *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1907	
41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	41 st	Union - 227- 1980	
45 th	45 th	45 th	45 th	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Union with 17 th - 1912	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49 th	49 th	49 th
51 st	51 st	51 st	51 st	51 st	51 st	51 st	51 st	51 st	-	Disbanded - 1966	
-	-	-	-	59 th *	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1929	
-	-	62 nd *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1901	
66 th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1888	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82 nd	82 nd	Disbanded - 1974	
-	100 th	100 th	100 th	100 th	100 th	100 th	100 th	-	Union with 17 th - 1950		
-	107 th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1897	
-	115 th	115 th	115 th	115 th	115 th	115 th	115 th	-	Union with 32 nd - 1950		
-	-	-	-	200 th	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1928	
-	-	-	-	224 th	224 th	224 th	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1949	
-	-	-	-	231 st	231 st	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1936	
-	-	-	-	244 th	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1928	
-	-	-	-	-	246 th	246 th	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1941	
-	-	-	-	-	247 th	247 th	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1949	
-	-	-	-	-	248 th	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1935	
-	-	-	-	-	256 th	256 th	256 th	-	Union with 17 th - 1957		
-	-	-	-	-	282 nd	282 nd	282 nd	282 nd	-	Disbanded - 1965	

COMPANIES ACTIVE in the NEIGHBOURHOOD

1880s	1890s	1900s	1910s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s
14 th	14 th	14 th	14 th	14 th	14 th	14 th	14 th			Disbanded - 1970	
17 th	17 th	17 th								Union with 41 st - 1974	
19 th	19 th	19 th	19 th	19 th	19 th	19 th	19 th	-		Disbanded - 1951	
49 th	49 th	49 th	49 th	49 th	49 th	49 th	49 th	49 th		Still operating	
94 th	94 th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disbanded - 1899	
82 nd	82 nd	82 nd	82 nd	82 nd	82 nd	82 nd	82 nd	-	-	Disbanded - 1976	
111 th	111 th	111 th	111 th	111 th	111 th	-	-	-	-	Disbanded -1933	
-	-	-	-	212 th	212 th	212 th	212 th	212 th	-	Disbanded - 1961	
-	-	-	-	-	227 th *	227 th	227 th	227 th	227 th	Union-41 st - 1980	

NOTE: The 33rd, 59th, 62nd and 227th were numbers that had previously been issued to Companies that had ceased to operate; as vacant numbers they were re-allocated when new Companies were enrolled. Both the 14th and the 82nd operated outside the pre-defined areas, only becoming affiliated to local Churches during the 1960s. The 49th relocated to St. Columba (Gaelic) Church in 1977. The register has been arranged to indicate those Companies moving into the Anderston catchment area, by moving their designation from the lower to the upper section.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 1889-1899

Battalion Annual Returns indicate the popularity of the BB in Anderston and in the surrounding area during the very early years of the Brigade. This brief glimpse of membership statistics pertaining to local Companies will give some idea of the strength and appeal of The Boys' Brigade during the period 1889-1899.

Coy	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899
2 nd	42	25	36	20	27	17	18	27	16	32	50
7 th	53	25	N/R	23	N/R	N/R	N/R	34	40	57	42
9 th	59	84	69	85	56	72	68	69	63	71	65
14 th	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	29	39	34	46	48	50
17 th	48	41	55	46	28	46	38	45	36	39	45
19 th	34	43	50	64	57	42	44	37	40	38	50
22 nd	70	60	63	64	72	51	50	49	57	52	30
25 th	18	23	23	18	30	21	<i>Disbanded 1894</i>		-	-	-
28 th	38	35	32	41	44	30	38	31	34	33	32
31 st	80	50	52	16	N/R	N/R	22	26	33	40	30
32 nd	29	47	61	54	51	67	64	47	43	55	46
33 rd	28	27	19	N/R	28	18	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
41 st	51	53	35	N/R	26	34	42	40	N/R	N/R	22
45 th	30	25	39	33	35	36	32	28	24	23	31
49 th	54	40	35	43	20	25	35	44	53	49	50
51 st	28	31	22	N/R	N/R	33	53	41	40	51	38
66 th	-	<i>No record - Company disbanded 1888</i>					-	-	-	-	-
94 th	45	29	24	43	30	34	43	26	38	36	23
100 th	-	31	32	38	50	55	64	60	62	69	67
107 th	<i>Not yet formed</i>		21	45	43	38	47	41	29	<i>Disbanded 1897</i>	
111 th	<i>Not yet formed</i>		-	51	45	46	65	60	63	45	48
115 th	<i>Not yet formed</i>		-	-	30	30	41	36	36	55	45
Totals	707	669	668	684	672	724	803	775	753	793	764

N/R = No record of membership numbers



BRIEF HISTORY *of the* LOCAL COMPANIES



'Underneath the Banner'

Researchers will find ample references to The Boys' Brigade as a national movement, but will be hard pressed to find definitive records of local Companies and of their activities. In areas like Anderston, where the very configuration of the area has changed beyond all recognition since the 1880s, the problem of tracing BB Companies that were active is further compounded by Church unions, making it more difficult to keep track of which Company was affiliated to which Church and whether or not union of Companies took place. Much of the contribution local Companies gave to the life of the community has also been lost due to the dispersal of the indigenous population, which was hurried on by the comprehensive redevelopment programme begun in the 1960s.

We have managed to recall, with reasonable accuracy, events of up to fifty years ago and details of some of the Officers who were active in local Companies during the 1920s and '30s. Other than that, those Officers and Boys from the very early years whose names appear in Annual Reports are unfortunately, at best, shadowy figures today. It will become quite apparent that the records of some Companies were more complete and better preserved than were those of others.

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy, I apologise in advance for any omissions, or errors that may have inadvertently crept in. It is accepted that certain Companies may have ceased to function either before, or shortly after, the date indicated. It is also acknowledged that, in some instances, the recorded duration of official appointment of certain Officers is perhaps open to slight adjustment. In instances where Battalion Records are known to be at variance with actual facts, corrections have been made. Careful study of the Officers listed will indicate clear family involvement and, in other instances, will reveal the level of service that some Officers gave to the wider Organisation. It is interesting to ponder that even the most recent of those names mentioned throughout this history will, in time, become but a distant and obscure memory. Hopefully, the brief account of their service outlined in this history will be an inspiration for generations yet to come.

As will become clear, Officers working in Anderston Companies played an important role in influencing the shape of The Boys' Brigade. Hugh Reid (7th) and William Kidston (9th) formed part of the first Glasgow Battalion Executive Committee (1885). Laurence Smith, Captain of the 17th Glasgow, was appointed Glasgow Battalion Secretary in 1889.

Explanation of the abbreviations used throughout the following section:

U.P. = United Presbyterian; U.F. = United Free; C of S = Church of Scotland; Est. = Established Church. Changes in the denomination of the parent congregation are shown in parenthesis.

2nd GLASGOW

During the early autumn of 1884, two brothers, J.B. and J.S. Couper, and their colleague, R.A. Hannah, all of whom were active in the Anderston Branch of the Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society, submitted a request to the authorities at Berkeley Street U.P Church that they be permitted to form a new organisation for Boys, based along military lines. The Church authorities had serious doubts and reservations about permitting this new venture to use Mission premises "*to teach Boys the art of war*". However, it was agreed to allow the unit to be formed for a probationary period.

It is easy to understand how the Coupers became aware of The Boys' Brigade. The older brother, J.B., was well acquainted with William A. Smith, the Brigade Founder, through his association with the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers and, no doubt, both men spoke of their difficulties trying to control the Boys in their respective Sunday School Classes. Both the Couper brothers attended the meeting in the home of William Smith, on 26th January 1885, when the Council of The Boys' Brigade was first established. It was at that historic gathering that Smith and the Couper brothers registered their groups as the very first Companies of the Boys' Brigade. The Anderston Unit with, twenty-five members, was formally enrolled as the 2nd Glasgow Company of The Boys' Brigade with J.S. Couper appointed as the first Company Captain. 'J.S.' demitted charge of the Company on 21st December 1885 and was succeeded by James MacGilchrist.

While there can be no question about the 1st Glasgow it would be difficult to determine if, in fact, the 2nd Glasgow Company was the second Company to be formed; strange as it may seem the 17th Glasgow, by tradition, claim this honour.



J. B. Couper, founder Officer of the 2nd

J.B. Couper resigned as a Company Officer in April 1889, when he was elected Liberal MP for Maryhill and, although his direct involvement with the 2nd Glasgow was relatively short, he continued to maintain an interest and support for the wider work of the Battalion until his death in 1946.

The 2nd Glasgow Company met on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in a Mission Hall at 7 Paterson Street, on the corner of Richard Street (off North Street), just behind where William Street Clinic of more recent times stood.

During its fifty-five year existence the 2nd operated from three locations in the neighbourhood. Between 1919-29 the Company met at Blythswood U.F., Bath Street, then, in 1930, following the dissolution of Blythswood U.F., moved to Mains Street Original Secession, operating from their Church Hall in Blythswood Street.

The 2nd were represented at the first Battalion Bazaar, held in the St. Andrew's Halls during early March 1891. The Company provided a Drill Squad which performed a display of bayonet exercises. Records indicate that the Company was running a Swimming Club in 1903 and had entered a team in the Battalion Football League the following Session. A Flute Band formed in 1901 was unsuccessful; but, a later Bugle Band remained in existence for two decades until 1932.

Although there was a succession of five Captains between Sessions 1899 and 1904, statistics suggest that the regular change in leadership appeared to have little effect on the continuity or stability of the Company. When World War One broke out in 1914, John Smith and Charles Russell, two Officers, left the Company to serve with the armed forces. Both men survived the war. Following union with the 22nd in 1919, the Company was in a position to form a Section of the Boy Reserves, in 1922, under the leadership of the Company Captain, John Smith. The new Boy Reserves Section met on Mondays at 7pm in the hall of Blythswood U.F. Church, 256 Bath Street, which by this time, had become the Company Headquarters.

When the 2nd was disbanded in 1938, the number was reissued to a newly formed Company associated with Killermont Church. In time the 'Killermont' Company dropped the Glasgow designation in favour of its new title of the 3rd Bearsden Company. During the mid-1950s decanting of the inner-city population to outlying council housing developments saw the formation of a number of new BB Companies which were allotted vacant numbers. One such Company was established in the Drumchapel area of Glasgow in 1954 under the designation of the 2nd Glasgow Company; unfortunately this Company was disbanded in 2001.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 2nd Glasgow Company from 1885 until 1938

COMPANY	COMPANY	BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS
Session Captain	Session Captain	Session Leader-in-Charge
1885-85 J.S. Couper	1900-01 Kenneth Bain	1922-33 John C. Smith
1885-87 James MacGilchrist	1901-02 Robert P. Gow (<i>later 49th</i>)	1933-34 Andrew W. Jack
1887-89 R.A. Hannah	1902-04 John Smith Jr.	1934-36 George A. Polly
1889-93 James Dalrymple	1904-12 David W Crichton	1936-37 Rev. John Scott
1893-97 William Jamieson	1912-26 John C. Smith Jr.	1937-38 Miss Mary R. Faux M.A.
1897-98 George Watson	1926-33 John Smith	1939 - <i>Suspended</i>
1898-99 Herbert J.G. Lindsay	1933-38 Rev. John Scott	
1899-00 George Mendham	1939 - <i>Suspended</i>	

7th GLASGOW

The Company, which met on Wednesdays at 8pm, was formally enrolled on 8th September 1885, in connection with Claremont Street U.P. (U.F., later C of S). Under the supervision of the founding Officers - Findlay McFadyen, A. Buchanan, Hugh Reid and J.D. Norrie, the fifty-five strong Company met in a Mission Hall at 15 Warroch Street.



Sir Hugh Reid

Whilst records show that Findlay McFadyen, first Captain of the Company, remained in office for only three weeks, this does not accurately reflect the likelihood that the Company had probably been operating for several months prior to formal registration.

Mr. McFadyen was succeeded by Hugh Reid, who became a well-known and respected figure within the city business community (primarily due to his family association with the world-famous N.B. Loco Works at Springburn). When Hugh Reid resigned as Captain, in 1888, command of the Company passed to a succession of Officers who presided over the 7th, each for a single Session. Sir Hugh Reid, Bart., C.B.E., LL.D., D.L., was an Honorary President of the Glasgow Battalion from 1925-28 and thereafter served as an Honorary Vice-President until his death in 1935.

Concerns over mischievousness and behavioural problems are mentioned in the Claremont Street Sabbath School Mission Report of 1885, which records: *"The formation of a Boys' Brigade in connection with our Sabbath School is a new step taken this year. There are 75 boys on roll, 20 form the band. It is hoped that the Brigade may be especially useful in our School as it has always been extremely difficult to keep order among the boys and their unruliness is a great hindrance to teaching them..."* The Band referred to in the aforementioned report was a Brass Band, which was active from 1886 until 1889. By 1902 the Company was supporting two Bands, a Bugle Band, established in 1890, and newly formed Pipe Band.

In 1901, twenty Boys attended the first recorded Company Camp, held jointly with the 59th (Union U.F. Church Sabbath Schools, Paterson Street, Kingston). The venture must have been a great success as, the following year, the 7th organised their own Summer Camp with thirty-four Boys in attendance. The Company enjoyed modest sporting success during the early 1900s. In Session 1902-03 the Football Team won the Second Division Championship and, by way of indicating the diversity of interests, L/Cpl. A. McGregor won the Battalion Draughts Competition. The 7th established a Swimming Club in 1900, which proved very popular with the Boys. It is perhaps of little co-incidence that, in March 1902, the Company won the first of three successive Annual Battalion Swimming Galas and L/Cpl. C. Simpson was declared Battalion Individual Swimming Champion in 1904.

During the First World War, while Captain Alexander was absent from the Company on war service, the 7th was left in the care of the Senior Officer, Robert M. Moffat. It may be Captain Alexander became a casualty of war as he failed to return to the Company and a new Captain was appointed in 1919. Another two Officers of the Company were called to serve in the Great War, Ernest M Leith and Andrew Johnston; it is unclear if they survived the war. Twenty-three years later, in 1941, war was again to have an impact when the Company had to be temporarily suspended due to shortage of Officers. The Company was not able to resume normal activities until 1950 when Bill Menzies took over the Captaincy. Bill's wife, Nell, revived the Life Boy Team one year later in 1951.

Battalion Records indicate that the 7th continued operating from its original headquarters in Warroch Street until around 1956, after which, the Company appears to have gone out of existence. However, although averaging around only sixteen Boys, the Company is known to have remained active in the area as late as 1961; shortly after, the Company went into decline. A number of unsuccessful attempts were made to revive the Company, culminating in an effort to merge with the 51st in 1962, but the sharp decline in population, caused by comprehensive redevelopment, offered very little likelihood of success; the 7th succumbed and finally disbanded in 1962.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 7th Glasgow Company from 1885 until 1962

COMPANY		COMPANY		BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1885-85	Findlay McFadyen	1920-25	Robert M. Miller	1924-26	Alex Rankin
1885-88	Hugh Reid	1925-26	Alex Rankin Jr.	1926-27	Bruce Weatherhead
1888-90	A. Buchanan	1926-27	Adam G. Brown	1927-29	J.W. Aird
1890-91	W.R. Copland Jr.	1927-32	A.W. Miller	1929-31	Archibald Thomson
1891-92	John Moir	1933-35	Iain Howarth	1931-34	Robin B.C. Murdoch
1892-95	<i>No Record</i>	1935-36	Ian H. Carslaw	1934-36	Robert H. Leitch
1895-00	David Bell	1936-38	David M. Thomson	1936-37	David Yellowlees
1900-05	James Inglis	1938-39	Iain Howarth	1937-38	D.M. Thomson
1905-06	<i>Suspended</i>	1939-41	Rev. W. Smith	1938-40	Iain Howarth
1906-10	Alex. S. McKichan	1941-49	<i>Temporarily Suspended</i>	1940-50	<i>Temporarily Suspended</i>
1910-19	Arthur M. Alexander *	1949-56	W.S. Menzies	1950-56	Mrs. E. Menzies
(* On War Service 1916-19)		1957 -	<i>Suspended</i>	1956 -	<i>Suspended</i>
1916-19	Robert M. Moffat (<i>Acting</i>)	1962 -	<i>Disbanded</i>		
1919-20	Robert Brown				

9th GLASGOW

Although the 9th was affiliated to Wellington Church, located on University Avenue in the city's affluent West End, the roots of the parent congregation lay in Anderston. The original congregation was established in 1793 as the Secession Church, which met in premises at 19 Cheapside Street. The congregation relocated in 1827 to a new Church in Wellington Street from which it derives its title. The congregation finally moved to their present prominent site on University Avenue in 1884.

With a strength of fifty-two members, the 9th Glasgow Company was formally enrolled on 12th October 1885. The founding Officers of the Company were William Kidston, who was appointed Captain, Thomas Thomson and Andrew B. Fairlie.

The Company originally met in 1885 in Free St. Matthew's School, Main Street (later renamed Argyle Street). Two years later, in 1887, the Company is recorded as meeting in the Upper Hall attached to the Western Police Buildings at 55 Cranston Street. The 9th continued to meet in the Police Buildings until 1890 when they were able to move into the newly completed Allan's Halls (later renamed Stobcross House), 185 Stobcross Street. During the winter of 1886-87, William Kidston, a prominent and influential member of the Glasgow Battalion's first Executive, introduced the older Boys in his Company to '*First Aid to the Injured*' under the heading of the Ambulance Class. The Classes were held in the Hall of Wellington Church and instruction on First Aid was given by a leading West End practitioner, Dr. J. Macgregor Robertson, who became an Officer in the Company. At the end of a series of lectures and practical instruction the Boys were examined on their knowledge and understanding of First Aid; successful candidates were awarded with a badge which became the model for the first BB proficiency award.

A glimpse at the Cranstonhill Mission Sabbath School Records for 1886 reveals that the 9th Company was having a positive impact: "*The BB which is the latest departure in Sabbath School work has commended itself to the teachers in both our Mission Schools*". The Mission Companies referred to are the 9th, and the brother-Company, the 32nd, which met in nearby Piccadilly Street Mission Hall.

It was not unusual to have brothers serving as Officers in different Companies in the early days of the BB. In the case of the 9th and the 32nd, there were two sets of brothers working in the different Companies. William Kidston and Andrew Fairlie were Officers in the 9th, whilst John Kidston and Alex Fairlie served in the 32nd. Both Companies engaged closely with one another in combined activities and, beginning in 1888, joint Summer Camps were established. The 9th formed a Flute Band in 1888 and, later that Session, at Cranstonhill Baths, Sgt. A. McWatt entered the Battalion Swimming Gala and won the Individual Contest. The Company entered the Battalion Football League for the first time at the commencement of Session 1902-03.



The Band of the 9th Glasgow – 1892

In 1914, the Company replaced the Flute Band with a Pipe Band, which remained in operation until 1936. When the Company Captain, John Lyle, was sent to France in the service of his country, in 1916, the welfare of the 9th was left in the hands of James A. Crawford. Perhaps Captain Lyle failed to survive the war, as a new Captain was appointed in 1919. Other Officers of the Company called to war service included George T. Harvey, G. Stanley Milne and George C. McEwan. It is thought those men returned home after the war, however, another three Officers were less fortunate; Stanley Stark Brown was killed in 1916, and Herbert Henry and his brother John both died in action in 1917.

In 1922, a Company Officer, Lieutenant Thomas Anderson, was appointed to nurture the development of the newly formed Boy Reserves Section. The new Section met in the Cranstonhill Mission Hall at 185, Stobcross Street (Stobcross House) on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. During the 1920s Alan D. Cuthbert served as an Officer then, later, as Captain of the Company. Throughout his 'BB life' Alan Cuthbert, in a variety of roles, gave outstanding service to the Movement. After the Second World War, in his position as Battalion Treasurer, he radically transformed the finances of the Glasgow Battalion onto a sound footing. As well as presiding over a host of Training Activities, Mr. Cuthbert accepted the appointment of Deputy Commandant to Sir John Hunt at the BB International Camp held at Glenalmond, Perthshire, in 1963.

Throughout its long existence, membership figures suggest that the 'NINTH' was a well run and successful Company. Unfortunately, when Wellington Church decided to dispose of the Piccadilly Street Mission in 1936, home of the 32nd, the '32' was obliged to unite with its brother-Company, the 9th. It is unclear why the 32nd designation was adopted instead of the older Company number, however, when the 9th identity disappeared at the start of Session 1936-37, the entire staff of the Company remained to serve on the staff of the '32' which had relocated to the superior facilities at Stobcross House. Strangely, only one member of staff from the 32nd remained with the relocated Company, Lt. David Chesney, although three others were to return after a couple of years. Captain J. G. Watson Lee of the 9th was appointed Captain of the newly united Company. Fifteen years later, in 1951, Watson Lee became Captain of the 231st Glasgow Company attached to Stamperland Parish Church, a community to the south of the city; without doubt, he would have recognised the '231' number as that of a former neighbouring Anderston Company.

Glasgow Battalion of The Boys' Brigade purchased Stobcross House in 1949, adapting the premises for various activities including that of a Training Centre. The sale of the property to the Battalion caused the '32' to again look for a new home. This time they went 'over the hill' to St. Mark's-Lancefield Church at 725 Argyle Street, H.Q. of the 115th.

The 9th Glasgow designation was reissued in 1937-38, and a Company operating under that number is at present attached to Pollokshaws Parish Church.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 9th Glasgow Company from 1885 until 1936

COMPANY		COMPANY		BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1885-94	William Kidston	1918-19	Ian Grant	1922-27	Thomas Anderson
1894-99	Andrew B. Fairlie	1919-22	John B. Morrison	1927-29	A.J. McKechnie
1899-04	William McKerrow	1922-23	Rex B. Shepherd	1929-30	John McKenna
1904-06	William Nielson Martin	1923-30	Malcolm A. Allan	1931-32	G.R. Roxburgh
1906-19	John E. Lyle *	1932-33	Alan D. Cuthbert	1932-34	Daniel P. Hodkinson
(* On War Service 1917-19)		1933-36	J.G. Watson Lee (32 nd /231 st)	1930-31	James L. Macdougall
1916-19	James A. Crawford (Acting)	1936 -	Union with the 32 nd	1934-36	J.G. Watson Lee (32 nd /231 st)
				1936 -	Union with the 32 nd

17th GLASGOW

Formally enrolled on the 1st February 1886, the 17th was originally connected with St. George's Free (U.F./C of S) and met in their Mission Hall at 7 Kelvin Street (later renamed Balnain Street, off New City Road). John A. Roxburgh founded the Company in 1884; however, the Company was not officially enrolled until Laurence Smith, a good friend of William Smith the Brigade Founder, assumed Captaincy in 1885. The Officers who served alongside Laurence Smith during the first formal year of the twenty-five strong Company were Malcolm P. Douglas and John G. Logan. Laurence Smith was instrumental in helping lay the foundations of BB work in Glasgow and held the post of Battalion Secretary from 1889 until 1891.

Whilst the Company was enrolled as the 17th Glasgow, it was, according to tradition, the second BB Company to be formed. There is difficulty in substantiating or disproving this claim as, prior to October 1885, there was no proper system for chronological registration of the formation of Companies. Certainly, until the demise of the 2nd in 1938, their Boys were subject to good-natured ribbing by the Boys of the 17th who declared "*You're no' the real 2nd – We are!*"

Officers giving long service to the BB were not uncommon in many Anderston Companies and Malcolm Douglas at one time held the record of being the longest serving Officer in the Battalion. Malcolm Douglas was connected to the once well-known mercantile stationers Douglas & Douglas and had been an Officer in the Brigade from 1886 until his death some thirty-eight years later.



Laurence Smith - first Captain of the 17th Glasgow Company

The Company formed a Flute Band in 1887, followed by a Bugle Band in 1893. Three years after the Bugle Band had been started, as well as winning the Battalion Solo Bugler Contest, Band Sgt. James MacBroom was also declared the Battalion Individual Swimming Champion for 1896. The Company were outright winners of the Battalion Swimming Gala for Session 1897-98. The following year, first place in the Bugling Competition went to the aptly named Private David Horn. In 1899, Band Sgt. McArthur was first presented with the coveted Battalion Bugle Championship trophy, a competition he won the following year.

Around 1890 the Company started a Football Team and held the first of their Summer Camps at Kildavanan, Ettrick Bay, Isle of Bute. The 17th established a long tradition of combined Camps with different Companies. Their first experience of such Camps was with the 8th, 12th, 19th, 44th and the 93rd Glasgow Companies in 1901. The tradition was maintained well into the 1950s.

An interesting exchange of Captains took place during the 1890s between the 17th and the 107th. George Binnie was Captain of the 107th from 1891-96, a Company attached to St. Columba Established Church, Hope Street (a site now occupied by the Central Station). Binnie switched roles with Malcolm P. Douglas, who had been Captain of the 17th during a similar period (1892-96). Why this exchange took place is not known. At any rate, Binnie remained Captain of the 17th from 1896 until 1899. Malcolm Douglas, a founder Officer of the 17th, served only one Session with the 107th after which he took command of the 8th Glasgow, a Company which was affiliated to Queen's Park U.P. Mission (later becoming Polmadie U.F./C of S, Calder Street). Malcolm Douglas, who was a well-known and popular Officer in the Battalion, remained with the 8th until his death in 1924. Many members of the Douglas family served in Companies within the Battalion.

As mentioned earlier, it was not unusual for Officers to move between Companies; Alexander P. Mearns, transferred from the 58th to the 17th at the start of Session 1902 and here he remained until 1913 when he became Captain of the 101st. Among his many BB roles, Alex Mearns served as Convener of the Battalion Ambulance Committee from 1902 until 1913. William Mundell, after serving for a number of years as a Lieutenant in the 17th, became Captain of the 64th in 1921.

A Pipe Band was formed in 1911 which added an extra dimension to Company activities. The Company was fortunate in securing the services of two men who revitalised the Pipe Band in the early 1930s, Alex Kennedy who was appointed Pipe Major, and Willie Duncan, a member of Glasgow Corporation Transport Pipe Band, World Champions at that time, who tutored the drummers. The Band, which was fully re-equipped during the Company's Jubilee period (1935), remained operational until 1960.

The 17th had its first experience of amalgamation in 1912, following Church union between St. George's U.F., situated at 137 Elderslie Street, at the corner of Berkeley Street, and St. Peter's U.F., Mains Street (Blythwood Street), home of the 45th. Initially the union of the Churches did not affect the two Companies. The 17th continued meeting at Kelvin Street while the 45th remained at St. Peter's. At the start of Session 1911-12 the 45th had relocated to St. George's Church Hall and were joined there by the 17th the following Session (1912-13) resulting in the union of the Companies. The 45th designation was reallocated the following year, when it re-appears, affiliated to South Shawlands Church on the south-side of the city where it is still active.

A Boy Reserves Section was established in connection with the Company in 1921. The Section met on Thursday evenings at 7.45pm in the Church Hall, Berkeley Street, under the leadership of William A. Murray.

Perhaps the most notable person associated with the 17th was John A. Roxburgh, a wealthy ship owner, who was instrumental in establishing the Company. In common with a number of other BB Officers of that time, Roxburgh was well acquainted with the Brigade Founder, both having served as Officers in the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers.

Throughout his life Roxburgh was a tremendous stalwart of the Brigade. As well as serving as Brigade President during the Jubilee period (1932-34), he was also Honorary President of Glasgow Battalion for fourteen years (1919-1933).

Three brothers etched the 'Stanger family' name into the history of the 17th. Between them, the three brothers shared command of the Company for most of the period between 1919 and 1937; John Stanger was Captain from 1919-21, followed by James, 1923-27, and finally Edward, from 1930 until 1937. The period immediately following the last of the Stanger brothers presence in the Company was less settled. Between 1937 and 1941 there was a succession of three Captains. The Life Boy Team had to be temporarily suspended during the war but was successfully restarted in 1946.



*Sir John A. Roxburgh
founder of the 17th Glasgow Company*

Annual Inspections were held in a number of venues. After the Second World War the Boys' High School, Elmbank Street, was used for some years, followed by the Berkeley Ballroom (Bobby Jones's), the R.E.M.E. Drill Hall (Berkeley Street), and in the later years the main hall of the Christian Institute (Bothwell Street).

When the 100th (St. Matthew's-Blythwood, Bath Street) went into recession in 1949, George Smeaton, an ex-Lieutenant of the 224th (St. John's Episcopal, Houldsworth Street) and an Officer in the 100th, joined the staff of the 17th and became Leader-in-Charge of The Life Boy Team. The 100th was amalgamated with the 17th at that time. On moving to Drumchapel, c1954, George Smeaton continued as an Officer in the Brigade, serving for a few years with the 142nd (Drumchapel Congregational Church); his brother, Thomas Smeaton, had been an Officer in the 115th c1920-25.

James H. Coutts, Captain 1899-1919, had a brother, Alexander E. Coutts who served with him as an Officer in the Company. Oliver Crabb, Captain 1937-38, also had a brother, James A. Crabb M.A., who served as an Officer in the Company before becoming a minister in the Church of Scotland.



17th GLASGOW COMPANY in their JUBILEE YEAR (1935)
Front Row Centre: Sir. John A. Roxburgh, Rev. R. H. Thornton M.A. (Chaplain), Captain Edward Stanger

The 1960s

With the impending closure of St. George's & St. Peter's Church (Elderslie Street) in 1957, the 17th relocated to Anderston & St. Peter's Church, situated on the junction of Argyle Street and St. Vincent Street. The Company operated from this venue until 1963 when, due to the pending union of the three remaining Church congregations in Anderston (Anderston Old, St. Mark's-Lancefield, and Anderston & St. Peter's), the 17th amalgamated with the 32nd. Similar to what the 32nd had done some twenty-seven years earlier, the 17th moved into the HQ of the '32' (St. Mark's-Lancefield) however, on this occasion, it was the older Company's number that was retained. The Company operated from St. Marks-Lancefield until the new Anderston Parish Church was completed in 1968.

According to Battalion Annual Reports the 17th had five Officers on roll immediately prior to the union of 1963-64. Willie Bruce (former Captain) retired, Jim MacKenzie resigned for business reasons and Eddie Douglas emigrated. It appears that a fourth Officer, Joe Keogh did not continue. This exodus left only Bert Warner to join with the staff of the '32' at St. Marks-Lancefield. However, at the start of the union another Officer, R.R. Campbell appeared, along with around six Boys from the 17th (a small part of its former complement), to help consolidate the new united Company. Under the command of Jimmy McKail (ex-32nd), the Company got down to devising an activity programme designed to keep the Boys interested. When an attempt at establishing a Bugle Band failed, the emphasis was focused on keeping the Brass Band inherited from the union alive. Intake of new recruits to the Company helped strengthen the Band which, at that time, was under the musical guidance of John Wilson (ex-32nd). The Brass Band combined for a number of engagements with the Silver Band of the 227th. The combined Bands, under John Wilson's direction, featured heavily in the Partick District Show, "*Enterprise Partick '68*".

At the time of the union with the 32nd the newly united Life Boy Team was placed in the care of Betty McCallum (ex-32nd), who was ably supported by her brother John, and by Cathy Warner, former Leader-in-Charge of the 17th Life Boy Team.

In an attempt to cater for the more mature interests of the older Boys the Company established a Senior Section in 1967. Activities included car-mechanics, photography and weekend camps. The 'Seniors' were also given the responsibility of producing the Company magazine - '*The Company Chronicle*'. There was a change of roles in the Company in 1969 when John Cooper, who had succeeded John Wilson as Bandmaster, resigned from the Band and the Senior Section to concentrate on expanding the Junior Section; both vacancies were filled by Bill Menzies (ex-7th/51st).

Unfortunately the 17th did not enjoy much of a settled continuity. While the Junior Section managed to retain around forty Boys, the Company Section began to decline during the early 1970s. A Minister, newly arrived at Anderston Parish Church, was unsympathetic towards uniformed youth organisations and quickly formed the opinion that the BB were utilising facilities that "*could accommodate hundreds of young people throughout the week*". The relationship between the Minister and the Company deteriorated to such an extent that it caused the Company to leave the new Church at the end of Session 1973-74 and unite with the 41st at Kent Road - St. Vincent. The planned evening youth club at Anderston Church never amounted to much and the halls lay virtually devoid of youth until a BB presence was once again established in 1977 in the form of the 41st.

At the time of the amalgamation with the 41st, Jimmy McKail, Bert Warner and Roy Laing, all long-serving Officers in the Brigade, recognising that the '41' was well supported by Officers, resigned, making way for the staff already at the 41st augmented by younger Officers of the 17th.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 17th Glasgow Company from 1884 until 1974

COMPANY CAPTAINS

Session Captain

1884-85 (John A. Roxburgh)
1885-87 Laurence Smith
1887-88 Malcolm P. Douglas
1888-92 Laurence Smith
1892-96 Malcolm P. Douglas (*later 107th*)
1896-99 George Binnie (*ex-107th*)
1899-19 James H. Coutts
1919-21 John J. Stanger
1921-23 George Auld
1923-28 James Stanger
1928-30 Logan Smith
1930-37 Edward Stanger
1937-38 Oliver Crabb
1938-47 Ian Couper (*ex-41st*)
1947-60 William A. Bruce
1960-63 Bert S. Warner
1963-74 James McKail (*ex-32nd*)
1974 - *Union with the 41st*

SENIOR SECTION

Session Officer-in-Charge

1967-69 John N. Cooper (*ex-32nd*)
1969-72 Bill Menzies (*ex-7th/51st*)
1972- *Senior Section suspended*

BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS - JUNIOR SECTION

Session Leader-in-Charge

1921-23 William A. Murray
1924-25 William McFarlane
1925-29 Edward Stanger
1929-35 Oliver Crabb
1935-38 Hugh McCreath
1938-40 John A. Bruce
1940-46 *Temporarily suspended*
1946-48 George Phillips
1948-49 Mrs. J. Phillips
1949-51 George Smeaton (*ex-224th /100th*)
1951-52 Miss. L.C. Morrison
1952-56 Miss Chrissy C. Henderson
1956-63 Mrs. Cathy G. Warner (*ex-259th*)
1963-69 Miss Betty McCallum (*ex-32nd*)
1969-74 John N. Cooper (*ex-32nd*)
1974 - *Union with the 41st*

ANCHOR BOYS

Session Leader-in-Charge

1970-74 Liz McGregor

22nd GLASGOW

The group that would eventually become the 22nd Glasgow Company began meeting during the autumn of 1885. The Company was initially established in connection with Dundas Street E.U. Church Sabbath School (West), under whose patronage it remained until 1894. The fifty strong Company was officially enrolled on the 27th July 1886 under the command of Samuel Dunlop who held the post of Captain for fourteen years (1886-1900). Sam Dunlop was assisted in his task by three Officers; his brother George, James Morrison Orr and D. Lamont.

The location of the fifty strong Company was the Berkeley Halls, Granville Street, part of the St. Andrew's Halls complex. After the initial year, membership of the Company had risen to seventy-nine and a Flute Band of twenty-five players had been established. A Pipe Band was formed during Session 1895-96.

As well as serving as a member of the Glasgow Battalion Executive, Sam Dunlop held the office of President of Western District and Battalion Drill Convener. He was also a member of the Battalion Bible Class and Camp Committees.

When a Grand Bazaar was held to raise funds for the fledgling Battalion the 22nd were invited to perform a Free Gymnastic Display demonstrating their expertise in Vaulting Horse, Parallel Bars and Indian Clubs. The Bazaar, which was held in the St. Andrew's Halls during the 5-7 March 1891, proved to be a great success, raising enough money to set the expanding Battalion on a secure financial footing.

The Company continued operating from the Berkeley Halls until 1894 after which they moved to Bath Street U.P./U.F., 279 Bath Street, at the corner of Holland Street.



Sam Dunlop - first Captain of the 22nd Glasgow

The Company entered the first Battalion Signalling Competition in 1907 and, from of an entry of nineteen Companies, the 22nd were declared winners.

The 22nd joined with the 2nd in 1919 on the union of the Churches to which they were attached. The 22nd number was reissued to a Company which operated from Partick Anderson Church, Anderson Street, Partick. This Company united with the 12th (which later became the 6th) around 1980.

Captains of the 22nd Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1919

Session	Captain	Session	Captain
1886-00	Samuel Dunlop	1910-12	Robert Brown
1900-05	James Lowson	1912-14	<i>Vacant</i>
1905-10	John Marshall	1914-19	Malcolm Johnston

25th GLASGOW

Formally enrolled on 27th February 1886, the 25th Glasgow Company was connected with Elgin Place Congregational Church, situated on the corner of Pitt Street and Bath Street. The meeting place of the 25th was a Mission Hall at 14 Bishop Street. Another Company also associated with Elgin Place Congregational Church at this time was the 14th which operated from a Mission Hall at 21 Clyde Street, in the Port Dundas area of the city.

The first Captain of the 25th Glasgow was A.M. Humphreys, an Officer who had transferred from the 14th Glasgow to take command of the newly formed Company. The 25th remained under the leadership of Captain Humphreys for the duration of its existence. Included in the initial muster of Officers were James Mackenzie and J.D. Wallace.

There were three Officers and twenty-eight members on the Company Roll when activities drew to a close at the end of Session 1893-94. It is unclear why the 25th failed to restart the following Session. The 25th Glasgow disappears from Battalion Records until 1898 when the number reappears in connection with Cowlares Parish Church. A Company operating under this number is currently affiliated to Springburn Parish Church.

Captains of the 25th Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1894

Session Captain

1886-94 A. M. Humphreys

28th GLASGOW

Attached to Anderston Free Church, 9 University Avenue, the 28th Glasgow was formally enrolled as a Company of the Glasgow Battalion on 17th May 1886. The Company was established in a Mission Hall at 33 Clyde Street (later renamed Clydeferry Street) under the first Captain, Henry Blair, who was supported by three Officers: James Parker, Andrew K. Buist and John McDonald. There were forty Boys on Roll when Henry Blair resigned from the Captaincy on the 18th October 1886. Captaincy of the Company passed to Andrew Buist.

Six years before the formation of the Company, the congregation had vacated their Cadogan Street Church and moved to newly erected Church property at the foot of University Avenue, in fashionable Gilmorehill. The Company continued to operate in Anderston but did eventually follow the move westwards. During the early years the 28th was very much sport orientated, establishing a Swimming Club in 1902 and a Football Team and a Cricket Club in 1904.

Dr. William F. Somerville, Captain of the 28th from 1892 to 1899, was the first medical practitioner at the Western Infirmary appointed to pioneer Radiography. A 'Son of the Manse', Dr. Somerville was responsible for forming The Girls' Guildry in 1900, thus instituting a sister organisation to the BB. 'The Guildry' became part of The Girls' Brigade, in 1968.

Company activities were suspended for the duration of the First World War and did not resume until 1919. That same year, the Company decided to enrol a Section of the Boy Reserves. One of the Company Officers, Arthur A. Kennedy, was appointed to look after the welfare of the new Section, which met on Mondays at 7pm in the lower hall of the Church, Westbank Lane, off Gibson Street. Lieutenant Kennedy remained responsible for the welfare of the 28th Glasgow Boy Reserves Section until he handed charge over to James Kerr in 1926.

By 1950 the congregation of Anderston Free was in a state of decline and unable to appoint a successor to Captain A.M. McLeod. The First Lieutenant, J.L. Douglas, assumed charge of the Company for a time, but it soon became apparent that both the Company and the congregation were struggling for survival. The 28th Glasgow was formally disbanded in 1951 and the Church closed in 1959. The former Church property is currently owned by the University of Glasgow and is now known as the Gilmorehill Centre.



28th GLASGOW COMPANY
The Company pictured shortly after its inauguration in 1886

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 28th Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1950

COMPANY		COMPANY		BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1886-86	Henry Blair	1919-24	Andrew L. Wark (<i>Acting</i>)	1918-26	Arthur A. Kennedy
1886-87	Andrew K. Buist	1924-27	Peter A. Moodie	1926-40	James Kerr
1887-91	John Cannan	1927-41	Richard Davidson	1940 -	<i>Suspended</i>
1891-92	Robert S. McDonald	1941-43	James Kerr		
1892-99	William F. Somerville	1943-44	<i>Suspended</i>		
1900-05	John Buchanan	1944-47	Richard Davidson		
1905-09	Vacant	1947-49	A.M. McLeod		
1909-14	J. Pollock Brown	1949-50	J.L. Douglas (Lt. in Charge)		
1914-19	<i>Suspended</i>	1951 -	<i>Disbanded</i>		

31st GLASGOW

The Company was enrolled on 17th May 1886 under the command of Daniel Gillies and was connected with St. Vincent Parish Church Sunday School and Band of Hope. Captain Gillies, with the support of only two Officers, James Naismith and Matthew Smeaton, ran the eighty-strong Company which met in the basement Church Halls at 14 Pembroke Street.

The earliest recorded activity of the Company is when they were invited to perform a display of Musical Drill at the Battalion's first Grand Bazaar, held in the St. Andrew's Halls, during early March of 1891. The following year the 31st are accredited with having won the first Battalion Football Competition Cup (1892) becoming proud custodians of the trophy for one year. There is a short period of silence during Sessions 1892-93 when no Annual Returns were submitted to the Battalion.

The Company formed a Bugle Band in 1901, which grew steadily in strength; a Pipe Band was in existence between 1911-28.

In common with the majority of BB Companies during the First World War, Officers of the 31st were called away on war service. When the Company Captain, James Nicholson, went off to France during the First World War the Company was left in the care of William Soady. Two fellow Officers, Duncan Cameron and Alfred M. Adam joined Captain Nicholson in the service of their country. Alfred Adam returned after the war to serve in the Company; what became of Duncan Cameron is unclear. Perhaps Captain Nicholson became a casualty of war, as Captaincy of the 31st was officially passed to William Soady soon after the cessation of hostilities.

The 31st formed a Boy Reserves Section in 1922, under the supervision of Tom Henderson who went on to become a very well-known Officer. The Boy Reserves met in the Church Hall in Pembroke Street on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

The 31st earned an enviable reputation within Glasgow Battalion during the 1920s due to the success they chalked-up in Life Saving and Football Competitions. The Company is known to have participated in a joint Camp at Dunbar in 1928 with two local Companies - the 17th and the 41st. The following year the 31st held the first in a series of regular Summer Camps at Dunbar.

Cognisance must be given to Tom Henderson, Captain of the 31st, who composed the words and music of 'Carry On', a song that became synonymous with the BB throughout the 1933 Jubilee Celebrations and beyond. Although Tom left Glasgow to take up the post of Headmaster at Musselburgh Grammar School, the BB was never far from his mind. He was appointed President of Edinburgh Battalion's East District and, in 1954, Edinburgh Battalion, well aware of Tom's musical aptitude, invited him to be Musical Director of their Battalion Show, 'Scotland the Brave'.

When the congregation of 'St. Vincent' merged with Kent Road Church, home of the 41st, in 1934 the 31st Glasgow Company was disbanded. There was a claim, many years ago, that part of the 31st complement joined the 115th, there having been no formal amalgamation with the 41st.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 31st Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1934

COMPANY

Session Captain

1886-90 Daniel Gilles
 1890-93 William McGregor
 1893-97 C.J. Healy
 1897-99 Thomas L. Macfarlane
 1899-13 Robert B. W. Garrick
 1913-17 John Nicholson Jr. *
 (* On war service 1916-1919)
 1917-19 William E. Soady (*Acting*)
 1919-25 William E. Soady
 1925-26 Andrew Turnbull
 1926-29 Tom Henderson
 1929-31 Robert McMillan (*later 41st*)
 1931-34 Tom Henderson
 1934 - *Disbanded*

BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS

Session Leader-in-Charge

1923-24 Hubert S. Thomas
 1924-25 Tom Henderson
 1925-30 David Skilling
 1930-31 Miss A.A.G. Page
 1931-33 Robert McMillan (*later 41st*)
 1934 - *Disbanded*

32nd GLASGOW

The '32' was officially enrolled on the 17th May 1886 and, like the brother-Company the 9th, the '32' was connected to Wellington U.P. Church, University Avenue. The Company operated from a Mission Hall at 25 Piccadilly Street where Alex B. Fairlie, the Sabbath School Superintendent and brother of Andrew B. Fairlie of the 9th, accepted appointment as first Captain. Alex Fairlie who knew the Brigade Founder through membership of the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers, was assisted in running the twenty-eight strong Company by two Officers; Robert Watson and William Hall. For most of its lengthy existence the 32nd remained among the premier Companies of the Battalion.

Shortly after formation it was resolved to hold a Church Parade of the 9th and 32nd to Wellington Church. This new and exciting experience for the Boys must have been accompanied with some anxiety on the part of the Officers, but the members conducted themselves well. The same can be said when the Companies participated in the First Inspection of the Battalion which took place in 1886 at Burnbank, ground situated between Great Western Road and Woodlands Road, now entirely covered with tenement properties.

From inception the '32' and the 9th joined forces for a number of activities, in particular, every second year they held joint Summer Camps. The first such Camping adventure for the combined Companies was to Strachur on Loch Fyne, in 1888, and so began a series of Camps held at that site until 1898.

Bands have been a major feature of the 32nd since 1890 when the Company formed a Flute Band. The Flute Band was augmented with a Bugle Band in 1905. The Bugle Band was still in existence in 1908 but by this time the Flutes had given way to Pipes and Drums. The Company formed a Brass Band in 1923 which remained in existence right up until, and beyond, the union with the 17th at the start of Session 1963-64.

The '32' suffered the loss of two Officers killed in action during the First World War, Waldo Cameron in 1917, and George Fullerton the following year. Both men were serving with the Cameronians in France. Walter C. Smith and William F. McLean, fellow Officers in the 32nd, managed to survive that terrible war. A set of Colours, dedicated to the memory of the Officers and ex-members of the 32nd who fell in the Great War, was presented to the Company by the Ex-Members Association in 1925.

At the commencement of Session 1923-24 the 32nd decided they were able to sustain a Boy Reserves Section. Henry Wilson, a Company Officer, was placed in charge of the newly formed Section which met in the Piccadilly Street Mission Hall on Thursday evenings, at 6.30pm.

When BBC Radio first began broadcasting from Scotland, the Company Choir was invited to perform a selection of Sea Shanties 'live on air' and thus, the '32' became part of broadcasting history.

Officers working in Anderston Companies had held prominent positions in the Battalion since the earliest days of the Brigade. One such person who carried on this tradition was W. Roy Farmer, nephew of one of the founding Officers of the Company. Roy Farmer joined the '32' in 1920 and assumed command on two occasions, firstly from 1929 until 1936, and then again from 1938 until 1940. During the Brigade's Jubilee Celebrations, Roy Farmer, along with another two local Officers, Andrew McClure of the 100th and William Renfrew of the 224th, carried out key roles while serving on the Battalion's Jubilee Committee.

At the time the Company was celebrating its Jubilee in 1936, Wellington Church decided to dispose of the Piccadilly Street Mission Hall, HQ of the Company since 1886. The '32' relocated a few blocks west to Stobcross House (185 Stobcross Street) Headquarters of the 9th. The enforced move brought about the union of the two brother-Companies and, despite losing their premises, the '32' number survived the amalgamation. Why the older Company number was not retained is not clear. At the start of the new Session (1936-37) James Watson Lee, former Captain of the 9th, was appointed commanding Officer of the '32'. The staff of the newly unified Company was mainly from the former 9th for the first couple of years.

The Second World War also took a toll on the '32'. While serving with RAF Bomber Command, Andrew McPherson, son of the Glasgow Battalion Secretary, was the first person to be awarded the D.F.C.; shortly after receiving the award, Drew was killed when his aircraft was shot down over Holland. (Andrew McPherson is featured on the front cover of this history holding the Company Colour).

Stobcross House was sold to Glasgow Battalion in 1949, forcing the '32' to yet again find alternative accommodation. The Company relocated to St. Mark's-Lancefield, 725 Argyle Street, home of the '115'. This enforced move led to union with the 115th at the start of Session 1950-51 and the 32nd number was again retained. The union appears to have been fairly harmonious; two the '115' Officers remained to serve with the 32nd, William Herron and Roy Laing.

There was a brief period of settlement during the 1950s, allowing the 'THREE-TWO' to continue with their activities, but unprecedented change was on the horizon. Comprehensive redevelopment befell the area in the 1960s and, with the pending union of three local Churches in 1968, this led to the amalgamation of the 17th and the 32nd Companies.

The 32nd had a long tradition of holding Summer Camps. Sites included Strachur (1889-99), Blairmore (1923), Millport (1924-26), Dunure (1927-30), Otter Ferry (1931-36), Machariorch (1936-39) and Balantrae (1946-47). The Company first Camped at Meigle, Perthshire, in 1948, and continued at this location following union with the 17th in 1963. The last Camp was held at Meigle in 1986. The Company invested heavily in their own camping equipment and canvas and, in the latter years, owned five Bell tents, one Pyramid-bell, six Ridge tents and a Marquee.

The '32' drew their final Session to a formal close in the usual manner. They held their Annual Inspection and Display, on Friday 3rd May. The following week the Company was present at Ibrox Park and the Band formed part of the Battalion Massed Bands, on the occasion of presentation of new Colours to the Battalion. The Company brought its final chapter to a satisfactory close during the Glasgow Fair with a Summer Camp at their traditional site at Meigle, Perthshire. In September of 1963 the '32' united with the 17th and, on this occasion, it was the older Company's number that was retained.

Following the union, all the former Officers of the '32nd' remained with the new Company, under the command of Jimmy McKail (32nd). The former Officers of the '32' were Roy Laing, John Wilson and Eddie Read. Bert Warner of the 17th and a late arrival, Ronnie Campbell, completed the staffing complement of the newly united Company. The 17th continued to operate from St. Mark's-Lancefield until the completion of the new Anderston Parish Church in 1968. Around this period Ronnie Johnstone (ex-32), who instructed the Ambulance Class (First Aid), heeded the Gospel call and studied for the Ministry. Ron is currently minister of a congregation in Thurso, Birthplace of the BB Founder.

'The Numbers Game'

The Company moved into the new Anderston Parish Church premises at 759 Argyle Street where they enjoyed a period of growth and reasonable stability until Session 1974-75. The 17th then vacated their Anderston Parish Church HQ in favour of union with the 41st at Kent Road - St. Vincent, the 41st number being retained. However, little did the Officers know that this would be only a temporary arrangement; a falling Congregational Roll forced Kent Road - St. Vincent to close in 1977. In order to maintain a BB presence in the area, the Officers of the 41st opted to relocate to Anderston Parish Church at the beginning of Session 1977-78. Finally, in 1980, again as a result of Church union, the 41st, and the 227th from Kelvingrove Church, united. This amalgamation resulted in the reintroduction of the 32nd Glasgow Company number under the Captancy of Jim Scott (ex-227th).

Immediately following the union the Company continued to operate two Junior Sections, one at Anderston under Alan Laurie (ex-17th/41st) and the other at the former meeting place of the 227th at Kelvinhaugh under the care of Mrs. Libby Scott (ex-227th). The Company managed to maintain the two separate Junior Sections until 1991 when it became unrealistic to keep the Kelvinhaugh Section functioning. Mrs. Scott took over as Officer-in Charge of the Junior Section at Anderston when the Kelvinhaugh Section closed.

The Scotts were a family immersed in BB tradition. At one stage in the Company's history Jim and Libby were joined on the staff by their two sons, Gary and Allan. By the time the family had decided to retire from active service, they had amassed a combined total of over eighty years service to the Brigade.

The 32nd Glasgow is an original Anderston Company number and is one of only two BB Companies still active in the area at the time of writing. Through earlier union with the 9th and the 17th the present Company can legitimately trace its roots back to 1884.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 32nd Glasgow Company from 1886 to the present

COMPANY

Session	Captain
1886-91	Alex B. Fairlie
1891-94	James F. Farmer
1894-96	James F. Trotter
1896-05	John B. Kidston
1905-10	John R. Fleming
1910-19	James Reid
1919-20	George Fullerton
1920-23	William F. McLean
1923-29	George G. Calvert
1929-36	William R. Farmer
1936-38	James G. Watson Lee (<i>ex-9th</i>)
1938-40	William R. Farmer
1940-55	David Watson
1955-63	James W. McKail
1963 -	<i>Union with the 17th</i>

BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS

Session	Leader-in-Charge
1924-27	Henry K. Wilson
1927-31	Margaret Macfarlane
1931-36	Miss Anna Simpson
1936-41	Miss Janet Watson
1941-47	Miss A. McIntyre
1947-50	Miss. E.M. Reid
1950-51	Miss Shephard
1951-56	Jack MacDonald (<i>ex-115th</i>)
1956-63	Miss Betty McCallum*
1963 -	<i>Union with the 17th</i> (* Betty McCallum continued as O/C 17 th)

The original Company was united in 1963 with the 17th as the 17th Glasgow. Seventeen years later, following union between the 41st and the 227th, the 32nd Glasgow number was readopted.

COMPANY

Session	Captain
1980-90	James Scott (<i>ex-227th</i>)
1990 -	Kenneth Anderson (<i>ex-17th/41st</i>)

JUNIOR SECTION

Session	Officer-in-Charge
1980-90	Libby Scott (<i>O/C Kelvinhaugh</i>)(<i>ex-227th</i>)
1980-86	Alan Laurie (<i>O/C Anderston</i>) (<i>ex-17th</i>)
1986-91	Peter Jackson (<i>O/C Anderston</i>)
1991-96	Libby Scott (<i>O/C Anderston</i>)(<i>ex-227th</i>)
1996 -	Lyn Prociw

ANCHOR BOYS

Session	Officer-in-Charge
1980-91	Liz McGregor
1991-	Lynn Prociw

33rd GLASGOW

Connected with Holm Street Original Secession Church, this Company, with a strength of twenty-seven Boys, was enrolled on the 17th May 1886 as the 33rd Company of the Glasgow Battalion. Under the command of the founding Captain, W.J. Isbister, the 33rd met originally in premises at 17 Mains Street (Blythswood Street). Captain Isbister was supported by two Officers, J.R. Campbell and Thomas Sim.

Unfortunately, early into the 1890s the Company began to falter, finally going into abeyance in 1895. At the end of the Session in which the Company was suspended, in addition to the Captain, there was one other Officer, David Paton, and eighteen Boys. Perhaps the Company closed due to staffing problems? Whatever the reason for the lapse, it remained unresolved and the Company was formally disbanded by Session 1899-1900.

Captains of the 33rd Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1895

Session	Captain
1886-95	W.J. Isbister

33rd GLASGOW (Re-Issued Number)

The 33rd number remained in Anderston when a new Company, attached to Claremont Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, was enrolled on 5th December 1900, under the command of John Lamont. The new Company got off to a healthy start with four Officers and fifty-six boys on Roll. The Company formed a Pipe Band at the start of the first Session but, like the original Company, the 'new 33rd' went out of existence within a few years (1907). There were three Officers and forty-five Boys on Roll at the end of their final Session.

Captains of the 33rd Glasgow Company from 1900 until 1906**Session Captain**

1900-01 John Lamont

1901-04 K. S. McDonald

1904-06 William Renison (*ex-24th*)**41st GLASGOW**

The Headquarters of this Company, whose application for enrolment was formally accepted on 27th September 1886, was Kent Road U.P/U.F. (later Kent Road - St. Vincent C of S), 69 Kent Road. Three men volunteered to run the Company; G.N. White, William J. Macarthur and James P. Ewing. Responsibility for the thirty-five strong Company fell on the shoulders of G.N. White who was appointed Captain.

The earliest mention of the 41st in a Battalion event appears on the programme of the Grand Battalion Bazaar of March 1891, held in St. Andrew's Halls, when Sgt. D.F. Flint of the Company is documented as giving a '*Pianoforte Recital*'.

The 41st appears to have faltered for a time between 1896 and 1898 when the Company was recorded as '*Not working*'. Whatever troubles the Company might have had, by the start of Session 1898-99 the Company was fully functioning under their newly appointed Skipper, Walter Robson, and consistently took up prizes for many years in Battalion Bible Knowledge Competitions.

Early minutes indicate that sixteen Boys attended the first recorded Summer Camp in 1902. The success of the Camp is self-evident, given that the number attending Camp the following year had risen to twenty-seven.

World War One impacted on the Company and the effectiveness of the staff was reduced when two Officers, Colin M. McGavin and James A.S. Meikle, were called away on war service. What became of the two friends is unclear, neither of them returned to the Company after the war came to an end.

The start of Session 1920-21 saw young Boys queuing at the door of Kent Road Church Hall in eager anticipation of the new Boy Reserves Section that was about to enrol. The Section met on Tuesday evenings at 7pm under the supervision of Robert Adam.

For some two decades, until c1931, the Company had a Bugle Band. After the Second World War a Pipe Band was formed and maintained for a number of years.

Toward the latter half of the 1960s the '41' was much depleted but was revived to enjoy a period of further progress in the 1970s, thanks to the timely intervention of Andy Montgomery (*ex-115th/32nd*). With the assistance of two former members of the 32nd, 'Monty' breathed new life into the ailing Company and within two years membership had risen from four to twenty-six Boys!

Church politics affecting the neighbouring 17th Glasgow caused that Company to vacate Anderston Parish Church and unite with the 41st in 1974. The infusion of new blood gave the 41st added impetus to attain greater goals and this they surely did. Within a year of the union the nucleus of a Brass Band had been formed, an activity that was to prove significant in the years ahead.



The 41st GLASGOW COMPANY

The Company pictured outside the entrance to Kent Road - St. Vincent Church, 1975

Officers: I. McKail, W.S. Menzies, A. Montgomery (Capt.), S/Sgt. K. Anderson, J.N. Cooper and D. McKinnon

The 'FOUR-ONE' enjoyed tremendous support from the dwindling congregation of Kent Road - St. Vincent and was extremely active up until the Church decided to close in June 1977. A major dilemma faced the Officers of the 41st; where should the Company be located when Kent Road - St. Vincent finally closed? There were few available options. The only viable Church in the area without a BB Company was Anderston Parish Church which the 17th had been obliged to leave only four years earlier, due to a long-running dispute with the Minister.

Intent on maintaining a BB presence in the locality, the Officers took the bold decision to relocate the Company, at the start of Session 1977-78, to Anderston Parish Church (later renamed Anderston-Kelvingrove), 759 Argyle Street. The Company had twenty-eight Boys in the Company Section and twenty Boys in the Junior Section when it relocated to Anderston Parish Church. Any fears that the 41st might suffer similar treatment to that which befell the 17th were soon dispelled. It is pleasing to report that the Minister and the Kirk Session openly recognised the value of having an active BB Company once again attached to the Church.

By the latter half of the 1970s the 41st was the only BB Company still operating in Anderston proper. However, little did the Officers know that within a few short years another change was about to be imposed on the 41st. Union between Anderston and Kelvingrove Churches led to the amalgamation of the 41st with 227th which resulted in the re-adoption of the 32nd Glasgow Company number.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 41st Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1980

COMPANY CAPTAINS		COMPANY CAPTAINS		BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS - JUNIOR SECTION	
Session	Captain	Session	Captain	Session	Officer-in-Charge
1886-91	G.N. White	1941-47	William Gray	1921-27	Robert Adam
1891-93	Daniel G. Kent	1947-48	<i>Vacant</i>	1927-28	William J. Smyth
1893-95	Matthew Paterson	1948-52	Harry Balderstone (<i>ex-122nd</i>)	1928-40	William Keir
1895-96	Robert T. Fletcher	1952-53	E. West	1940-41	S/Sgt. James Bell
1896-98	<i>Not Working</i>	1953-58	A. Smith	1941-42	Miss F.B. MacKinnon
1898-06	Walter H. Robson	1958-68	Bill McAlister	1942-45	Robert Marshall
1906-07	George G. N. Douglas	1968-69	I. McDonald	1945-50	J. Auchterlonie
1907-11	John C. Paton	1969-70	Harry Balderstone	1950-52	Miss I. Berry
1911-24	W. Lindsay Jeffrey	1970-79	Andy Montgomery (<i>115/32</i>)	1952-56	Norman de Laune
1924-39	Hugh Freeman	1979-80	John N. Cooper (<i>32nd/17th</i>)	1956-62	C. McUrich
1939-41	George Macmillan	1980 -	<i>Union with the 227th</i>	1962-69	Miss Chrissy Luke
				1969-74	Andy Montgomery
				1974-77	John McCallum (<i>32nd/17th</i>)
				1977-80	Alan Laurie (<i>17th</i>)*
				1980 -	<i>Union with the 227th</i>
					(<i>*Alan Laurie continued as O/C 32nd Junior Section</i>)

45th GLASGOW

At the instigation of Mr. George Brown, a Boys' Brigade Company was established in connection with St. Peter's Free Church, 55 Mains Street (Blythswood Street). The unit was officially enrolled on 15th November 1886 as the 45th Glasgow Company. Three Officers were recruited to oversee the development of the 45th, Walker L. Miller, George Brown and David Brown. The meeting place for the forty-seven strong Company, under the watchful eye of David Brown the first Captain, was the Church Hall in St. Peter's Lane. Battalion Records indicate that the 45th were extremely proficient in Drill and are on record as being the first winners of the Garroway Cup for Company Drill, in 1890. The Trophy was presented by John Garroway, Captain of the largest Company in the Battalion, the 47th Glasgow (Glasgow Cathedral), which had 286 Boys in membership when the Company was first enrolled!



David Brown, Captain of the 45th, 1886-89



John Y. Baird, Captain of the 45th, 1897-1912

Following the union of St. George's U.F. (HQ of the 17th) and St. Peter's U.F., in 1909, the days of the 45th were numbered. However, the status quo remained until Session 1910-11. The 45th continued operating from St. Peter's Church Hall in Mains Street, while the 17th continued to function from their HQ in Kelvin Street (later renamed Balnain Street). The following Session (1911-12) found the 45th operating from St. George's Church Hall, which was situated on the corner of Elderslie Street and Berkeley Street. The 17th relocated to Berkeley Street during Session 1912-13 the Company having amalgamated with the 45th.

Based on information available from Battalion Annual Reports, the 45th was amicably absorbed into the 17th. Two brothers, Peter and Duncan Buchanan, and John Beattie, Officers in the 45th at the time of the union, joined with Hunter Shaw and Clement B. Templeton, Officers of the 17th, to run the newly amalgamated Company under the continuing Captaincy of James H. Coutts of the 17th.

The 45th Glasgow number was reallocated the following Session (1913-14) to South Shawlands Church, Regwood Street, from where the Company still operates.

Captains of the 45th Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1913

Session	Captain	Session	Captain
1886-89	David Brown	1890-97	George Brown
1889-90	James Laidlaw	1897-12	John Y. Baird



***William C. Coghill, founder Captain
of the 49th Glasgow Company***

49th GLASGOW

Glasgow Battalion received an application to establish a new BB Company in the recently developed Overnewton area of the city. The thirty-two strong unit, which was affiliated to Henderson Memorial U.P. Church, was formally enrolled as the 49th Glasgow Company on 15th November 1886.

Company activities were carried out in the adjoining Church Hall in Overnewton Street, under the Captaincy of the Sabbath School Superintendent, William C. Coghill, who was also a partner in Aird & Coghill, Printers, who produced a vast amount of publications for the Brigade.

According to Battalion Records, Captain Coghill was supported by only one Officer during the first Session - James C. Sinclair.

The Company appears to have enjoyed a period of stability during the early years and this is perhaps confirmed with the formation of a Bugle Band in 1894. There followed a period of uncertainty between the years 1900-03 when, according to Annual Returns, the Company went into recession. However, the '49' were definitely fully operational at the start of Session 1903-04 when, under the command of their new Captain, Robert Gow (ex-2nd), the Company is shown as having entered a team in the Battalion Football League. John Peebles, who had joined the '49' as a Boy in 1906, went on to serve as an Officer, becoming Captain from 1921-30. He was involved in the Jubilee Celebrations in 1933 and retained a strong association with the Company throughout his life.

The 49th formed a Pipe Band in 1918 and that same year the Company were quick off the mark in establishing a Boy Reserves Section. The 49th Glasgow Boy Reserves, which met on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm, was placed in the care of Frank Thomson. Miss Martha Brand, a very popular leader, took charge of the '49' Boy Reserves in 1922 and for the next nine years the Section flourished under her nurture and care. By 1936, in addition to the Pipe Band, the Bugle Band had been reformed.

Summer Camps were well supported and were held at numerous locations but with Crieff, Perthshire, becoming a favoured venue during the late 1920s and early '30s. The '49' enjoyed a series of Summer Camps on land at Grangemuir Farm, Pittenweem during the 1950s. At first the farmer, Willie Robertson, was reluctant to permit the Company to Camp on his land as he had been unhappy with other Companies who had used his field. However, not only did the '49' impress Mr. Robertson, he welcomed the Company back each year, and he even had a BB plaque permanently installed into his lounge wall thus cementing the friendship. Summer Camp continued at this site until 1964, the year Mr. Robertson died.

Glasgow once again became the focal point of the BB Movement when, in 1933, members from across the world converged on the city to celebrate the fiftieth year of the Brigade's formation. One of the largely forgotten features of the Jubilee Celebrations was the tremendous work undertaken by the 'Ladies of the Battalion'. Mrs. John Peebles, wife of a former Captain, was one of the hostesses who volunteered to help organise and look after the arrangements designed to cater for the interests of the four hundred Officers' wives who were visiting the city. As well as a wide variety of local excursions being on offer, a more relaxed venue, in the form of a meeting room in the Grand Hotel, at Charing Cross, was reserved for the ladies to congregate and socialise with one another.

Following the outbreak of war, in 1939, the Company managed to continue operating until 1942 when, due to staff shortages, the Company had to be suspended for a period. The following '49' Officers were called away from the Company on military service: John Young, John Peebles, James Jackson and James Dickson. All returned to the Company after the war except James Dickson; there is no record what became of him.

The union of Sandyford and Henderson Memorial Churches in 1938 meant that the 19th and the 49th were both now affiliated to the same congregation. The former Sandyford Church was retained as the place of Worship. Despite the union of the two Churches, the 19th continued to meet in the former Sandyford Church Halls, while the 49th continued to operate independently from the hall of the former Henderson Memorial Church in Overnewton Street. The 19th eventually disbanded around 1951, many members transferring to the 49th which also inherited most of the older Company's equipment. The 'FOUR-NINE' had to vacate the former Henderson Memorial Church Hall at 68 Overnewton Street when the property was sold in 1963, taking up residence in Sandyford-Henderson Church Hall in Kelvinhaugh Street.

There were many memorable people associated with the '49', perhaps none more so than Alex Hogg who was Leader-in-Charge of The Life Boy Team for thirty-three successive years (1950-83). One can only wonder at the number of Boys who must have passed through his care.

A number of '49' Boys were called to be the Ministers of the Gospel. The earliest known were the two 'Bowie' brothers, who were members of the Company during the 1930s and, in more recent times, another Boy who was a member of the 49th during the 1960s is now the Rev. Dr. Charlie Cameron.

The '49' connection with Anderston began when, following dispute with Sandyford-Henderson Memorial Church authorities, the Company decided to relocate to St. Columba (Gaelic) Church of Scotland, 300 St. Vincent Street, in 1977. That same year the Company, still recruiting Boys from the Kelvinhaugh and Overnewton areas, began meeting in Woodside School. The Junior Section held their meetings in St. Columba Church Hall.

The Company won the Gill Memorial Trophy presented to the best all-round Company in Partick District during Session 1979-80. Five years later the Football Team won the Battalion Football Trophy, the first time the Company had won this competition.

By 1993 the '49' was firmly established at St. Columba (Gaelic) Church which became the main operational base for the Company and the Junior Section. When the 32nd Junior Section stopped meeting in Kelvinhaugh School in 1991, the 49th decided to fill the vacancy and formed a 'West Junior Section' in the School. The fledgling 'West Section' matured and is the only Junior Section currently attached to the Company. When Woodside School closed in 2003, the Company again turned west, toward their point of origin, and began meeting in Kelvinhaugh Primary School.

The 'FOUR-NINE' is a Company run along traditional lines. A feature regularly included in '49' Company Inspections and Display programmes was Bar-Bell exercises. A Squad Challenge Medal dating from 1888, which went missing during the 1940s, was recently returned to the Company. Duncan P. Mitchell, the present Captain, joined the 49th as a Life Boy in 1958, he transferred to the Company and was appointed Captain of the 49th in 1977. The '49' is one of only two Companies still active in the Anderston area today.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 49th Glasgow Company from 1886 to the present

COMPANY CAPTAINS

Session	Captain
1886-96	William C. Coghill
1896-00	T.C. Bleet (<i>ex-110th</i>)
1900-03	<i>No record of the Company</i>
1903-05	Robert Gow (<i>ex-2nd</i>)
1905-10	Thomas Martin
1910-19	Robert L. Smart
1919-21	J. Thomson
1921-30	John Peebles
1930-37	Thomas Brown
1937-39	William Trueman
1939-43	John S. McGilvary
1943-44	<i>Temporarily suspended</i>
1944-56	William Ogilvie
1956-63	John Hamilton (<i>later 214th</i>)
1963-65	Dr. Tom Rowan
1965-70	Robert Y. Wilson
1970-77	Alastair McPherson
1977 -	Duncan P. Mitchell

BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS - JUNIOR SECTION

Session	Officer-in-Charge
1918-22	Frank Y. Thomson
1922-31	Martha Brand
1931-36	A.M. McIlravie
1936-42	William Ogilvie
1943-44	David Craig
1944-45	William Ogilvie
1945-46	A. Bruce
1946-50	Alfred McIlravie
1950-83	Alex Hogg
1983-93	Cathy McLagan
1993-96	Keith Finlay
1993-98	Pauline Mitchell (East Section)
1996-98	Segun Komolafi
1998-00	Iain Dalziel
2000-01	Stephen McCann
2001-02	Martin Farrell
2002 -	Duncan P. Mitchell



The '49' Football Team (1947)

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



Winners of the Gill Memorial Trophy - 1947 (Henderson Memorial Halls)
Officers: W. Douglas, G. McLagan, W. Ogilvie (Capt.), J. Hamilton and W. Crumless

49th GLASGOW COMPANY



Scene from Camp - Kit Inspection (1947)

All Part of the Story

A MOMENT IN TIME

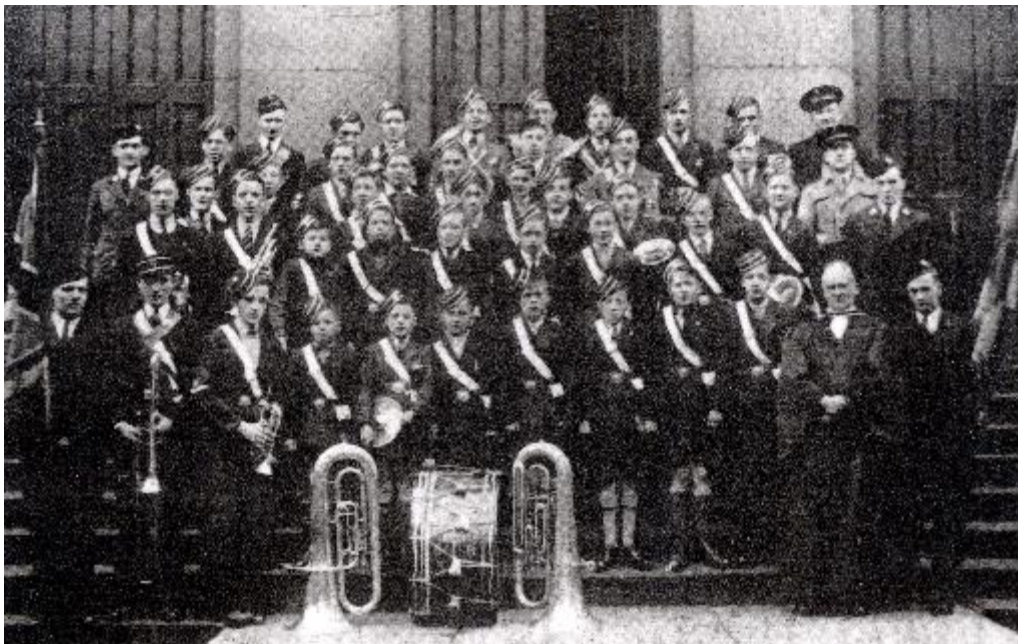


John Hamilton and Archie Doig



The Boys dressed for their respective roles

19th GLASGOW LIFE BOYS. *The Boys in uniform and, as they appeared in the 1930 Kelvingrove District Show held in the St. Andrew's Halls. The item, based on 'The Wedding of the Painted Doll', a popular song of the era, was devised and costumed by Mrs. G. Norman Smith (19th). John Hamilton in later years became Captain of the 49th.*



51st GLASGOW COMPANY in their JUBILEE YEAR - 1936

51st GLASGOW

Connected to the original Anderston Relief Church which dated from 1770, the 51st Glasgow Company, which met in the Church Halls in Church Place (later renamed Heddle Place), was formally enrolled on 15th November 1886. At the time the Company was formed it numbered forty members under the leadership of the founding Officers, Captain T.W. Davidson, R.R. Nelson and S.B. Miller.

It is often quoted that *"Boys will be Boys"* and, accordingly, sometimes relationships between the BB Company and the Church Beadle (Hall-keeper) can become somewhat strained. John Miller (1810-1906) referred to locally as 'Auld John' was the Beadle of Anderston U.P. 'Auld John' had strong opinions and dislikes of just about everything and often took pleasure in venting his wrath on the Boys of the '51st'. On one particular occasion a workman who arrived to carryout some repairs, noting benches piled high on the platform, commented, *"Your hall is very untidy today, was it the Band of Hope?"* Auld John, referring to the '51st' who had met in the hall the previous evening, replied *"Mair like a band o' devils!"*

On another occasion, not long after the conclusion of the Boer War, Auld John again demonstrated his sardonic wit. A prominent Minister arrived to conduct an afternoon Service and as John was escorting the Reverend past the '51st' who had formed up in the Churchyard, ready to march off to a Battalion Parade, he motioned toward the Company commenting loudly, *"Ye see, Reverend, this is the time that wiz prophesied o', when men wid beat their swords into ploughshares, and learn o' war nae mair!"*

There were no Annual Returns for the Company between Sessions 1891-94. Whatever the reason might have been for the communication silence, the 51st was in a position to create a noise with the formation of two Bands in 1893 - a Bugle Band and a Pipe Band. Fifteen years later, in 1908, the Company established a Brass Band which remained in existence up until the 1950s. The first recorded success for the 51st in a Battalion Band Competition was when L/Cpl. C. Milne won the Junior Bugling Contest for Session 1911-12.

Alex Ewing, who commanded the Company for twenty-five years (1905-30), was descended from original Anderston stock and was able to trace his family-line back to one of the original founders of the Anderston Church in 1770. Capt. Ewing introduced a range of new activities which included entering a team in the Battalion Football League. In the summer of 1905 forty-eight Boys attended the Company's first Summer Camp. Limited information survives providing details of the Camps held by the 51st. However, records do indicate that, in 1927, forty members of the Company spent the Glasgow Fair camping at Whiting Bay, Arran. The following year, Summer Camp was held in London. Two years later, in 1930, the Company broke new ground and headed for Belgium, making the 51st one of the first BB Companies to hold a Summer Camp in foreign parts.

The 51st dabbled briefly with BB Scouting in 1910 but the class failed to flourish and the idea was abandoned. Four years later, the Company began to feel the first effects of war. Officers called away on military service severely depleted staffing levels between 1914-18. Thomas Craig, William Pringle, Ernest H.D. Richardson and Donald McConochie all survived the war. However, two Officers were killed in action, Joseph H. Barclay in 1915 and John C. Armstrong in 1918.

Archie Conn, the Officer responsible for the formation of the 51st Glasgow Life Boy Team, was a colourful character; after a period of service as a Church of Scotland Missionary he was elected Mayor of Blantyre (Nyasaland). Upon his return to the UK, as well as being appointed Captain of the 40th Liverpool Company, he served for a time as Secretary of the Liverpool Battalion.

During the redevelopment period of the 1960s, when most of Anderston was obliterated, Anderston Old Church was demolished to make way for the Kingston Bridge and the M8 Motorway. Whilst most of the Anderston Old congregation left the area, or opted to join another church, the remainder united with the congregations of two other local churches, Anderston & St. Peter's and St. Mark's-Lancefield, to form the new Anderston Parish Church, opened in 1968.

As with a number of the congregation at the time of the union of the churches, the 51st elected not to join in the union with the 17th and 32nd. Under the guidance of Bill Menzies the Company tried uniting with the 7th but, given the extremely difficult circumstances affecting the area at that time, the union did not work out. The 51st and the 7th simply disappeared without trace around 1966.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 51st Glasgow Company from 1886 until 1966

COMPANY		BOY RESERVES – LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1886-89	Thomas W. Davidson	1927-35	Archibald Conn
1889-91	James McG. Young	1935-39	James McGregor
1891-93	<i>No record of the Company</i>	1939-40	James R. McKay
1893-99	William Sinclair	1940-45	James Frame
1899-00	Rev. A.L. Henderson	1945-46	David Main (28 nd)
1900-04	Malcolm McFarlane	1946-48	William H. Kent
1904-05	<i>Vacant</i>	1948-52	Miss. M. McLaughlin
1905-30	Alex Ewing	1952-53	David Main
1930-35	Charles McNaught	1953-54	Miss M. Wilson
1935-36	Archibald Conn	1954-56	R.H. Wheatley
1936-40	William J. Wheatley	1957-66	Nell Menzies (<i>ex-7th</i>)
1940-45	James Frame	1966 -	<i>Disbanded</i>
1945-61	W.J. Wheatley		
1961-66	Bill Menzies (<i>ex-7th</i>)		
1966 -	<i>Disbanded</i>		

59th GLASGOW

When a new Company attached to Highlander's Memorial Central U.F. Church applied to be enrolled by the Battalion, in 1922, the number of the recently lapsed 59th Glasgow was reissued to the newly formed Company. The 59th met in the Church Hall at 55 Blythswood Street under the supervision of Captain William MacDonald. Very little is known of the Company other than it had a Bugle Band; it went into recession and was formally disbanded in 1929.

Robert N. MacCormick, who served as Acting Captain during the 59th's final Session, later served in the 100th as an Officer; he also served as Secretary of Kelvingrove District from 1927-32.

The 59th number was again reissued to a new Company which is still operating as a Junior Section attached to Mossbank Parish Church, 167 Ashkirk Drive.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 59th Glasgow Company from 1922 until 1929

COMPANY		BOY RESERVES- LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1922-28	William H. MacDonald	1924-27	Robert N. MacCormick (<i>later- 100th</i>)
1928-29	Robert N. MacCormick (<i>Acting</i>)	1927-29	Robert S McLeod
1929 -	<i>Disbanded</i>	1929 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

62nd GLASGOW

The original 62nd Glasgow Company was founded in 1887 and was attached to St. Stephen's Parish Church, Cambridge Street. At that time the Company met in the Deaf & Dumb Institute, Renfrew Street. The original Company, which was under the Captaincy of David Dalgleish was disbanded in 1891.

The number was reallocated in 1899 to a new Company that was affiliated to Anderston Parish Church, which stood on the gusset of Argyle Street and St. Vincent Street. This particular Church was known latterly as Anderston & St. Peter's; it is important not to confuse this Church with the much later Anderston Parish Church, 759 Argyle Street, opened in 1968.

The 62nd met in Catherine Street School (off Hydepark Street) from 1899-01 under the Captaincy of Robert Fairlie. Why the Company closed after only two Sessions is not known. According to records, at the end of their final Session the 62nd appear to have been holding their own, with four Officers and forty Boys on the Roll. The figures do not suggest the Company had problems with local competition. The 62nd number reappears the following Session in connection with Pollokshaws West U.F., on the South-side of the Clyde.

Captains of the 62nd Glasgow Company from 1899 until 1901

Session	Captain
1899-01	Robert Fairlie

66th GLASGOW

Enrolled on 16th March 1887, the Company, with a membership of thirty-seven Boys, was originally attached to Trinity Congregational Church, Claremont Street, under the Captaincy of Dr. W. Howard Gray. Serving on the original staff alongside Dr. Gray were David Alexander and Jonathan Gresham. The Company went out of existence shortly after enrolling. This is another instance where it is not known why the Company should have closed so soon, at the end of its first year. Unfortunately, Battalion Records of the period give no indication of the Company's strength; the number simply disappears until the start of Session 1894 when the designation is shown as having been reallocated to a new Company affiliated to Whiteinch Parish Church.

Captains of the 66th Glasgow Company 1887-1888

Session	Captain
1887-88	Dr. William H. Gray

82nd GLASGOW

Operating originally from The Park Parish Church Parochial Hall, South Woodside Road (later renamed Woodlands Road), the new thirty-nine strong unit was formally enrolled by the Battalion on 14th January 1888, as the 82nd Glasgow Company. The original Officers included David Dunn, J.D. Robertson and the founding Captain, William Boyd Anderson.

Captain Anderson demitted office one year after his appointment and was succeeded by David H. MacBrayne, an extremely powerful and influential figure in the city's business community. MacBrayne was associated with the famous shipping-line, nowadays known as Caledonian MacBrayne. David MacBrayne stayed with the Company for four years and was succeeded by James D. Robertson who became a stalwart of the Battalion during the Brigade's formative years.

James Robertson served as Captain of the 82nd for forty years, during which time he also gave service as Western District Secretary; he served on the Battalion Recreation and Camp Committees from 1888-93, and was a key figure in the organisation of the Battalion's Grand Bazaar, held in the St. Andrew's Halls during 5th-7th March 1891.

A trophy presented in honour of James D. Robertson, ensures that the 82nd Glasgow Company will continue to be remembered within the Battalion each time the 'Roberton Cup' is awarded to the winners of the First Aid Competition.



James D. Robertson

Ten Officers of the 82nd responded to the 'Call to Arms' during the Great War. The absence of staff had an unsettling effect on the Company for a period, however, under the strong guiding influence of James Robertson, the Company soon overcame the difficulties. Three Officers died in action; David E. Turner in 1915, Robert Johnston and Alex E. Glen in 1917. The following Officers are known to have survived the war; Rev. James A.C. Murray, John B. Millar and Arthur Q. Macfarlane, all of whom returned to the Company. What became of another five Officers, John McDougal, David McMutrie, William Groundwater, Robert H. Turner and Walter S. Dawson we cannot say.

The 82nd established a Boy Reserves Section in 1922 under the guidance of the Company Captain James Robertson. The Section met on Friday evenings at 7.15pm in the hall of The Park Church, 298 Woodlands Road.

The 82nd's association with Anderston began in 1964 when the Company relocated to St. Columba (Gaelic), 300 St. Vincent Street. The '82nd' had a long association with Bugle Bands, the first being formed in 1891 and continued right up until the Company went out of existence in 1976. Around 1928, in addition to the Bugle Band, the 82nd operated a Pipe Band for a decade or so. Throughout its lengthy existence the Bugle Band of the 82nd remained one of the most accomplished Bands operating within Glasgow Battalion.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 82nd Glasgow Company from 1888 until 1976

COMPANY		BOY RESERVES – LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1888-89	William Boyd Anderson	1922-25	James D. Robertson
1889-91	David H. MacBrayne	1925-30	James L. Douglas
1891-31	James D. Robertson	1930-35	Miss R.W.H. Douglas
1931-35	William K. Douglas	1935-36	J.A.R. McArthur
1935-36	J. Newton Somervail (<i>Acting</i>)	1936-44	J. Lindsay Douglas
1936-38	James A.R. McArthur	1944-45	Douglas A. Duff
1938-41	Alfred Gerrie	1945-48	Robert Russell
1941-44	John McL. C. Burns	1948-56	D.J. Fyfe
1944-58	J.A. McArthur	1956-58	A. Corlett
1958-62	J. Burnside	1958-64	S.D. MacNeill
1962-76	S. Macfarlane	1964-72	Donald MacKinnon
1976 -	<i>Suspended</i>	1972-74	<i>Suspended</i>
		1974-75	Donald MacKinnon
		1975-76	S. Macfarlane
		1976 -	<i>Suspended</i>

100th GLASGOW

This one-time prominent Company was officially enrolled by the Glasgow Battalion on 25th January 1890. The Company was connected to St. Matthew's Established Church, 76 North Street, on the corner of William Street. The first Captain of the Company, which met in a hall in Bothwell Circus (near the northern-end of Bishop Street), was James Hannan Watson. Captain Watson was assisted in running the thirty-one strong Company by two Officers - William McDonald and James Brown.

The 100th had a somewhat nomadic existence for some four decades or so. After leaving their first meeting place at 5 Bothwell Circus, they moved a hundred yards along the road to the Volunteer's (S.M.R.E.) Drill Hall at 385 St. Vincent Street. Here they operated for a number of years (1890-93) prior to moving to 28, Cranston Street, the Halls of Cranstonhill Free Church, where they remained until 1902. The Company relocated for the start of Session 1902-03, to St. Matthew's Parish Church Hall, 50 Bishop Street. The Company again moved, during Session 1935-36, this time, to Finnieston School. The 100th finally relocated to St. Matthew's-Blythswood Church Hall, 256 Bath Street, around 1936.

The size of the Company (over 100 Boys in 1914) may be why it required to move about so much, (the Church Hall in North Street appears to have been rather small). The Company formed a Bugle Band in 1890 and, in 1893, they were supporting both a Bugle and a Pipe Band. Swimming appears to have been one of the Company's strengths. In 1895 Sgt. McLean won the Battalion Swimming Championship. Perhaps based on this success, the Company established a Swimming Club in 1898 and that same Session went on to win the first of three successive Battalion Swimming Galas. The 100th were able to field a Football Team in Session 1902-03 and, the following Session, formed a Cricket Club. Thirty-five Boys attended the first Company Camp held in 1905.

Whilst the location of the Company might have been uncertain at times, what was never in any doubt was the firm foundations Captain Watson and his Officers had laid. The Company flourished during the six years it was under the guidance of James Watson, however, the best was yet to be. Captaincy of the 100th passed to Andrew McClure, one of the founding Officers of the Company and, under his leadership, membership of the Company seldom fell below seventy, peaking in 1914 at one hundred and one. Andrew McClure was undoubtedly the most notable Officer to emerge from the 100th. His thirty-two years of leadership gave the Company stability.

At the time the Company was reaching its peak war broke out in Europe and eight Officers of the 100th, while serving their country, were immersed in the bitter conflicts of World War One. Three Officers are known to have perished in battle; Robert Johnston and James F. Roy in 1916, and Lyon R.M. Malloch M.C. in 1918. What happened to W.S.W. Guthrie, Robert Waddell and Forest H. Lightbody we do not know, but John Brown and Crawford Lindsay returned safely to rejoin the staff of the 100th.

As well as serving as 'Skipper' of the 100th from 1895 until 1926, Andrew McClure had the dual role of Battalion Secretary (1902-19), and Convener of Kelvingrove District. When it came to drawing up a short-list of suitable Officers to serve on Battalion Committees, Andrew McClure was among the first to be chosen. Having been involved in planning the Semi-Jubilee Celebrations he was invited to join the Jubilee Committee. One can only imagine the memories and thoughts that raced through his mind as he became actively involved in the Jubilee Celebrations in 1933. In spite of his sixty-odd years, Andrew McClure still had an insatiable appetite for the work of The Boys' Brigade. On top of his busy schedule during the Jubilee period, he found time to take on the role as Acting Captain of the 234th Glasgow, a Company connected to Hillhead Parish Church operating from their Mission Hall in Hamiltonhill, Glasgow.

From 1926 to 1932 the 100th was affiliated to both St. Matthews-Blythswood and Anderston Parish Church, meeting in the North Street Hall of the former St. Matthew's Established Church. In 1932 Anderston (St. Martin's) Parish Church formed its own Company, the 256th under Robert Chisholm as Captain (a former Captain of the 100th). The 100th Life Boy Team, which had been meeting in the Hall of Anderston (St. Martin's) since 1926, continued there as the 256th Life Boy Team. After 1933 the 100th had no Life Boy Team until Session 1947-48; by 1949 it had been temporarily suspended.

During the period of the Second World War the 100th had a series of Captains in relatively quick succession but remained in operation. Leopold Davies, Captain of the '224', took charge of the 100th, after a year as Captain of the joint 224th/247th, in 1944. The 100th Glasgow began to decline after the war and was suspended in 1949; it was united with the 17th at the start of Session 1949-50. The last Captain of the Company, David T. McCaig, moved to the 88th where he served as Captain for four years. George Smeaton, another 224th Officer, took charge of the 100th Life Boy Team between 1947-49. When the 100th closed he moved to the 17th as Leader-in-Charge of The Life Boys (1949-51). A few years later, on moving to Drumchapel, he served as an Officer in the 142nd.

The congregation of St. Matthew's, home of the 100th, departed their original property in William Street, and united with the congregation at Blythwood Parish Church, 256 Bath Street, in 1919. The present congregation now meet at Renfield-St. Stephen's and this is where the Company Colours of the 100th Glasgow are preserved to this day.



*Andrew McClure - Captain of the
100th Glasgow Company, 1895-1926*

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 100th Glasgow Company from 1890 until 1949

COMPANY

Session Captain

1890-93 James H. Watson
 1893-25 Andrew McClure
 1925-26 Robert Chisholm (*ex-256th*)
 1926-40 Robert A. Allan
 1940-43 Robert Beattie
 1943-44 William West
 1944-45 Leopold A. Davies (*ex-224th*)
 1945-49 David T. McCaig (*later 88th*)
 1949 - *Suspended*

BOY RESERVES – LIFE BOYS

Session Leader-in-Charge

1925-27 John Robertson
 1927-28 Miss E.K. Reid
 1928-29 John Wood
 1929-30 James Simpkins
 1930-33 Andrew Hall
 1933-47 *Suspended*
 1947-49 George H. Smeaton (*ex-224th*)

107th GLASGOW

Originally affiliated to St. Columba Gaelic, Hope Street, the 107th Glasgow Company was enrolled on 8th April 1891. The Company, which had twenty-one Boys in membership, met in the Church Hall under the leadership of George Binnie who was appointed the first Captain. Mr. Binnie, who served as Captain of the 107th from 1889 until 1896, was assisted by Adam Hepburn and Dugald McLachlan.

In a switch of roles, George Binnie took over command of the 17th at the start of Session 1896-97 while his opposite number, Malcolm P. Douglas, assumed Captaincy of the 107th for one Session. During the seven years the Company existed the 107th managed to establish a Pipe Band. The Band appears to have reached a high playing standard as it was invited to perform at the Battalion Sports, held at the Playing Fields of Glasgow Academicals, Anniesland, in May 1895.

Why the 107th was disbanded at the end of Session 1897-98 we do not know. At the time the Company went into abeyance they are recorded as having two Officers, forty-seven Boys and a fully operational Pipe Band. The 107th Company number appears four years later, in 1902, when a new Company connected to Sherbrook U.F., Nithsdale Road, was established.

Captains of the 107th Glasgow Company from 1891 until 1898

Session	Captain
1891-96	George Binnie
1896-97	Malcolm P. Douglas (<i>ex-17th</i>)
1897-98	Alex. Blackhall

115th GLASGOW

The '115' was formally enrolled as a Company of the Glasgow Battalion on 10th October 1892. The Company was originally associated with Brownfield Established Church, and met in the Church Halls at 66 Brown Street. In those far-off days Brownfield Est. Church had become a Mission Station, operating under the aegis of St. George's Parish Church. In 1904, on account of the pending major refurbishment of Brownfield Church (following union with St. Peter's Est.), the '115' relocated to Broomielaw U.F., 54 Carrick Street. The Company retained an association with its former Church (now renamed St. Peter's) and was regarded as the Company for the Boys connected with St. Peter's. When the '115' moved away from Carrick Street to St. Mark's West, Argyle Street, in 1930, St. Peter's formed its own Company, the 246th.

James Monteith Hannan was the first Officer appointed to be Captain of the Company. Although the Hannans no longer resided in Anderston, their family roots stretched back to James Monteith, weaver, and founder of the first Church in the village, opened in 1770. Captain Hannan was ably assisted in running the thirty-strong Company by Thomas W. Cuthbertson and George G. Urquhart.

St. George's Church sponsored two BB Companies meeting in different areas. This was not a unique situation, in the case of Anderston, Wellington Church cared for two Mission Companies, the 9th and the 32nd. The two Companies attached to St. George's were the 115th, and the 58th which met in St. Michael's Mission Church in Crossburn Street (Cowcaddens).

The April 1901 issue of 'The Brigadier', a magazine published by the BB for Boys, records: "*The 115th Glasgow have again won the Laidlaw Challenge Cup for physical training. The competition this year was in physical drill with arms. Two years ago this Company won it in dumb-bell exercises, and last year came in second in the bar-bell*". The Company is recorded as enjoying success in various Battalion Competitions. Pte. McLeod was the first member of the Company to win a Battalion Competition when he took first place in the Junior Solo Bugling Competition of 1900. In Session 1902-03, Sgt. Joseph McLeod won the Senior Solo Bugler Contest while first place in the Junior group went to Pte. Charles Crosbie. A Swimming Club was instituted in 1903 and that same year the first Company Camp, a joint venture with the 5th Glasgow Company, was held. The following summer, forty-six Boys attended the 115th's own Camp. The Company entered the Battalion Football League for the first time in 1904.

James Hannan and Tom Cuthbertson, two Officers of the '115', often travelled abroad on business. Hannan visited BB Companies in India, Ceylon and Australia in 1902. The following year, while in India, Tom Cuthbertson inspected the 1st Darjeeling Company before moving on to Burma to visit the 1st Rangoon Company. Both men were able to share with the wider Brigade their experiences and reports on how the BB was developing overseas.

Various members of the Hannan family served as Officers in both the 58th and the 115th. James M. Hannan was appointed Lieutenant in the 58th in September 1889, where he remained until October 1891 when he took command of the 115th. Another brother, Henry, joined the 58th in October 1892 filling the vacancy left by James. Henry became Captain of the 58th in 1901 and was joined by his younger brothers, John R. in 1902 followed by Alex. R. two years later. Henry left the Company to join his Territorial Unit at the outbreak of war in 1914. He was Commanding Officer of the 8th Cameronians when he was killed in action at Gallipoli in 1915.

Business commitments forced James Hannan to leave the 115th for period of five years. Even during his five year exile in London the BB was never far from James Hannan's mind; whilst there he served as an Officer with the West London Battalion. James was editor of the BB Gazette for fourteen years and served on the Brigade Executive. Following the unexpected death of the Company Captain, Tom Cuthbertson, in 1903, James rejoined the Company as Captain. He was joined by the youngest of the family, David W. Hannan, the following year. David took command of the 115th in 1911 until he too left to join his Territorial Unit in 1914. David was to suffer a similar fate as his older brother Henry. While serving with the 8th Cameronians, David and a fellow '115' Officer, David Patton, were both killed in action in France, in 1918. Three other Officers of the Company served in the First World War, Thomas C. Forsyth, David Barclay, and Richard Hair who became Captain of the Company in 1920.

Tom W. Cuthbertson, a founder Officer in the 'ONE-ONE-FIVE' was one of the Brigade Founder's closest friends and Smith relied heavily on Cuthbertson, whose help and advice he constantly sought.

While on Volunteer duty in 1903, Tom Cuthbertson was killed in a tragic riding accident. He was thirty-five years of age. At the time of his death Tom Cuthbertson was Brigade Treasurer and Editor of the BB Gazette. Without doubt, Tom Cuthbertson was an extremely influential figure in the Brigade; his contemporaries described him as the Founder's right-hand man.

The Company relocated to St. Mark's West (later renamed St. Mark's-Lancefield), 725 Argyle Street in 1930 following closure of Broomielaw U.F. Mission.

A Bugle Band formed in 1895 started a tradition of Company Bands that continued right up until the Company united with the 32nd in 1950. In 1926 the Bugle Band was replaced by a Pipe Band which reached a high playing standard.



Tom Cuthbertson

During Session 1908-09 the '115' decided to try a recently introduced activity - BB Scouting, but the idea did not take root and the activity was scrapped. During the 1920s, Clynder, Argyll, was a popular location for '115' Summer Camps, an area to which the Company returned year after year.

When Wellington Church took the decision to dispose of Stobcross House, in 1949, the 32nd had to look for other Headquarters. They relocated to St. Mark's-Lancefield thereby bringing about the union of the 32nd with the 115th in 1950; the 32nd number was retained. The union proved to be an amicable marriage and two Officers of the '115', William Herron and Roy Laing, remained to serve on the staff of the '32'.

The 'ONE-ONE-FIVE' was noted for the quality of service its Officers gave, not only to the Company but, to the Battalion and the Brigade in general. This was a pattern that was to continue right up to, and beyond, the last days of the Company. The last Officer of the '115' to hold a senior position in the Battalion was Bill Herron, a much-loved and respected figure who faithfully served Glasgow Battalion as Vice-President from 1972-74.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 115th Glasgow Company from 1892 until 1950

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1892-96	James M. Hannan	1931-39	Bill Heron
1896-03	T.W. Cuthbertson	1939-40	Miss J.C. Campbell
1903-10	James M. Hannan	1940-44	Rev. Robert Lockhart
1910-14	W. David Hannan	1944-49	Bill Herron
1914-15	Thomas Forsyth (<i>Acting</i>)	1949-50	Miss. J.W. Folley
1915-16	David Patton Jr.	1950 -	<i>Union with 32nd</i>
1916-19	Rev. James McN. Little		
1919-20	Clement G. Taylor		
1920-23	Richard Hair		
1923-25	George Berry		
1925-35	Archibald MacNiven		
1935-37	Donald M. Campbell		
1937-40	W.J. Bell		
1940-49	John G. Alexander (<i>ex-246th</i>)		
1949-50	Bill Herron (<i>ex-31st</i>)		
1950 -	<i>Union with the 32nd</i>		

200th GLASGOW

Very little is known of this Company which was affiliated to Cranstonhill U.F.. The 200th, which was enrolled in 1920 under the leadership of John Kerr, met in the Church Hall, Cranston Street. Five successive Captains were appointed during the Company's eight-year existence. The 200th had a Pipe Band for the duration of its existence. The sole Leader-in-Charge of The Life Boy Team, was Edwin Brookes (the Minister's son) who ran the Team from 1927 until the Company was suspended in 1929.

A Company currently operating under the 200th designation is affiliated to Colston -Wellpark Church, 1378 Springburn Road.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 200th Glasgow Company from 1920 until 1928

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1920-21	John Kerr	1927-29	Edwin Brookes
1921-22	James M. Carlsen	1929 -	<i>Suspended</i>
1922-23	Thomas S. Maitland		
1923-26	Robert Watson		
1926-28	John Marshall		
1928 -	<i>Suspended</i>		

224th GLASGOW

Formally enrolled in 1925, the Company was placed under the leadership of the first appointed Captain, William Renfrew Jr., who was an ex-member of the 2nd Glasgow. The location for the Company's activities was the Church Hall attached to St. John's Episcopal Church, situated on the gusset of Houldsworth Street and Argyle Street. Leading up to the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Brigade, in his role as Displays Organiser, William Renfrew shared the stage with two other local Officers who were also serving on the Battalion Jubilee Committee, Roy Farmer of the 32nd and Andrew McClure of the 100th.

Members of the '224' enjoyed their first experience of BB Camp when they joined with the 32nd at their Summer Camp, on Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, during the Glasgow Fair of 1926.

In common with a number of Companies, the 224th experienced staffing problems during the Second World War. The Life Boy Team was temporarily suspended at the end of Session 1939-40 and while the Company was able to continue for a while, by 1943 it was decided to temporarily amalgamate with the 247th (with Leopold Davies as Captain) until the emergency was over. Leopold Davies then took charge of the 100th at the start of Session 1944, another local Company that was experiencing staffing difficulties.

The 224th failed to restart after the war; The Life Boy Team was reformed in 1942 and survived till 1949.

The 224th number was reissued and currently belongs to a Company associated with Wallacewell Parish Church, Rye Road in the Barmulloch area of Glasgow.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 224th Glasgow Company from 1925 until 1949

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1925-27	W. Renfrew Jr. (<i>ex-2nd</i>)	1925-26	William Black
1927-28	William S. Moore	1926-29	William G. Brand
1928-35	William G. Brand	1929-31	George Smeaton (<i>later 100th/17th</i>)
1935-43	Leopold A. Davis (<i>later 100th</i>)	1931-34	A.E. Sleight
1943-44	<i>Temp. Union with 247th</i>	1934-37	Adam Hunter
		1937-38	Leopold A. Davies
		1938-40	Miss R.T. Hunter
		1940-42	<i>Temp. Suspended</i>
		1942-46	Miss R.T. Hunter
		1946-47	Miss P.M.K. Sommerville
		1947-49	Miss M. Allan
		1949 -	<i>Suspended</i>

227th GLASGOW

The original 227th was attached to the Free Church in Crow Road. The question of forming a BB Company in connection with Finnieston U.F. was formally discussed on Tuesday 7th May 1929. The first gathering, with eight Boys, was held on 30th August of that same year; by December, membership had risen to twenty-four. The new Company, allocated the number of the 227th Glasgow, was officially enrolled on the 17th January 1930, under the Captaincy of John Carrick. During the early years the Company met in Finnieston Church Hall, Bentinck Street, but later moved to Nairn Street School while The Life Boys continued to operate from the Church premises.

The last Captain of the '227' was Jim Scott who, as a Boy in 1954, represented the Company at the Founder's International Camp, held on the Playing Fields of Eton. Many friendships were established at the Camp and, fifty years later, Jim is still exchanging Christmas Cards with a Boy he met at the Eton Camp. Summer Camp was a fairly regular feature of '227' life, and Camps held by the Company were held in places as diverse as Carradale in Argyll and Engleberg in Switzerland.

During the 1950s the '227' earned the justifiable reputation of having an excellent Silver Band. Under the musical direction of their Bandmaster, John Alexander, the Band participated in series of 'Music in the Parks' concerts organised by Glasgow Corporation Parks Dept.. Throughout 1955 the Band performed at a number of public engagements ranging from concerts in Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline, to sharing the stage with the Band of the Irish Fusiliers, and the 'White Heather Group', at Port Rush, Northern Ireland. The Band enjoyed many years of success and acclaim but, unfortunately, began to go into decline during the early 1970s. Throughout the remainder of that decade the Company managed to retain a few Boys interested in Band-work.

Toward the end of the 1950s the 227th held the first of around ten successive Summer Camps at Carradale, Argyllshire. During one such Camp the Company assisted in helping to bring a water supply to the nearby Caravan and Camping Site on Carradale Shore. This assistance helped cement the already sound relationship between the '227' and the landowners, Dick Mitchison, MP for Kettering, and his wife, Naomi Mitchison, a writer of travel books which she based mainly on her experiences in Africa where she adopted a Tribe.

When Willie Russell, one of the Company Officers, moved to London, an association was established with the 5th Hendon Company. This friendship was of mutual benefit to both Companies and resulted in exchange visits and a joint Continental Camp.

The 227th were proactive in using imaginative high-profile recruiting campaigns. During August 1964, the Company staged a two-day exhibition, behind the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Galleries, from which they attracted considerable attention and publicity. A motor cavalcade preceded the formal opening of the event. On show were vaulting and parallel-bar squads, athletic competitions and games. Static displays included items of camping equipment, canoes, and other outdoor paraphernalia. Everything had been thought of; there was even an open-air café! The main feature of the evening was the Band display featuring traditional and modern tunes. One of the attractions that drew volunteers from the vast audience was the game of 'Push Ball'. Using a huge eight-foot diameter ball, the idea was to get the ball into your opponent's goal, usually knocking over players from both sides in the process. Hugely enjoyable fun! Each day of activity was brought to a fitting close with the 'Sunset Ceremony' performed by the Company Band. The exhibition was drawn to a close on the Sunday morning with an Open Air Service, the Praise being led by the Silver Band of the '227'.

Sport has always been a popular feature of BB activity, and perhaps the most memorable year for the 227th was 1973, when the Company won both the Junior and the Senior District Table Tennis Championships. This achievement fell into relative insignificance against the efforts of the Company's Five-a-side Football Team who travelled to Keele University, Staffs., as finalists in the National Competition. At the end of an exciting and nail-biting event, the 'TWO-TWO-SEVEN' emerged as undisputed champions, having won all their games.



We are the Champions!

John Alexander, who had been Bandmaster of the 227th for over twenty years, retired from the Band in 1964. Mr. Alexander was followed by a succession of Officers but, by the early 1970s, interest in Band-work was declining. In 1974 a number of joint Band rehearsals with the 41st were initiated which proved mutually beneficial to both Companies. This arrangement more or less continued unbroken until the union of both Companies in 1980.

Jim McDowall, a former Officer in the Company and a music teacher at Woodside School, was appointed Musical Director of the Scout Gang Show in 1978. This was not the 227th's first association with the Scout Gang Show, the Company Band, supported by the Band of the 17th, performed in the 'Gang Show' in 1968, the first time a BB Band had ever appeared in a Scout Gang Show. Both David Hamilton and Gordon McCracken were Officers in the Company for a period, before moving on to concentrate on their calling as Ministers of the Gospel.

Fund Raising is a problem that has to be addressed on a regular basis. Coupled to the occasional Company Concerts, the '227' also operated a Printing Press on which all the Company and Church organisation publications were printed. Items that sold particularly well were Christmas Cards, and Calendars depicting local scenes. It was not unusual for the Company to sell up to two thousand of their publications.

As well as an extremely well-run Life Boy Team (Junior Section), the '227' also operated an 'unofficial' Pre-Junior Section group called the 'Mohawks' which was loosely based on American Indian Tribes. An informal uniform of grey jersey and forage cap was worn, and the tribes met each week were under the eagle-eye of the Chieftain - Mrs. Rene Ferguson. The Mohawks continued to meet until union with the 41st in 1980.

The designation of Finnieston Church was changed to Kelvingrove around 1964 and, in 1978, the congregation vacated their beautiful classical-style building to unite with Anderston Parish Church, by this time the HQ of the 41st. The united congregation became known as Anderston-Kelvingrove. Despite protestations from both sets of BB staff, the Church authorities ruled that the two Companies should unite, and so, at the start of Session 1980-81, the union of the 41st with the 227th led to the reintroduction of the 32nd Glasgow number, that of a former Anderston Company which by earlier union, was a constituent of the new 32nd. Jim Scott, former Commanding Officer of the 227th was appointed Captain of the '32'.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 227th Glasgow Company from 1930 until 1980

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS - JUNIOR SECTION	
Session	Captain	Session	Officer-in-Charge
1930-39	John Carrick Sen.	1930-32	Mungo Carrick
1939-41	John Carrick Jr.	1932-36	John D. Ross
1942-44	John Carrick Sen.	1936-39	Miss Jean F. Eddie
1944-46	George Johnstone	1939-40	Miss S.M. Anderson
1946-52	Tom Harvey	1940-41	<i>Temp. Suspended</i>
1952-57	Addison Taylor	1941-45	William G. Beattie
1957-63	William C. Russell	1945-51	Thomas Ruthven
1963-70	Maurice Campbell	1951-56	Thomas Clark
1970-74	Alan Sinclair	1956-58	Maurice Campbell
1974-80	Jim Scott *	1958-74	Jim Scott
1980 -	<i>Union with the 41st</i>	1974-80	Libby Scott*
(*Jim became Captain of the 32 nd)		(* Mrs. Scott became O/C of the 32 nd J.S. at Kelvinhaugh)	
SENIOR SECTION			
Session	Officer-in-Charge		
1966-71	Tom McMillan		
1972 -	<i>Senior Section suspended.</i>		

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



The Company in 1930 - their first year of formation
Officers: George Mowat, Mungo Carrick, John Carrick (Capt.) and Robert Blackstock.

227th GLASGOW COMPANY



The 227th pictured prior to union with the 41st in 1980
Officers: W. Imrie, G. McCracken, J. Scott (Capt.).

231st GLASGOW

The '231' connected with St. Mark's Parish Church, Cheapside Street, was another Company with a relatively short life-span. The Company, which was enrolled in 1925, met in Washington Street School and remained active in the area until 1936. George Miller was appointed as the first Captain of the Company.

During its eleven-year existence the '231' managed to produce a quality Pipe Band and held regular Summer Camps at Kilcreggan, on the Clyde Coast during the 1930s.

When Lt. Donald R. MacKay left the Company to start the 247th in 1931 (with the assistance of Lt. R.G. Shannon another 231st Officer) it would appear that the new Company, meeting quite near in Holm Street, had a gradual effect on the complement of the 231st and other nearby Companies, resulting in their decline.

The 231st went out of existence in 1936 and the number was reallocated in 1944 to Stamperland Parish Church, Clarkston. Interestingly, J.G. Watson Lee, ex-Captain of the 9th and 32nd, was appointed Captain of the '231' in 1951, and served for a decade at Stamperland. The Anderston connection does not end there; the current Captain of the Company, Jim MacKenzie, is an ex-Officer of the 17th and a former organist of St. Mark's Parish Church, Cheapside Street, Anderston. Jim is also the main contributor to this history.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 231st Glasgow Company from 1925 until 1936

COMPANY		BOY RESERVES – LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1925-26	George Miller	1924-26	George Miller
1926-28	William F. Shannon	1926-28	William F. Shannon
1928-31	Sam Hamilton	1928 -	<i>Disbanded</i>
1931-32	Ernest R. Machell (<i>later 100th/282nd</i>)		
1932-34	Allan Cuthbertson (<i>later 282nd</i>)		
1934-37	Robert Rowatt		
1937 -	<i>Disbanded</i>		

244th GLASGOW

This Company, enrolled in 1925, was attached to one of Glasgow's most architecturally interesting buildings, St. Vincent Street U.F. Church, better known as the 'Greek Thomson Church' situated at 265 St. Vincent Street. Little is known of the '244' other than the fact they operated under the guidance of their Captain, Donald Chalmers (ex-Lt. 53rd, White Memorial U.F., Sussex Street), from their Mission Hall, at 218 Holm Street, and that they had a Bugle Band. The Company went into abeyance in 1928.

Captains of the 244th Glasgow Company from 1925 until 1928

Session	Captain
1925-27	Donald Chalmers (<i>ex-53rd</i>)
1927-28	Alex. Douglas

246th GLASGOW

David W. Duncan was appointed first Captain of the 246th Glasgow, a Company affiliated to St. Peter's Parish Church. The Company, which met in St. Peter's Church Hall in Brown Street, was formally enrolled into the Glasgow Battalion in 1931. By tradition, on account of its earlier connection with the Church in Brown Street, the 115th was regarded as the Company for the Boys from St. Peter's. Without doubt the relocation of the '115' to St. Marks West, in 1930, had a considerable bearing on the formation of the 246th in 1931. The '246' was a 'family affair'; the Captain, David Duncan, was one of three brothers associated with the Company and the Duncans and Robert Drennan, Leader-in-Charge of the Life Boys, were related though marriage. It would appear that most, if not all, of the 246th staff were connected with St. Peter's, even prior to the formation of the Company.

Unfortunately, due to a shortage of Officers caused by the Second World War, the Company had to be suspended at the close of Session 1941. The Company failed to restart at the end of hostilities. On the union of St. Peter's with Anderston (St. Martin's), in 1951, the 256th acquired a deal of useful equipment and uniform items. The '246' number was reallocated in 1952 to a Company meeting at Canal Street, Port Dundas, in association with Hillhead Baptist Church, and again around 1962 to a newly established Company attached to Fernhill and Cathkin Church, in the Rutherglen area, where it continues to operate.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 246th Glasgow Company from 1931 until 1941

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1931-33	David W. Duncan	1932-34	John W. Duncan
1933-41	Gilbert Berry (<i>ex-115th</i>)	1934-36	Robert Drennan (<i>ex-115th</i>)
1941 -	<i>Suspended</i>	1936-37	John Alexander
		1937-41	Gilbert Berry
		1941 -	<i>Suspended</i>

247th GLASGOW

The 247th was the second Company to be affiliated to St. Vincent Street Church, 265 St. Vincent Street. The Company, which was formally enrolled in 1931, met in the Mission Hall at 218 Holm Street (from which their predecessors, the '244', had operated). The founding and only Captain was Donald R. Mackay M.A. a former Officer of the 231st, who, by continually turning up at District Parades dressed in a morning-coat, was considered to be a bit of an eccentric. Eccentric or not, during Session 1936-37, the Company are recorded as having three Bands in existence, Bugle, Pipe and Brass. The '247' had an outstanding reputation for football. It also had an unfortunate reputation for 'poaching'; the Pipe Band's appearance in 1936 may not be unconnected to the demise of the 248th and the 231st that same year!

Besides the attraction of three excellent Football Teams, a week-night Club-room at the Mission in Holm Street was something of a magnet for Boys (including some from other Companies); few Companies had the benefit of access to accommodation for such activities.

When the St. Vincent Street Charge was dissolved, in 1938, the Company was affiliated to Renfield Street Parish Church but continued to meet in the Mission Hall in Holm Street. The Company also used the Boys' High School in Elmbank Street for a time. The Second World War had an almost immediate effect on the activities of all local Companies. When the decision was taken in 1943 to formally suspend the 224th (St. John's Episcopal, Houldsworth Street) the Boys of that Company were encouraged to join with the 247th until further notice, under Leopold Davies (224th) as Captain; the arrangement lasted but one Session.

The 247th Life Boy Team was temporarily suspended at the end of Session 1939-40 and was able to resume in 1946. The Company failed to follow suit and was finally disbanded in 1949. In its hey-day the 247th was a most impressive Company and something of a force to be reckoned with! The 247th number was reissued to a Company which is at present attached to Temple Anniesland Church, 869 Crow Road.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 247th Glasgow from 1931 until 1949

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1931-46	Donald R. McKay M.A. (<i>ex-231st</i>)	1931-34	Robert G. Shannon (<i>ex-231st</i>)
1946 -	<i>Suspended</i>	1934-38	William Brown M.A.
1949 -	<i>Disbanded</i>	1938-39	Rev. J. Morrison M.A.
		1939-40	Miss McPherson
		1940-46	<i>Suspended</i>
		1946-49	A. McNiven
		1949 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

248th GLASGOW

Attached to Highlander's Memorial, 55 Blythswood Street, this Company was enrolled in 1931. The '248' was the second Company to be affiliated to this congregation; the first Company, the 59th Glasgow, ceased to operate in 1929. Very little is known of the 248th and one can only hazard a guess that the demise of the Company was unexpected, as they had managed to establish a Pipe Band during their final full Session (1934-35) and their arrangements for that Session's Annual Inspection were cancelled (not long before the planned event). It is perhaps more than co-incidence that their nearest neighbours, the 247th, during the following Session list a Pipe Band in addition to Brass and Bugle Bands!

The first and only Captain of the Company, which was disbanded in 1935, was John A. McLeod.

Captains of the 248th Glasgow Company from 1931 until 1936

Session	Captain
1931-35	John A. McLeod

256th GLASGOW

This Company was attached to Anderston (St. Martin's) Parish Church, which stood on the gusset of Argyle Street and St. Vincent Street (the congregation became known latterly as Anderston & St. Peter's). Command of the Company, which was enrolled in 1932, was placed in the hands of Robert Chisholm (ex-100th). Prior to the formation of the 256th, the 100th had been attached for six years to both St. Matthew's-Blythswood and Anderston Parish Church, and Robert Chisholm, former Captain of the 100th, was still on its staff. The 100th Life Boy Team had been meeting at Anderston (St. Martin's) since 1926; it continued to do so after 1932, becoming the 256th Life Boy Team. The 100th Company remained with St. Matthew's-Blythswood.

The 1940s

Of the three Mitchell brothers (ex-17th) connected to the 256th, two had the responsibility of running the Company during the difficult years of 1936-43. The Company, which met in Kent Road School, was able to continue throughout the 1939-45 War. Shortly after the war had ended, Andrew Strang, an ex-Officer just returned from active service, decided to begin a recruiting drive in an effort to strengthen the Staff complement. Working from names on the Company Register, he was devastated to learn when visiting the homes of former Boys that, whilst on military service, many of the former members had been killed in action. In the face of such continual bad news Mr. Strang found it too harrowing to continue his recruiting campaign and abandoned his efforts for the time being. The Company was dormant for a couple of years but eventually restarted in Session 1949-50 and, under Benny Banks (ex-17th), flourished for a while.

By 1957, however, the Company had virtually ceased to operate. Around the same period St. George's & St. Peter's Parish, in Elderslie Street, home of the 17th, was faced with closure due to vacancy and over-provision of Churches in the vicinity, potentially rendering the 17th homeless. The demise of the '256' allowed the 17th to relocate to Anderston & St. Peter's, absorbing remnants of the 256th. The 17th remained at this location, meeting in the Church Hall, St. Vincent Street, until union with the 32nd in 1963.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 256th Glasgow Company from 1932 until 1957

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1932-36	Robert Chisholm (<i>ex-100th</i>)	1933-35	Richard McCulloch
1936-41	Charles Mitchell (<i>ex-17th</i>)	1935-36	Charles J. Mitchell (<i>ex-17th</i>)
1941-43	William RY. Mitchell (<i>ex-17th</i>)	1936-38	Alex. Stevenson
1943-46	Robert Reid	1938-39	Neil Munro (<i>ex-232nd</i>)
1946-47	Archibald Buchan	1939-45	Miss Marshall
1947-49	<i>Suspended</i>	1945-46	Robert Reid
1949-54	Bernard Banks (<i>ex-17th</i>)	1946-47	Archie Buchan
1954-57	Fergus Bolton (<i>ex-282nd</i>)	1947-49	<i>Suspended</i>
1957 -	<i>Disbanded</i>	1949-56	B.W. Banks
		1956 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

282nd GLASGOW

Allan Cuthbertson, a former Captain of the 231st (1932-34) was appointed to oversee the formation of the 282nd Glasgow Company with the assistance of Lt. Ernest Machel, also ex-231st. The '282' was enrolled on 3rd December 1937 and was affiliated to Central U.F. (Continuing) Guest Street. The meeting place for the Company was the Church Hall at 28 Cranston Street.

A sharp decline in membership forced the Church to close around 1960. The remnant of the congregation found temporary accommodation in offices at Sandyford Place. Following closure of the Church premises the Company held meetings in Finnieston School on Friday evenings, while The Life Boys met on Tuesday evenings. The Life Boy Team decided to move their meeting place to Kent Road School in 1962. The following year the remnant of the Central U.F. congregation again moved, this time to premises at 11 Newton Place. This move did not affect the Company or The Life Boy Team which continued to operate from their separate venues until 1965 when it was decided that it was no longer viable to carry on. The Company was finally disbanded in 1965.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 282nd Glasgow Company from 1937 until 1965

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1937-38	Allan Cuthbertson (<i>ex-231st</i>)	1945-47	Ferguson Bolton
1938-51	Ferguson Bolton	1947-51	D. Main (<i>later 51st</i>)
1951-57	D. Collins	1951-54	W. Brown
1957-65	A. Craig	1954-62	Miss C.M. Macdonald
1965 -	<i>Disbanded</i>	1962-65	R. Fisher
		1965 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

UNATTACHED LIFE BOY TEAM

A Mr. R. Crawford was appointed Leader-in-Charge of The Life Boy Team connected to Mains Street Original Secession Church. The Team met on Thursdays at 7.15pm in the Church-hall, Blythwood Street. The 'unattached' Team was not allocated a Company designation as Life Boy Teams did not qualify for a 'number' until a Company unit had been established. The Team operated between the years 1926-1930.

COMPANIES INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED *with* ANDERSTON

1st GLASGOW, the Original Company, founded 4th October 1883. Whilst the 'First' never operated within the confines of Anderston, the association is brought about through the parent Church - College Free Church; this was the congregation with which William Smith and the 1st Glasgow were affiliated when The Boys' Brigade was founded.

The congregation vacated College Free/U.F when the building was damaged by fire in 1903, uniting with Kelvingrove U.F., in 1907, as College and Kelvingrove U.F. Church (in the Kelvingrove building). When the old Kelvin Hall caught fire, on 7th July 1925, debris and cinders from the blaze, carried by the wind for quarter of a mile, set the roof of the College Free Church alight, destroying the property. The congregation united with Claremont U.F. (without a change of name). Claremont united with Finnieston Church in 1964 to become Kelvingrove Parish Church. In 1978, Kelvingrove Parish Church closed, and the congregation united with that of Anderston Parish Church to form Anderston-Kelvingrove Parish Church. As a result of the Church union, the 227th attached to the former Kelvingrove Parish Church, amalgamated with the 41st, at that time connected with Anderston Parish Church.

14th GLASGOW

There were twenty-six Boys on the register when the Company was formally enrolled on 20th November 1885, as the 14th Glasgow Company. P.H. Miller was appointed the first Captain of the Company which was connected with Elgin Place Congregational, Bath Street/Pitt Street. Captain Miller, who remained with the Company for two years, was supported by the other founding Officers - William Kirkland, T.W. Ramsay and A.M. Humphreys.

Captain Miller was succeeded by William Kirkland who ran the Company for one year. There is no further record until 1893, when a new Captain, James D. McDonald, was appointed to take charge of the twenty-nine strong Company. The Company started a Bugle Band in 1899 and, the following year, formed a Pipe Band.

Three Officers of the Company, the Captain, John Henry and his brother Herbert were killed in action during the Great War. At the conclusion of that terrible conflict the Company, in 1919, decided to launch a Boy Reserves Section. The Section met in the Phoenix Park Mission Hall, Ann Street, at 8pm on Monday evenings under the supervision of A.M. Blair.

Bert Lyle, an ex-member of the 1st Glasgow who had been Leader-in-Charge of the 14th Glasgow Life Boy Team (1927-31), left the Company to establish the 70th (Whitevale Church) and later, the 143rd (Kelvinside Old Parish). He was also founder Captain of the 2nd Glasgow, connected with Killermont Church, which, in 1947, became the 3rd Bearsden Company. Bert Lyle was appointed to serve on the Brigade Executive in 1939 where he remained until forced to retire through ill-health some years later.

The 14th had its origins in the Port Dundas area of the city in which they operated until it suffered a similar redevelopment fate as Anderston. The 14th relocated to Trinity Congregational Church, Claremont Street, in 1961, but continued to hold Company meetings in Dundas Vale School at Cowcaddens. The Company ceased to function around 1970. Trinity Congregational was sold shortly afterwards and was converted to the Henry Wood Hall, property of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Without doubt, Stanley Mutter and his family kept the 14th alive, serving in various roles from the 1930s until the demise of the Company in 1970.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 14th Glasgow Company from 1885-1970

COMPANY		COMPANY		BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1885-87	P.H. Miller	1925-26	James Mitchell (<i>Acting</i>)	1919-23	A.M. Blair
1887-88	William Kirkland	1926-34	Hugh S. Brown	1923-27	Alex. Graham
1888-93	<i>Suspended</i>	1934-36	William McIntyre (<i>Acting</i>)	1927-31	Robert A. Lyall
1893-84	James D. McDonald	1936-38	Malcolm D. Campbell	1931-33	Hugh S. Brown
1884-06	William B. Davies	1938-39	John Clark	1933-34	Ernest McManus
1906-07	J. Campbell Brown	1939-40	W.S. Mutter	1934-38	John Clark
1907-14	John Henry	1940-41	John Clark	1938-56	W. Stanley Mutter
1914-17	James Mitchell (<i>Acting</i>)	1941-42	E.S. Mutter	1956-59	D. Mallis
1917-19	Alexander Rankin (<i>Acting</i>)	1942-44	John Renor	1959-62	Mrs. A. Beaton
1919-24	William B. Davies	1944-70	W.S. Mutter	1962-65	J. Chalmers
1924-25	Cecil W. Gray	1970 -	<i>Disbanded</i>	1965 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

19th GLASGOW

This one-time famous Company was founded in 1886 and was officially enrolled on 1st February 1886. Under the command of the first Captain, D. Stuart Carmichael, the seventy strong Company was affiliated to Sandyford Est. Church, 13 Kelvinhaugh Street. Captain Carmichael was assisted by two Officers, D.A.A. Hunter, and T.H. Mingary who, in 1886, left to take over command of a BB Company at Bridge of Weir. During Session 1888-89 the 19th formed a Flute Band which boasted twenty players.

The 1914-18 war had an immediate impact on the running of the Company. No fewer than seven Officers of the Company were called away on military service. The first war casualty of the Company was A.J.R. Thomson who was killed in action in 1915. James Lamond M.C., James Arneil and John Breingan returned to the 19th after the war, but what became of William Morris, Arthur Watson and Charles D. Macfarlane we cannot say.

The 19th were quick off the mark in realising the value of the newly instituted Boy Reserves and formed a Section in 1917. The Section met in Sandyford Parish Church Hall at 6.30pm on Monday evenings.

The 19th contests with the 1st Glasgow for the distinction of having the first Boy ever to be awarded the King's Badge, the highest award in the BB. Both the 1st and the 19th held their Inspection and Display on the same evening in May 1914. The debate centres around the exact time the award was presented to Colour Sergeant Arthur J. Reid of the 1st, and to Colour Sergeant G. Norman Smith of the 19th.

Shortly after being awarded his King's Badge, Smith joined the Cameronians and saw service in the First World War. After the war he went on to serve as an Officer in The Boy Reserves, succeeding to the post of Life Boy Area Supervisor. He married in 1927 and moved to Thorntonhall, near East Kilbride where, in 1933, he established the town's first BB Company attached to East Kilbride Old Parish Church, the 253rd Glasgow. The Company eventually changed its designation to the 1st East Kilbride. Norman Smith held various Brigade appointments until his death in 1976, aged seventy-nine.



G. Norman Smith

The 19th Glasgow was very proficient in Semaphore and Morse, having won the Battalion Signalling Competition outright for twelve consecutive years between 1925 and 1937. Former Company Captain, John Stewart was selected to serve on the Battalion Jubilee Committee. In a lasting tribute to the work carried out by Mr. Stewart, the Halls of Sandyford-Henderson Church, where the BB met, were named in his honour. The five Hamilton brothers, James, Andrew, Daniel, George and John all former Boys in the 19th went on to serve as Officers. George and John also served a two-year 'apprenticeship' in the 17th. In later years John Hamilton became a much-loved and respected Captain of the 49th, and later still of the 214th.

The congregations of Sandyford (HQ of the 19th) and Henderson Memorial (HQ of the 49th) united in 1935. Both Companies continued to operate independently until 1950 when the 19th simply disbanded. The majority of the Boys transferred to the '49' which also benefited from equipment inherited from the 19th.

The 19th Glasgow number was reissued to Castlemilk East Parish Church in Session 1957.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 19th Glasgow Company from 1886-1950

COMPANY		COMPANY		BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1886-87	D. Stuart Carmichael	1919-29	John Stewart	1917-22	W.J. Gibson
1887-91	William Sloan	1929-36	F.M. Breingan	1922-32	G. Norman Smith
1891-92	Robert A. Sloan	1936-39	Alex. Dobbie	1932-33	John S. Burton
1892-02	John L. Ferguson	1936-40	David Bonella	1933-40	Andrew Steel
1902-06	William Miller	1940-41	<i>No Entry</i>	1949-50	D.C. Hamilton
1906-09	John Stewart	1941-45	<i>Temp. Suspended</i>	1950 -	<i>Disbanded</i>
1909-10	Robert C. Barry	1945-50	H. Mulholland		
1910-19	James Lamond	1950 -	<i>Disbanded</i>		



19th GLASGOW COMPANY c1929

S/Sgt W. Harper, A. Steele, W. Angus, F. Breingan, J. Stewart (Captain), J. Arneil, J. Dobbie, J. Hamilton, ?, S/Sgt W. Currie

94th GLASGOW

This BB Company connected with Kelvinhaugh Parish Church, situated near the foot of Yorkhill Street, was formally enrolled as the 94th Glasgow Company on 13th October 1888. The first Captain was David W. Thomson who, along with his founding Officers, John O. Mann and John Roddis, ran the forty-five strong Company. Little more is known of the 94th other than that they went into abeyance in 1903 in which year they competed for the Smith Park Shield (Free Gymnastics). At the close of their last Session, there were two Officers and twenty Boys on the Company Roll. Records do not reveal what became of the Boys or Officers when the Company closed, however, it can reasonably be assumed that most transferred to one of the local Companies.

The 94th number was re-issued to a Company formerly known as 1st Shettleston, affiliated to Shettleston Old Parish Church, 111 Killin Street. This Company still operates as the 94th Glasgow.

Captains of the 94th Glasgow Company from 1888 until 1903

Session	Captain
1888-99	David W. Thomson
1889-90	Robert McAlpine (<i>temporary</i>)
1890-03	David W. Thomson
1903 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

111th GLASGOW

During the latter half of 1890, youth workers at St. Enoch's Free (U.F.) Church, which stood on the gusset of Old Dumbarton Road and Argyle Street, signalled their intention to form a BB Company. The Unit fulfilled its requirements, applied for membership of the Glasgow Battalion, and was formally enrolled on 23rd June, 1891 as the 111th Glasgow Company. They met under the charge of Robert Thomson in the Church Halls at 9 Old Dumbarton Road. Mr. Thomson devoted over forty years service to the 111th as Company Captain. The original Officers of the Company included Ernest W. Shedden, J.D.A. Mitchell and John W. Macfarlane.

Because of their number the Company was often referred to as 'The Three Candlesticks' (111). Other than for a period of absence, while on war service, Robert Thomson was Captain for the duration of the Company's existence.

Around 1933 St. Enoch's-Kelvingrove (the Church designation had changed in 1929) was united with Kelvinhaugh Parish Church as St. Enoch's-Kelvinhaugh, the former St. Enoch's Church property being retained as the place of Worship. The 111th was disbanded at this time and the 212th (Kelvinhaugh) became the Company for the united charge. No doubt Boys of the 111th would have been accommodated by either the 212th or the 49th.

The 111th number was reissued in Session 1935-36 and now belongs to a Company attached to Ballieston-St. Andrews Church, 2 Bredisholm Road, Ballieston.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 111th Glasgow Company from 1891 until 1933

COMPANY

Session Captain

1891-14 Robert Thomson
1914-19 John H. Macfarlane
1919-33 Robert Thomson V.D.
1933 - *No entry*

BOY RESERVES - LIFE BOYS

Session Leader-in-Charge

1925-29 Hugh Innes
1929-30 Miss Jean Thomson
1930-32 Neil McIntyre
1932-33 Alex R. Macdonald
1933 - *No entry*

212th GLASGOW

Founded by Sandy Martin, an ex-member of the 1st who was acquainted with the BB Founder, the 212th Glasgow Company's date of enrolment was 1st October 1924. The '212' was attached to Kelvinhaugh Parish Church, 146 Kelvinhaugh Street (near the foot of Yorkhill Street). Sandy Martin was an extremely practical man who introduced worthwhile and sensible activities into the Company programme. Realising that many members of the Company were poorly shod, he introduced a shoe-repair class into the Company curriculum. The Company flourished under Captain Martin and, in time, the 212th was able to form an orchestra! As with so many other BB Officers, the local community held Sandy Martin in very high regard.

The Company formed a Bugle Band around 1927 which was still in operation at the outbreak of the Second World War. The quick succession of Captains and Leaders-in-Charge of Life Boys immediately after the war suggests that the Company might have been experiencing staffing problems.

John Morrison, Leader-in-Charge of the 212th Life Boy Team (1933-36), entered the ministry of the Church of Scotland and was minister of the Old West Kirk, Greenock, for a time. He was also brother-in law of Willie Mackenzie (ex-17th), who was Leader-in-Charge of the '212' Life Boy Team (1951-53).

Following union with St. Enoch's-Kelvingrove Church in 1933, the designation of the parent Church of the 'TWO-TWELVE' was changed to St. Enoch-Kelvinhaugh. The Company was suspended in 1959 but the Life Boy Team managed to continue operating in 'The Haugh' until 1963. The '212' number was reissued to a new Company established in 1968, attached to Cadder Parish Church, in the Bishopbriggs area of Glasgow.

Captains and Officers-in-Charge of the 212th Glasgow Company from 1924 until 1963

COMPANY		LIFE BOYS	
Session	Captain	Session	Leader-in-Charge
1924-28	Alex (Sandy) Martin (<i>ex-1st</i>)	1932-33	Alex Robertson
1928-31	John Little	1933-36	John Morrison
1931-37	George A. Kilgour	1936-39	Andrew T. Gallie
1937-41	James Mathie	1939-44	Miss D. Thomson
1941-45	James McPhail	1944-45	James McPhail
1945-46	T. Sheilds	1945-46	A.R. Miller
1946-47	<i>No entry</i>	1946-47	T. Sheilds
1947-48	J. Burns (acting)	1947-48	J. Woods
1948-56	A. Muir	1948-49	E. Copland
1956-59	A.R. Miller	1949-51	A.R. Miller
1959 -	<i>Disbanded</i>	1951-53	W.J. Mackenzie (<i>ex-17th</i>)
		1953-56	Miss E.M. Fraser
		1956-58	Mrs. E. Millar
		1958-63	Miss M. Coull
		1963 -	<i>Disbanded</i>

93rd GLASGOW, Renfield St. Stephen's, Bath Street.

Brief mention must be made of the 93rd Glasgow, a Company now situated on the immediate northern periphery of Anderston. Like most city centre Companies, the 93rd is a complex mix of Church and BB unions that are composed, directly, or indirectly of the following Companies: 29th, 44th, 62nd, 64th, 69th, 88th, 93rd, 95th, 122nd, 125th, 156th, 193rd, 208th, 239th, 246th and the 247th. An excellent history of the 93rd has been produced by W. Pollock (1988) outlining a brief history of all the associated Companies.

CADET COMPANIES

Towards the end of the 1890s the value of the training method adopted by the Brigade was not lost on the military and political leaders who saw the Organisation as a ready-made recruiting ground for the Territorial Forces. William Smith, the Brigade Founder, vehemently opposed any suggestion that the BB should be used for such purposes, a view that was shared by 80% of Churches and BB Companies. The Brigade's prime object was to bring the Gospel to Boys, the military element being merely the means to the end of maintaining good discipline. The simple uniform, awards system and rank structure had a strong appeal to young Boys, attracting them to the Movement.

When the First World War broke out, 618 serving Officers of the Battalion, and 5,352 Staff Sergeants and ex-members, rallied to the country's call to arms. Permission was granted from the Government to raise a Battalion of Officers and ex-members from the Glasgow Battalion, The Boys' Brigade. Many of the volunteers formed the nucleus of the 16th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (HLI). The Commanding Officer of the 16th HLI was a former Battalion President, Col. David Laidlaw (60th). The 16th Battalion, known as the '*Boys' Brigade Battalion*' saw action and suffered heavy losses in the fields of Flanders, on the Somme, at Beaumont-Hamel, Thiepval, Ypres, and numerous other places associated with the First World War.

The Brigade Founder died just prior to the start of the First World War and, as that conflict dragged relentlessly on, extra pressure in the guise of national patriotism was placed on the BB to affiliate with the military but the Organisation refused to give-in to government pressures. Between 1917 and 1922 a number of Companies did loosely affiliate to the 'Cadet Scheme' in order to reap the benefits of huge discounts on resources such as camping equipment etc. The following local Companies were registered as Cadet Companies: 9th, 14th, 17th, 19th, 31st, 32nd, 41st, 51st, 82nd, 100th and the 115th. The government scheme came to an end in 1922 and, around this period, the Brigade finally began disposing of the dummy rifles that had so long been viewed as unnecessary and overly militaristic; they had all gone by 1926.

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 1905-1915

Coy.	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
2 nd	42	36	32	30	42	54	42	38	30	58	47
7 th	60	45	59	50	70	60	53	49	40	43	34
9 th	58	58	47	48	62	57	49	58	60	62	40
14 th	71	65	56	76	64	48	51	48	65	50	40
17 th	43	36	32	32	36	36	37	45	40	50	60
19 th	44	59	45	65	66	76	45	57	67	80	65
22 nd	38	39	39	51	57	45	49	41	44	48	40
28 th	40	41	32	36	38	28	34	23	21	N/R	N/R
31 st	53	65	66	65	65	58	58	46	58	50	42
32 nd	61	57	38	40	39	36	66	66	61	63	50
33 rd	47	30	25	<i>Company Suspended</i>			<i>Number reissued to a Company in Jordanhill</i>				
41 st	36	18	27	53	56	63	68	65	62	80	86
45 th	43	33	30	38	39	32	32	<i>Reissued to a Company in Shawlands</i>			
49 th	50	44	50	54	50	50	42	48	50	57	50
51 st	56	66	58	54	66	68	84	81	78	98	93
100 th	70	66	70	65	88	89	97	99	101	98	90
111 th	49	53	47	47	38	37	30	34	41	57	57
115 th	60	49	36	41	51	49	45	44	41	40	42
Totals	921	860	789	845	927	886	882	812	859	934	836

N/R = No Annual Return



The 32nd Parading from their Company Headquarters in Piccadilly Street, 1927

All Part of the Story

PART THREE

‘ENTER *the* WEE BROTHERS’

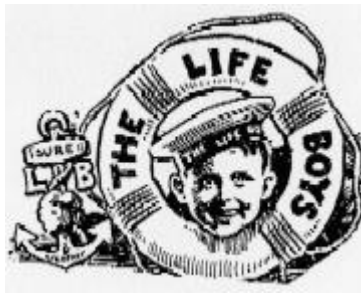
THE BOY RESERVES



Prior to 1917 The Boys' Brigade catered only for Boys in the twelve to seventeen year age-range. The formation of The Boy Reserves, the junior reserve of the BB, was established to accommodate Boys of between nine and twelve years of age.

Whilst the Boy Reserves were part of the BB Movement, every Boy Reserves Section was run separately from the parent BB Company. Prior to The Boy Reserves, only male Officers were involved in BB work. The introduction of the younger age groups meant that wives and girlfriends would, in time, become actively involved in the Organisation as Honorary Instructors.

The Boy Reserves were in existence until the union of The Boys' Life Brigade with The Boys' Brigade, in 1926, a union that gave birth to 'The Life Boys'. Many youngsters simply worshipped their Life Boy, and latterly, Junior Section Officers. In many cases it was only at 'Team Meetings' that some Boys received the care and affection that was sadly lacking in their home-life.



THE LIFE BOYS

Object: The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among young Boys, and the training of a suitable body of recruits for The Boys' Brigade.



In common with The Boy Reserves, entry into 'The Life Boys' was during the Session in which a Boy attained his ninth birthday. I clearly recall going along to St. Mark's-Lancefield Church with some of my pals to see what The Life Boys was all about; the rest is history. We all joined the 32nd Glasgow Life Boy Team. What a thrill it was when, within a few weeks of joining, we were issued with our Life Boy 'sailor hat' thus completing our full uniform. Many years later, when I took over as Leader-in-Charge of the 17th Glasgow Life Boy Team from Betty McCallum (who had succeeded Jack McDonald, Leader-in-Charge during my term in The Life Boys), I could sense from the Boys, to whom I was issuing their first uniform, that same feeling of anticipation and excitement which I had felt all those years previously.

The success of the Junior Organisation was undoubtedly due to the quality and imagination of the Leaders. At the close of each Session an Annual Display would be put on, with parents and friends invited to attend. Life Boy Displays were imaginative and light-hearted. A typical example of a Life Boy Display is described in the 'Young Scots Own Record', dated June 1930:

ON THE GOOD SHIP 'LIFEBOY'

Glasgow Lads' Unique Performance.

Three years ago the Boys' Brigade decided to admit women as officers in the Life Boy movement (the junior section of the organisation). Today there are thousands of Life Boys in Glasgow, and the success of the scheme has been due to the fine work done by the girls. In fact there is one team of Life Boys which intimates that no more recruits can be accepted meantime. And no wonder!

Anyone who knows the organising ability of Miss Margaret MacFarlane, Captain of the 32nd Glasgow Team, and knows with what enthusiasm she undertakes the work of interesting and amusing the youngsters under her charge, will understand without more said.

Those who have not had the honour of knowing Miss MacFarlane should be introduced. Meet her. Miss MacFarlane - a business girl, but, above all, a friend of the youngsters. Every member of her Company looks up to her, and in sickness and health she cares for them and becomes a regular 'chum'.

Perhaps you have heard about a great day which the Boys of her Company had the other week. Hundreds of Glasgow folk, big ones and little ones, turned out to see a most novel play performed by the Boys and produced by their talented leader. It took the form of a full-dress parade on board the good ship 'H.M.S. Lifeboy' at Yorkhill Quay.

The way they have in the Navy was shown to the company as the boys made sail and took off with their cargo loaded. Cheery voices were heard singing "Will Your Anchor Hold", and when the flag was hoisted the ships company was inspected. Then sea-shanties and songs with a real tang of the sea were heard - rollicking songs such as "The Jack Tar Swagger" and "The Merry Minstrels". But some of the Boys could not sing, and were made to dance with musical feet.

It would, I'm afraid, take too long to tell you of all the wonderful things they did. But every aspect of life on board the ship was shown to the spectators, and when the time came to "drop anchor" everybody was sorry. And even though it was only an imaginary ship - the Boys enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Three cheers for Commander Margaret! Hip, hip Hooray!

I interviewed Miss MacFarlane and asked her how she had made her team such a success. "Oh, well," she said, "that's easy. First of all you must be very strict with the Boys. My Boys, I am glad to say, are very obedient, and more than that, they are willing to help one another. That is the real team spirit. They like to come to their weekly meetings, which are held in their headquarters in Piccadilly Street, Anderston." The Team is connected with Wellington Church Mission.

H.B.D

Footnote: Margaret MacFarlane married John Lang, an Officer in the '32'; the couple had a daughter who, in time-honoured fashion, was to carry on the great BB family tradition. Pat Lang served as Officer-in-Charge of the 4th Glasgow Life Boy Team/Junior Section (Kelvinside-Botanic Gardens), and later, as Captain of the Company, a service that spanned thirty-years, from 1957 until 1987. Pat retired from active involvement in the BB when she became a Minister of the Gospel.

Joining 'The Lifeys'

Most of my friends and I had no Church connection and, like many youngsters, my Life Boy Leader-in-Charge, Jack McDonald, was my hero and a finer role-model I could not have wished for! He was a tall, peaceful man who never raised his voice. His very presence commanded respect and calm from the sixty-strong Team. Even to an eight-and-a-half year old, it was evident that this man was special. He was a fine Christian gentleman. Of course, the other Leaders were all loved and respected. There was a close bond between Leader and Boy, a relationship that often continued into adult life. I am proud to record that I went on to serve as an Officer in the 41st with Andy Montgomery who was one of my Life Boy Leaders.

The Life Boys, whose motto was *'Play the Game'*, were affectionately referred to as 'The Lifeys' and were the official younger Section of The Boys' Brigade. However, a number of Companies operated 'unofficial' units with even younger age groups under such imaginative titles as, The Trainees, Imps, Shipmates, Nauts, and Sparks. The Life Boy badge comprised a lifebelt with an anchor in the centre. At Team Meetings a ship's-bell was rung once to fall the Group Leaders in, followed by two rings for the remainder of the Team to fall-in in 'Quarter-Deck' formation.

The Union flag was raised at the Opening Parade and lowered during the Closing Ceremony. The average evening's activities usually included Maze Marching, Percussion Band, Tubular Bells, Handicrafts, Folk and Country Dancing; Choir and Physical Exercises, each activity alternating at suitable intervals with a variety of games, some with nautical references, e.g. 'Port and Starboard'.



Members of the 49th Glasgow Life Boy Team - 1947

Sunday School attendance was compulsory if you wished to remain a member of The Life Boys. For many youngsters the Life Boy Football Team was their first experience of participating in a competitive football match and wearing a team strip. We all styled ourselves on the professional footballers of the day. In the days before television and other diversions, The Life Boys was a very popular organisation. Just about every Boy in the local primary schools was a member of one of the local 'Teams'.

Colin McKinnon a member of the 227th Glasgow Life Boy Team was involved in a life-saving drama in 1963 when he plunged into the River Kelvin to save his five-year old brother, Derek, from drowning. With no thought for his own safety, Colin, a non-swimmer, shouted for help as he plunged into the swiftly flowing river. He grabbed hold of Derek's jacket and started to make for the riverbank. Help was quickly at hand to lift the two Boys from the murky waters and Derek was given artificial respiration. Jim Scott, Colin's Leader-in-Charge, commented "*Colin is a good all-round Life Boy, he plays in the football team, participates in country dancing, choir, bells, in fact, everything he can be in.*" At The Life Boy Display that year, Colin received a BB Bible, presented to him by his hero, Jim Christie of Glasgow Rangers.

The Junior Section, The Life Boys, and The Boy Reserves before that, were an all too often forgotten but vital part of the BB family. The junior organisation was the fertile recruiting ground that introduced Boys into the BB Movement.

The Life Boy Text:

Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man. (St. Luke Ch. 2v40)

The Life Boy Motto: *'Play the Game'*

BRIGADE RE-ORGANISATION

The distinctive Life Boy uniform disappeared with the implementation of a new Brigade structure in 1968. The Brigade age range was reviewed and revised to formally recognise and include the multitude of unofficial pre-Life Boy groups. The Life Boys were renamed with the unimaginative title of the 'Junior Section' (8-11 years of age) and a new younger age group became the 'Anchor Boys' (5-8 year olds). The Company was divided into two age groupings, the Company Section (11-15 year olds) and the Senior Section (16-18 year olds).

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



The Company - 1890



The Football Team - 1890

17th GLASGOW COMPANY



Pyramid Team - 1932



The Band - 1890

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



Malcolm P. Douglas, Captain, 1892-96



James H. Coutts, Captain, 1899-1919

17th GLASGOW COMPANY



Gymkhana Gymnastic Team, 1919

A FAMILY AFFAIR

'Who is on the Lord's side?'

The Boys' Brigade owes a tremendous debt to the many unsung heroes who unselfishly devoted their lives to the Organisation. In many instances the BB was a family affair; not only were sons members, fathers, uncles, and later, mothers, sisters and aunts became actively involved in the Organisation. It is impossible to measure the value of the service given by BB Officers and their families. The commitment over the years gives some indication of their dedication. There are some families such as the Kidstons and Farmers (9th & 32nd), the Hannan brothers (58th & 115th), the Stanger brothers (17th) and the five Hamilton brothers (19th) of whom some form of record exists; but there are countless hundreds, if not thousands of families who, over the decades gave of their time, talents and resources to maintaining the local BB Company.

HISTORY on the DOORSTEP

Not only were prominent Companies to be found in Anderston; the area in the immediate periphery formed a major part of the historic beating heart of the BB. The home of the Battalion President's mother, Lady Robertson, was at 22 Woodside Terrace (near Charing Cross). It was in this house, in 1904, that the idea of the Boy Scouts was first mooted when Baden-Powell, a Brigade Vice President, met with William Smith, the Brigade's Founder. A plaque was placed on the exterior of the property to mark this historic meeting.

Scouting for Boys

In his capacity as a Brigade Vice-President, Baden-Powell was invited by the Brigade Founder to write 'Scouting for Boys'. The scheme was inaugurated in the St. Andrew's Halls on Wednesday, 18th December 1907. Scouting as an activity was embraced by a number of Companies who were encouraged to set up Patrols or Troops. J.P. Brown of the 28th and Henry M. Hannan of the 58th (later with the 115th), served on the first Battalion Scouting Committee. The BB Gazette of January 1909 published an article, written by Hannan, offering practical advice for Companies intending to participate in Scouting.

College & Kelvingrove

Sir William A. Smith, who had been knighted for his services to youth in 1909, was an Elder in the College and Kelvingrove U.F. Church which stood opposite the main gates to Kelvingrove Park, on Royal Terrace. Smith's Memorial Service was held in this Church. At the conclusion of the Service the huge funeral cortege wound its way to the Western Necropolis where Sir William's mortal remains were solemnly interred.

Kelvingrove District

Stanley and Douglas Smith, the Brigade Founder's sons, had a close affinity with Kelvingrove District and, when time permitted, they participated in District Parades. Another well-known BB personality who took a keen interest in Kelvingrove District and was a regular participant in the District Parades was John Leggat, Secretary of the Glasgow Battalion.

Property

Glasgow Battalion opened their Headquarters at 168 Bath Street in 1930, the premises also served as the Brigade's Scottish HQ.

The Battalion also owned Stobcross House at 185 Stobcross Street. Built by James Allan, a shipping magnate, this fine purpose-built property, erected in 1892, was donated to Wellington Church for Mission Work. Known originally as Allan's Halls the designation was later changed to Stobcross House. The Mission Hall was the Headquarters of the 9th until union with the 32nd in 1936. The 32nd remained there until 1950 when ownership of the property passed to Glasgow Battalion on very favourable financial terms. The Battalion disposed of the property in 1960 and the building was later demolished (1968) as part of the Clydeside Expressway development plan. The proceeds from the sale of Stobcross House, together with special fund-raising, provided finance for the extension and upgrading of Battalion Headquarters at 168 Bath Street. The Bath Street property was sold in 2000 when the Battalion Offices relocated to Ibrox Parish Church, Clifford Street.

All Part of the Story

PART FOUR

‘WARNING for PARADE’

DISTRICTS

‘Onward Christian Soldiers’

The uptake in the formation of BB Companies throughout Glasgow was so rapid that it became necessary to organise the various Companies into local groups, known as Districts. In 1888 the Companies of the Battalion were divided into three separate Districts; Eastern, Southern and Western. A fourth District, South Eastern, was later added. The Anderston Companies formed part of Western District.



Finding suitable venues capable of accommodating the huge turnout of Boys attending Battalion Church Parades began to prove difficult. It was decided, in 1896, that Western District, by this time with thirty-six Companies, be sub-divided into four groupings for Battalion Parades and other activities:

The first Section ‘*Anderston & Cranstonhill Division*’ comprised the following Companies: 2nd, 7th, 9th, 22nd, 31st, 32nd, 45th, 51st, 100th and the 115th.

The second Grouping ‘*Cowcaddens & St. George’s Division*’ comprised the following Companies: 3rd, 5th, 17th, 58th, 64th, 75th, 93rd, and the 114th.

The third Subdivision was ‘*Partick & Overnewton Division*’ and included the following Companies: 13th, 19th, 24th, 49th, 76th, 90th, 94th, 105th and the 111th.

The fourth Unit ‘*Woodside & Springburn Division*’ incorporated the remainder of the Companies in Western District: 1st, 4th, 6th, 12th, 15th, 26th, 28th, 60th and the 82nd.

As the strength of the Battalion increased it was found necessary to subdivide the Western District yet again, part of the District became Kelvingrove District (1920). Later Blythwood District was formed embracing some of the Kelvingrove Companies (1934). In 1951, Kelvingrove was re-formed on the disappearance of Central and Blythwood Districts. The harmonious working relationship of the Officers of Kelvingrove District remained in evidence until the disappearance of the District following reorganisation of the Battalion in 1966.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Anderston was a bustling, self-contained community during the 1950s, where just about any commodity required could be purchased locally. Churches were still well-attended and the BB was strong and healthy.

With the amount of talent readily available within each local Company, it made sense for the District to put together a display, or show, in which every Company within the District could be represented. District Shows were numerous and many will have been forgotten with the passage of time, but some District Show programmes survive, providing details of Companies active in Anderston at the time of the events.

Blythswood District held a show on 3rd February 1950 called *“Oor Ain Folk”* in the Woodside Halls. The Companies taking part included: 17th, 32nd, 41st, 51st, 100th, 115th, 122nd, 193rd, 259th and the 282nd. Four years later the local Companies, by now part of Kelvingrove District, staged a show in St. Mark’s-Lancefield Church Hall, 725 Argyle Street, on the 25th and 26th November 1954, titled *‘Bright Boys on Parade’*. The newly enlarged District now included the following Companies: 7th, 14th, 17th, 32nd, 41st, 51st, 82nd, 88th, 122nd, 156th, 157th, 193rd, 239th, 246th, 256th and the 282nd.

Redevelopment of the inner city during the early 1960s, together with construction work on the Kingston Bridge and M8 Motorway, cut a huge swathe through Kingston, Anderston, Charing Cross, St. George’s Cross, Cowcaddens and beyond. The displacement of the population caused a rapid decline in BB membership throughout the city centre and, before long, the effects of redevelopment began to tell on Kelvingrove District. However, even during the final days, the esprit-de-corps within the District was still very strong.

When it was decided that Kelvingrove could no longer continue as a District in 1966, almost as a mark of defiance a farewell District Show was staged in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, supported by all Sections. Companies from the District put on a seamless sequence of demonstrations; as one item left the floor, another entered. The Show comprised games, physical activities, drill and bands. The evening’s entertainment was brought to a fitting close by the combined Brass and Bugle Bands of the 17th and 82nd, playing a stirring rendition of *‘Sunset’* followed by the evening Hymn, *‘Abide with me’*. A number of Officers were visibly moved and had tears in their eyes. As the Display ended, they shook hands and departed. Another chapter in BB history had been written. Kelvingrove, the *‘Friendly District’*, was disbanded with its head held high and with pride in a job well done.



Lt. Bill Menzies (17th) leading the final Parade of Kelvingrove District, Argyle Street, 1966

Former Kelvingrove Companies were reallocated, depending on their geographical location, to either Maryhill, or Partick District. The 14th, 17th, 41st and 82nd were integrated into Partick District and wholeheartedly contributed to the life of that District. Despite the numerical superiority of some Partick Companies, the 17th in particular, and later the 41st, were not to be intimidated. The Anderston Companies had quality and this was clearly demonstrated by competing in, and winning, numerous District competitions. Partick District held an extravaganza called *‘Enterprise Partick’* in the Kelvin Hall Arena and the Boys of the 17th and 41st participated fully, as we shall later see.

BATTALION CHURCH PARADE

The earliest Battalion Church Parades were held in the vicinity of Anderston. The first Battalion Parade was to the Queen's Rooms, La Belle Place at Clifton Street, overlooking Kelvingrove Park. On account of the turnout of Boys and interested onlookers, the venue proved too small. The following year the location was switched to the St. Andrew's Halls (meeting place of the 22nd). This proved to be an ideal location and sections of the Annual Battalion Parade continued here until the Halls were destroyed by fire in 1962, although for a couple of years around 1959-60, Kelvingrove Park Arena and Bandstand was used for Open Air Parades. In the aftermath of the St. Andrew's Hall fire simultaneous Parades went to other locations: the Districts of Kelvingrove, Maryhill and Partick parading to Wellington Church (original parent Church of the 9th and the 32nd Companies).

During the 1960s, Battalion Parades, usually held in May, were quite a spectacle to witness. The three Districts in our part of the city converged on Wellington Church. At 2.40pm on a Sunday afternoon the stillness of the day was broken by the sound of Bugles in the distance, followed by the Companies of Partick District winding their way up and over University Avenue from the west. Next could be heard, growing ever nearer, the music of the Silver Band of 'The First' (1st Glasgow) leading Maryhill District as they approached from the north along Bank Street. Kelvingrove District approached Wellington Church from the south, via Kelvin Way, led by the Pipes and Drums. Every District was able to produce Bugle, Pipe and Brass Bands. In later years some Districts introduced Trumpet and American-style Marching Bands (often difficult to march to), but capable of producing an interesting sound.

Speakers at Battalion Church Parades were carefully selected. They had to be especially interesting if they hoped to retain the attention of upwards of 2,000 Boys on a Sunday afternoon. There is little to compare with a Church or hall packed to capacity with Boys in Brigade uniform singing the 'old favourites'; '*Underneath the Banner*'; '*Who is on the Lord's side?*' and, of course, the hymn most closely associated with the Boys' Brigade – '*Will Your Anchor Hold?*'. At one of the Parades held in the Kelvingrove Park Bandstand arena there were three well-known ministers officiating; Rev. James Currie (St. James, Pollok), Rev. Stanley Mair (Netherlee), and the Rev. Robert Paterson (King's Park) - '*The Happy Padre*'; What a team!

In common with Company District Parades, Life Boy 'Quarter Deck Parades', held annually, visited on a rotational basis those Churches within the District that had a Life Boy Team. It was not unusual to have an attendance in excess of three hundred Boys on Parade.

BATTALION SHOWS

The Life Boys of Glasgow Battalion staged a number of shows called '*The Young Brother Show*'. The events, which ran four nights of the week, were held in The Lyric Theatre, Sauchiehall Street, on a regular basis. This was my first taste of live theatre performance and, despite being part of a large choir, a terrifying ordeal it proved to be. However, the seed was sown and we were keen to experience more of the 'grease-paint and applause'. Kelvingrove District also held Life Boy Shows in Stobcross House and a number of local Church Halls, all of which were very well supported.

In the days when Glasgow boasted a strong theatre-going audience the Glasgow Battalion of The Boys' Brigade staged a number of theatre shows called '*BB Fanfare*' which, naturally, featured Anderston Companies. '*BB Fanfare*', a week-long series of shows, was first staged in the Theatre Royal, Hope Street, in 1920, and this remained the favoured venue for the next forty years. Following closure of the 'Royal', '*Fanfare*' was relocated to the King's Theatre in Bath Street. 'The King's' was a most convenient Theatre for the Boys of Anderston Companies, less than ten minutes walk at most. Even closer to home was the location of the last of the '*Fanfare*' series. In 1967 the show was staged in the 'New Concert Hall', better known locally as the former Gaiety Cinema on Argyle Street, right in the heartland of Anderston.

'*BB Fanfare*' was replaced by a series of Battalion shows called '*Drumbeat*' that were held in the Kelvin Hall Arena, and a spectacular series of shows they proved to be. It must be said that the Officers of Partick District, of which Anderston was part, will claim that the Battalion was only following in the footsteps already mapped out by '*Enterprise Partick*', a District show which had preceded the Battalion's efforts. '*Enterprise*' was a spectacle that, some might claim, left the Battalion show in the shade. Whatever the opinion might be, the Companies in Anderston were willing and able participants in both the District and the Battalion spectacles. Undoubtedly, the experience of working for two masters had an enhancing effect on each Company's involvement in whichever Show they were part of.

As the Brigade Centenary approached, the Battalion searched for a new title for their show; the venue of Kelvin Hall Arena provided a most apt title for the performance - '*Arena*'. Two spectacles of that name were held, '*Arena '81*', and the Centenary Show, '*Arena '83*'. The Officers and Boys of the Partick District, and of the 32nd in particular, provided important support both in terms of Boys and items, as well as in the production of scenery.

All Part of the Story

PART FIVE

'GENERAL SALUTE'

THE 1920s and '30s

'Be Thou my Vision'

As will be clear by now, Officers serving in Anderston Companies had important influence on the early development of Battalion and Brigade events. Active and prominent involvement by local Officers was to continue beyond the Jubilee of the Movement. In the formative years the workings of Glasgow Battalion and the Brigade were indistinguishable. Glasgow Battalion was the Brigade! Leading figures in the Battalion included; J.B Couper (2nd), Battalion Vice President; Hugh Reid (7th), Battalion President; William Kidston (9th), the driving force behind the Ambulance Class; Laurence Smith (17th), Battalion Secretary; Andrew McClure (100th), Battalion Secretary; Alan Cuthbert (9th) Battalion Treasurer; Tom W. Cuthbertson (115th), Brigade Treasurer and editor of the BB Gazette; also at Brigade level, John Roxburgh (founder of the 17th).

Between the 1900s and 1930s social conditions in Anderston had not improved much. Many families caught in the unemployment and poverty trap were still housed in poor quality, sub-standard accommodation. It was not uncommon to see children barefooted in the streets. Alcohol abuse among the male population was prevalent, not helped by the presence of more than thirty public houses within the district. Disease was also a frequent visitor to the area. An outbreak of Lascar Fever, in Richard Street during the 1920s, caused that part of the community to be quarantined and sealed-off by the military. Rickets, malnourishment and associated illnesses were common. It was against such a background that the BB and the Churches had to operate. Not only did local BB Companies offer worthwhile activities that kept Boys off the streets but, for some, their only hope of escape from the grime of the smoke-ridden city was BB Camp. It is impossible to be sure how many Boys who, because their families could not afford to meet the cost of sending their son to Camp, were taken without charge. Even into the latter-half of 1960s, Boys from poorer backgrounds were being taken to Camp 'as guests of the Company'. No one ever found out which Boys were subsidised; this confidence was held in trust by the Officers and was never broken.

JUBILEE 1933

During the 'Hungry Thirties' membership of the BB in Anderston was strong and there existed a number of excellent Companies; undoubtedly this was a reflection on the quality of the Officers. The 'Anderston BB influence', so important in the early years, continued on into the 1930s. Perhaps one of the reasons why the '1933 Jubilee' events were such a success was because so many local Officers were involved.



BB members across the world were looking forward to celebrating the Jubilee of The Boys' Brigade, and where better to celebrate than in Glasgow, Birthplace of the Movement?

Planning and organising committees were set up to prepare for the great event when the eyes of the BB world would focus firmly on Glasgow. Every Officer and Boy had a part to play in ensuring the success of this milestone in the Brigade's history.

All the major planning and preparation for the celebrations was passed to the responsibility of the 'Jubilee Committee' on which no fewer than six Officers associated with local Companies played an important role: Colonel Sir John A. Roxburgh (17th), John Stewart (19th), Tom Henderson (31st), W. Roy Farmer (32nd), Andrew McClure (100th) and William Renfrew of the 224th.

The huge parade assembled for the Jubilee Review, held in Queen's Park in 1933, totalled over 32,500 members. The Parade was led by the 1st Glasgow and the Companies of Kelvingrove District. The 32nd had a number of key roles, as well as providing a Brass Band, the Orderly Bugler for the day was, Wallace Baxter, a member of that Company; the involvement does not end there. It was discovered very late in the day that Prince George, who was to Review the Parade, had no official car. However, help was at hand; John Lang, an Officer in the '32', arranged that his vehicle, complete with chauffeur, be made available. For those with an interest in motorcars, a rare, blue, fabric-bodied, 12HP Austin Windsor saloon was donated, in 1961, by John Lang's family, to the Glasgow Museum of Transport where it is on permanent exhibition.

Carry On!

The theme that rang out during the Jubilee Celebrations that centred on Glasgow, was 'Carry On!' It was particularly fitting therefore that Tom Henderson, Captain of the '31st' (St. Vincent Parish Church), composed the words and music of 'Carry On', a song that became a favourite during the Jubilee period.



*For fifty years the works' been done,
And now it's our to Carry On!
Stedfast as our fathers were,
Sure in the faith that won;
Hear the song, clear and strong,
Down through the ranks go ringing;
For fifty years the work's been done,
And now it's our to Carry On.*

All Part of the Story

A MOMENT IN TIME



The Company in its Jubilee Year – 1936 (Wellington Mission, Piccadilly Street)

32nd GLASGOW COMPANY



The Company in 1983 (Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church)

*Officers (Rear): K. Anderson, G. Hillan, R. Walker, J. Wright, G. McCracken, A. Martin, I. Martin, I. McPherson
(Front): D. McKinnon, W. Imrie, J. Scott (Capt.), Rev. S. Hood, J.N. Cooper, I McKail.*

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



Bugle Band in the Courtyard of Henderson Memorial Halls - 1947
Rear: D. Rowan, T. Rowan, ? , D. Cowan, E. Rintoul, ? , R. Wilson. Front: ? , W. McKinnon

49th GLASGOW COMPANY



The Company in its Jubilee Year – 1936 (West of Scotland Cricket Ground, Partick)

The 1940s

The outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 had an almost immediate effect on the normal routine work of most BB Companies. Officers and Staff Sergeants volunteered or were conscripted for National Service, depleting the staffing level of many Companies. In some instances Reserve Officers (RO's) were able to step in and fill the gap; in others, the Companies had little option but to join forces with other Companies, or suspend their activities for a while (sometimes for the duration of the war).

An article in the December 1939 edition of the 32nd Glasgow Company Chronicle attempts to assure Boys (and parents) of their intention to 'Carry on' as normal during the period of uncertainty:

'The question as to whether B.B. work should be carried on during wartime has aroused some controversy in different circles. That may have been the reason why so many Companies were late in making a start this year. But in the majority of cases it was just momentary pause after the declaration of war, and then a rush to restart. And this attitude commends itself to all people with the welfare of the organisation at heart. Some Companies of course are quite willing to start but have no place to hold parade and are therefore forced to remain inactive. Others hesitate because of difficulties which may crop up due to an air raid, and one must acknowledge this difficulty.

In Stobcross House we are fortunate in having premises, which meet every requirement. In the lower hall, which is almost entirely below street level, we have room to accommodate the whole Company with reasonable protection against air raid. No protection of course is of any use in a gas attack unless you have a gas mask with you. It is a mistake to come to any parade of the Company without your mask. If every member brings his mask on every occasion then we are as safe in the hall as anywhere in the city. To further the aims of safety the Company may introduce gas mask drill, which will ensure that every Boy will be familiar with the procedure in an emergency. Drill of this sort must never be treated as a joke, the joke might be on you one day.

Youth organisations today have a most important job to do. The present generation of Boys may well be the men who will bring the Country out of the difficult years which follow war. Years of discontentment and gloom. Years of patient plodding to renew faith in individuals as well as Nations. The transition between war and peace will be depressing unless men of true calibre are ready to meet it. Youth organisations can and will prove their worth in this respect. Mental, Spiritual, and Physical education, along with discipline, will produce the proper man. This is the work all B.B. Companies will be doing during the difficult years of war.'



32nd outside Wellington Mission, Piccadilly Street, 1927

All Part of the Story

PART SIX

‘COMPANY ACTIVITIES’

BIBLE CLASS

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths. (Ecclesiastes 12 v 1; Proverbs 3 v 6).

Held each Sunday morning at 10am, Bible Class was, perhaps understandably, one of the least popular activities, nevertheless, attendance was compulsory if you hoped to participate in the following week's activities. Apart from preaching the Gospel, Bible Class was a useful vehicle for instilling Christian values, principles, discipline and loyalty. It was not unreasonable to expect a minimum attendance of 90% of the Company each Sunday morning.

Contrary to popular belief, not every BB Company in the early years held a Bible Class. Of the ninety Companies that made up Glasgow Battalion in 1899, only thirty-eight are recorded as having a Bible Class. Other Companies required that their members attend Church Sunday School or other provision.

When consideration was being given to forming the 227th, the gentlemen who were to be the future Officers of the Company proposed that Bible Class be held at 5pm each Sunday. This suggestion was rejected by the Church authorities, who decreed that *“BB Bible Class should be scheduled for 10am, even though it meant withdrawing the Officers from the Young Men's Guild”*. Changed days indeed!

The Bible Class syllabus was usually conducted by the Company Officers. The NCO's and Senior Boys often took key roles in chairing Bible Class and in reading the Scripture passages. In order to give the Officers a break, and perhaps relieve the monotony, guest speakers were invited to address the Class from time to time. The Class format normally consisted of an Opening Hymn, Prayer, Hymn, Reading, Talk, Closing Hymn and Prayer. The late, much-respected Prof. William Barclay produced a mountain of suitable material for BB Bible Classes during the 1950s and '60s.

Attendance at Bible Class offered Boys the opportunity to observe their Officers in a different role from the one they normally assumed while conducting the various activities throughout the week. An Officer had to ensure that the lessons he taught at Bible Class were applied to his daily life. Good Officers seldom preached Christianity - they practiced it!



COMPANY CHURCH PARADE

Church Parades were normally scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. Most Companies gathered at a predetermined location, formed-up, then marched-off, led by the Company Band. At the conclusion of the Church Service the Parade would march past the Minister, and most of the congregation would gather outside the Church. Regular Church Parades brought the Company to the attention of the congregation and of local inhabitants who, despite having their Sunday 'lie-in' disturbed, seldom had a harsh word for the BB. Indeed, many windows would be opened wide and folk would look on as the Parade passed by.

With Colours flying, Band playing and the Boys smartly turned out, white haversacks prominent against their dark jackets, the BB Parade added a welcome touch of celebration and purpose in contrast to the drab grey streets of the inner city.

DRILL

Mention the BB to the uninitiated and they usually have an image of Boys marching up and down a hall. Quite simply, if Drill were all that was on offer, Boys would not remain in the BB very long.

BB uniform and Drill belong firmly together. Drill is designed to contribute to esprit-de-corps, while the uniform creates a sense of identity and belonging. Company Drill requires complete concentration and discipline from every Boy, and moving together as a unit helps instil teamwork.

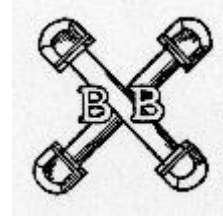
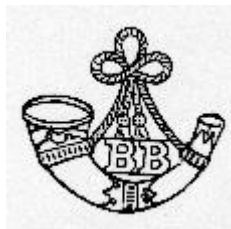


NCO Proficiency Star

With changes in modern society, many view Drill as authoritarian and militaristic; however, a number of BB Companies still include Drill as an integral part of their weekly programme. One of the values of this activity is reflected in the pride Boys take in their personal appearance and, from experience, all 'Good Drill Companies' are usually well run. The competition to get a place in the Drill Squad proves that Boys will aspire to high standards. As someone who has adjudicated at Drill Competitions over the years, it is obvious that the Boys are serious about the subject and thoroughly enjoy aiming to reach the pinnacle of achievement.

PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Following the introduction of the first proficiency award in 1887, numerous proficiency badges were introduced over the years, designed to encourage and develop interest and knowledge in a wide variety of activities. The BB award structure provided nineteen proficiency badges for a variety of activities and interests which included; Ambulance, Arts & Crafts, Athletics, Band, Buglers, Camper's, Citizenship, Drummer's, Expedition, Fireman's, Life Saving, NCO Proficiency or Sergeant's Star, Physical Activity, Piper's, Scripture Knowledge, Seamanship, Signalling, Swimming and Wayfaring. The Duke of Edinburgh Award was later added to the curriculum. The culmination of the award structure was in attaining the King's Badge, later, the Queen's Badge, the highest award in the BB.



Other than slight design features, the badge system remained unchanged until 1968 when a new badge structure was introduced. The new structure offered a total of thirty-six 'barrel-shaped' badges. The new system also introduced the 'President's Badge' as a pre-requisite to attaining the Queen's Badge. The new award structure did not prove popular and the award system was again revised in 1983. This time the number of badges achievable was reduced to only five, plus, of course, the President's and Queen's Badge. More than thirty years after the initial change many Officers are still of the opinion that the original badge system was best both in design, in quality and in content.

The activities that follow are a glimpse at some of the more popular Badge Classes and how they might have fitted into a Company's normal programme.

AMBULANCE (FIRST AID)

The Ambulance Badge introduced in 1887 was the first ever BB proficiency badge. The award owes its origin to William Kidston, Captain of the 9th Glasgow. With the invaluable support of Dr. J. MacGregor Robertson, Kidston introduced the Ambulance Class to his Company during the winter of Session 1886-87 under the heading of '*First Aid to the Injured*'. The Class, held in Wellington Church Hall, proved so successful that, at the Meeting of Battalion Council on 24th September, 1887, it was unanimously resolved to appoint an 'Ambulance Committee', with Kidston as convener, to oversee the development of Ambulance work within the Battalion. To illustrate how far-sighted Kidston was, the BB were organising 'First Aid' Classes before the St. John's Ambulance Association in England had been formed.



Ambulance Badge

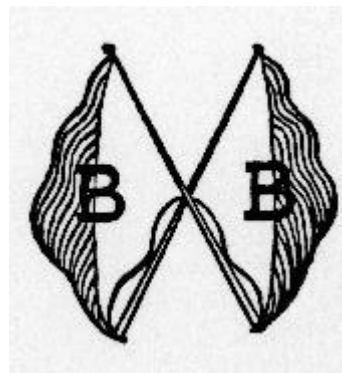
Interest in the Ambulance Class grew steadily throughout the Battalion and, based on the theory that competition is good for raising standards, an Ambulance (First Aid) Competition was introduced. The standard of entry proved to be exceptional. Over the years, many Boys introduced to First Aid in the BB went on to become Officers and Instructors with the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association and other kindred organisations.

During the 1890s an Ambulance Class held jointly with the 7th, 9th, 100th and 115th Companies, '*for instruction in First Aid to the Injured and Stretcher Drill*' was organised in the Headquarters of the 7th Glasgow, 15 Warroch Street. The Class, which was open to all Boys of 14 years of age and upwards, met every Monday evening at 8pm.

A typical Ambulance Class syllabus included: Instruction on the bones of the body, knowledge of the function of major organs, hygiene, types of bandages and their use and, of course, emergency first-aid to the injured. By way of tribute to the work begun by the brother Company (9th) the '32' continued to refer to the First Aid Class as the 'Ambulance Class' well into the 1960s (as did many other Companies).

SIGNALLING

Prior to the advent of the electronic age, there were two main methods of Signalling taught in the BB. Boys were introduced to Semaphore and Morse, using flags, before progressing on to Buzzer or Aldis Lamp. During the period of National Service numerous ex-members, assigned to be Radio Operators, were able to look back and thank their BB Officers for the grounding they had received in Signalling.





Physical Activities - 49th Glasgow (1947)

PHYSICAL RECREATION

Physical Activity, or Physical Training, was often jocularly referred to as P.A. - 'Pure Agony' or P.T. - 'Pure Torture'. The P.A. Class proved popular with most Boys and, judging by the numbers participating each week, it was certainly neither 'agony' nor 'torture' but P.E. - Pure Enjoyment! While most Companies had their own syllabus, a typical P.T. Class usually consisted of a short period of floor exercises, nowadays popularised as aerobics, followed by Circuit Training and apparatus work. A programme of Tumbling, Indian Clubs and Pyramids often followed the floor exercises. Circuit Training was a combination of floor exercises and games and was usually introduced to 'let-off steam' prior to moving on to activities that required greater concentration.

Apparatus work included: Vaulting over a Box or Vaulting Horse. The Boys were assisted in clearing the 'Horse' with the aid of a Beat-board, or Springboard. Springboards were later replaced by Trampettes which, in my opinion, removed a major benefit from the exercise. However, as they say, "that's progress!". Hard-bristle coconut mats were used to help absorb landing when tumbling or vaulting. Nowadays the coconut mats have been replaced with soft 'Crash-mats'. Now, that really is progress!

Most Companies included a Parallel-Bars routine in their programme. Indian-clubs and Bar-Bell exercises were a feature of by-gone days, although the 49th until recently included Bar-Bells in their Annual Display. In more modern times some Companies were able to introduce Trampolines into their Physical Activities programme.

Very few Officers or Instructors had formal qualifications or training in Physical Activities (although during the 1950s the 17th had the services of a professional instructor provided, without charge, by Glasgow Corporation). Knowledge of the various aspects of the Classes was usually passed on from more experienced Officers, and despite the high-risk factor, particularly associated with Vaulting and Parallel-Bars, no one in my experience ever suffered serious injury.

Sporting activities included Table Tennis and Volleyball, for which there were some great competitions held between rival Companies over the years. District Swimming Galas were held at Cranstonhill Baths in Elliot Street, and a number of Companies had their own exclusive night for a Swimming Club. Annual subscription to the Swimming Club, at Cranstonhill, which ran from October to May, cost 3d; Boys unable to swim were given special instruction.

There was also an important social side to the BB. At the end of every BB weeknight activity, crowds of Boys would withdraw to their favourite haunt such as the 'Skibo', or 'Ladola's Café', where they would spend an hour or so enjoying topics of youthful conversation intermingled with an 'Ice Drink' (Soft-drink in a large glass, with a dollop of ice-cream added) or a McCallum (Ice-cream, raspberry sauce and a wafer).

All Part of the Story

PART SEVEN

‘OUT of DOORS’

FOOTBALL

‘Who would True Valour see’

Sport was a prominent and popular activity from the earliest days of the BB. Surprisingly, organised cricket competitions were being played before football. However, as one might expect, it was not long before the Glasgow Battalion was organising a Football League. Such was the strength of the Battalion and the popularity of football that, during the 1930s, Glasgow Battalion was running the largest Football League of any kind in the world. It required meticulous planning by the Battalion Football Committee to ensure that there were enough pitches for the 250 teams that made up the Battalion’s Leagues.

The football parks mainly used by Anderston Companies included, Yorkhill, Ruchill, Cowlares, Whiteinch, Knightswood, Temple and the Fifty Pitches. The football parks at Yorkhill and Ruchill in particular made ‘Men out of Boys’; the playing surface was a compound of black ash and lumps of cinder! The ground was deeply rutted and, on a wet day, heading a sodden leather ball covered in ash literally left a lasting impression! Changing facilities were Spartan. At Yorkhill and Ruchill all that was on offer, if you could gain access, was a Nissen hut complete with an earthen floor. There was neither lighting nor heating. Washing facilities consisted of a cold-water tap outside the ‘dressing room’. Falling on the playing surface on a cold winter’s day was bad enough but many will, no doubt, recall the painful experience of having the ‘Team Manager’ take a hard-bristle scrubbing brush to remove the gravel from part of a players’ anatomy. Still, unlike modern professionals, we survived to play in the next game!

The football pitches adjacent to Yorkhill Hospital were eventually sold and nurse’s homes built on the site. Games of football were an education in themselves and were always closely supervised. It will come as little surprise to learn that the difference in players’ conduct and speech was always evident whenever an Officer was present.

By the 1970s, football pitches and facilities had changed beyond all recognition. The black ash pitches were replaced with a finer material known as ‘Red Blaise’. The playing surfaces were level and the brick-built changing rooms had electric lighting, heating, hot water and showers. But did the facilities help improve the standard of football? That’s another question altogether!

SUMMER CAMP

‘I to the hills...’

How many are aware that it was the Boys’ Brigade who first brought camping to the attention of the general public? Prior to the first BB Camp, held by the 1st Glasgow at Tighnabruaich in 1886, city dwellers would never consider ‘living out of doors’. For many Boys down through the years BB Camp was their first experience of sleeping under canvas. At Camp, Boys learned to live and work together as a team and this was the place where great and lasting friendships were established.



Campers Badge

All Part of the Story

A MOMENT IN TIME



March Past of Kelvingrove District - St. Mark's Lancefield Church, Argyle Street, 1966



*Some members of the 49th Glasgow during their Summer Camp at Penrhyn Bay, North Wales, July 2004
Left to right: Keith Finlay, Stephen Cormack, Rev. John Dowbar, Craig Barr, Duncan Mitchell (Capt.), Stuart Laurie, Gordon Tait and Stephen McCann; (Front) David Conlon, Ross McCann and Fraser Gorman.*

All Part of the Story

A MOMENT IN TIME



In the Doghouse



A successful day's fishing

9th & 32nd COMPANIES – Camp Scenes from Strachur, 1892



Fatigue Squad

Camping Victorian Style

The earliest record of an Anderston BB Company at Camp dates from 1888. During the Glasgow Fair the 9th and 32nd Companies set off for a week-long Camp to Strachur, on the shores of Loch Fyne. The cost of that Camp was Ten Shillings (50p). Strachur remained the favoured site of both Companies until 1898.

It must have been quite an adventure for the majority of the Boys who, for the first time, were able to leave the badly polluted city and head into the fresh air of the Argyllshire countryside. Camp discipline was strict but was also liberally sprinkled with fun. Each Squad was assigned a rowing boat for the duration of Camp and, as a special treat, a visit to Inveraray Castle situated on the other side of Loch Fyne was arranged.



9th & 32nd Companies crossing Loch Fyne and heading towards Inveraray, 1892.

The early Camps were not without their problems. In 1894 the two Companies had been at Strachur for only a few days when two Boys reported feeling unwell. The two Boys were isolated and a doctor was summoned. It transpired that the Boys had caught Scarlet Fever, an infectious disease which in the days before antibiotics could prove fatal. To prevent an epidemic, the Camp was brought to a premature close and the two Companies had to pack-up and head home. The fever victims were left in the care of a nurse at Strachur for two weeks. The two patients were later conveyed by horse-drawn carriage to Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow where, it is pleasing to report, they both fully recovered.

At a later Camp, again at Strachur, the two Companies were present at the unveiling of the War Memorial to two Strachur men who had lost their lives in the Boer War. The 9th and 32nd formed a Guard of Honour, whilst the combined Company Bands played suitable music. The Memorial can be seen to this day standing on the shores of Loch Fyne.

In those early days of BB Camping, apart from a real pioneering spirit, great attention to detail was paramount. Communication was, at best, difficult. The combined 9th and 32nd Companies published a twelve-page booklet detailing 'Standing Orders and Instructions', a copy of which was issued to every Boy attending Camp. Note, in particular, the times set down in the 1892 version of the booklet.

Preliminary Parades

"Parade for Departure, Friday, 15th July. Breakfast will be served at 5.15am to all ranks. Fall in at 5.45am to march to the Broomielaw to embark on the Royal Mail Steamer "Lord of the Isles".

Another extract from Camp Standing Orders of 1892 includes:

“Reveille” will sound at 6.30am

“Retreat” at 9.15pm

“Tattoo” at 9.45pm

“Lights Out” at 10.15pm

No detail was left out. The publication also contained an interesting section on Saluting. The ‘arms’ referred to are dummy rifles, used extensively by the BB in the days before the First World War.

Saluting

All Salutes will be made in a smart, soldier-like manner, without bending the head. When walking without arms the Salute is made with the hand furthest from the Officer. When two or more Boys are walking together, the time is taken from the Boy nearest the Officer, and the Salute made together. The eyes should never be turned from the Officer who is being saluted. The hand should be raised first, not the elbow, as is sometimes clumsily done. Boys will always come to attention before Saluting. When carrying a rifle Boys will Salute by bringing the rifle to the shoulder, the left hand across the body, and touch the rifle, dropping the hand immediately. When leaving a Parade, the rifle is carried at the shoulder. A Boy without his cap, or carrying anything that prevents him Saluting properly, will, if standing still, come to “attention” as the Officer passes; if walking, he will turn his head slightly towards the Officer in passing him. If sitting or lying down, he will rise, come to “attention,” and if, with cap on, Salute. Boys will always address Officers by the title of their rank and use “Sir.” Politeness is always a characteristic of a good Company.

*Wm. Kidston, Jun., Capt.
Commanding the Camp at Strachur
1st July 1892.*



They Shall Not Pass! (1892)

Another brief insight into Camp routine is found in 'The Brigadier' of September 1901 where it reports that the 17th Glasgow held a joint Camp with the 8th, 19th and 80th Glasgow Companies, at Kilchattan Bay, Bute, during 12-19 July 1901. The magazine goes on to report that: *"Owing to splendid weather prevailing, the Boys had ample bathing and boating, while excursions in some cases, and soirees and concerts in others lent variety to the daily routine of camp life, with its drill, games and frequent meals."* For many years the 17th continued the tradition of participating in large, joint Camps.

Camping in the 1920s and '30s

For many BB Companies, Camp was the ideal way to keep contact with the Boys during the summer months. Some Companies returned to a particular site year after year, others opted for different locations each summer. Whilst most Companies opted for suitable campsites in Scotland, a sixty-two strong party from the 51st decided to hold their Summer Camp in Belgium during 1930. Continental travel had arrived!

Uniforms and parades were a compulsory feature of every-day life at the earliest BB Camps. Some Companies even went to the extent of posting sentries around the perimeter of the campsite. By the 1930s a much more relaxed holiday atmosphere began to prevail. Summer Camp was something Boys (and Officers) looked forward to in eager anticipation. There was little to compare with BB Camp during the long hot summer months of a seemingly bygone era. For many Boys, BB Camp was their only holiday, and a great fun-filled adventure it usually proved to be.

The following is a description of BB Camp held at Machariorch, Argyllshire, in 1939 through the eyes of a member of the '32'. Whilst the era and the setting might be different, the story captures the essence of similar rituals observed by Boys at numerous BB Camps down through the years.

/

"For the benefit of the younger Boys who have never been to Camp we give in this article several of the happy experiences enjoyed by all.

Leaving Glasgow by rail about 8.30a.m. you spend a pleasant hour before reaching Fairlie where you board ship for Campbeltown. The sail is pretty long but certainly interesting. The Firth of Clyde can be quite picturesque if the sun is shining and the water calm. Sailing via Kilbrannan Sound we touch Lochranza and Pirmill on Arran. At Pirmill they have no pier so, a small boat has to come out to the steamer to collect passengers. Leaving Arran, our next call is at Carradale on the mainland. If the day be clear you should get a sight of Ailsa Craig, if not, then content yourself by eating sandwiches, for it is almost lunch time. Soon we see Davaar Island and Campbeltown. Leaving the steamer at the pier is quite a tricky job when you have hundreds of men, women and children all fighting to get ashore. The job can only be accomplished by shepherding the troops like a flock of sheep, the Officers being the shepherds and the NCO's the collie dogs.

From the pier a special bus takes us the nine miles to Machariorch. Once there we should be greeted with the yell "Hullo – Tea's ready!" and we can then flock into the marquee and do some earnest browsing and sluicings. Tea over each Boy will no doubt make for the tent, which will be his home for ten days, and pick out a suitable spot for his weary head. That done one generally does a little exploring before supper and prayers. A run down to the shore satisfies you that the sea is still in its place, a little bit along the shore and you find the caves in the same position as last year and in the other direction the sandhill is to be seen. Realising that all the old haunts are present and correct you troop off into the marquee for supper and prayers. And so to bed, the first night under canvas being an experience in itself. You talk and talk and eventually drop off to sleep about 1.30 a.m. - and awaken again about 2.30 a.m. Sticking your nose out of the tent door you either greet a clear morning and see Ailsa Craig in the distance, or you get a splash of rain on your nose and see a thick mist not ten yards away. If it be a clear and fresh morning, you dress and spend the time disturbing the others who are sleeping until bugle sounds Reveille. The Orderly Officer will come round the tents collecting his squad; if not in the squad you at least know that breakfast is on its way. Games, bathing, walks and orderly duty fill in the day and at night after supper and prayers you toddle off to your tent tired and happy. As Lights-Out' sounds at 10.45 p.m. you are already sleeping and it needs a pretty strong bugler to rouse you in time for breakfast.

Each day has its fun and each day to has 24 hours of pure enjoyment. This together with the sun, fresh air and orderly duties makes a man of you. A modern miracle – that's what it is!"

Camping in the 1960s and '70s

Being selected as a member of the 'Advance Party' was a great honour; it confirmed that you finally knew something about pitching tents and preparing the campsite. It also meant you had at least one extra day at Camp! Selecting and laying-out a campsite was an art. The tents had to be pitched in straight lines and an equal distant apart. The 'Boys Lines' were erected on one side of the field, with the Officer's tents pitched directly opposite. Often the sports tent and a marquee completed the square. Many Companies were still in the process of switching from Bell-tents to Ridge-tents. To the inexperienced camper the Bell-tent was old fashioned, which it was, but when properly pitched it could stand up to the fiercest of winds. Perhaps the most interesting tent to erect was the 'Pyramid-bell' and, as the name suggests, it was pyramid shaped at the top and bell shaped at the base. The Pyramid-bell was very stable and roomy.

Camp life had again changed by the 1960s, with a greater emphasis on an even more relaxed holiday atmosphere. No longer was it necessary to fold blankets into neat squares for daily kit inspection, sleeping bags had rendered this practice obsolete and, in the days before airbeds, stuffing Palliasses - 'large pillowcase-like bags' - with straw made camp bedding. It took an experience camper to put the exact amount of filling into the palliass to ensure comfortable bedding.



Ready for Inspection
G. Turner, J. Ryan, J. Cairns, I. Wilson & I. Duncan



Not quite ready for Inspection!
***I. McKail, K. Singh, A. McIntyre, R. Craig, J. Ryan
R. Kearney, J. Gilmour, D. Baxter & J. Cairns***

17th Glasgow - Summer Camp at Meigle, Perthshire, 1966

Tent Commanders, usually the Senior NCO's, were appointed to look after the tent and the welfare of their Squad. It was up to the Tent Commander to ensure that tent and kit were ready and properly presented for morning Tent Inspection. At Camp Sports the Tent Commander was there to encourage and inspire his squad to greater heights of achievement.

Camp Sports mostly comprised Table Tennis, Volleyball, Cricket, Pudox; did I mention Football? Aware of those not so physically inclined, a range of indoor games included Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Draughts, Chess, Darts, Pick a Stick etc..

The Canteen was always an important Camp institution; it was the social gathering point of Camp where Boys could purchase the supplies necessary to sustain themselves between meals. Dozens of cases of 'ginger' (soft-drinks) and copious quantities of sweets were consumed by the conclusion of Camp.

The exuberance of some Boys occasionally led to 'tent raids' and other forms of high-jinks. Any Boy caught for a misdemeanour in the middle of the night was required to run two laps of the football field or perhaps count the stars in the sky. It was usually dry, otherwise the Boys would not have ventured out of their tents. I suspect no one ever checked to see if any of the stars were missing!

As Camp drew to a close, each 'Tent' was expected to prepare an item for the Camp Concert. Items usually included a sketch, or song and dance routine. Popular songs of the era usually featured in the 'Show'. How many members of the 41st will remember the 'Birdie Song' of the 1970s that had the entire Camp contingent dancing around the hut on Belmont Field, Meigle?

No matter the weather, sound planning was the key to ensuring a successful Camp. Built into the daily programme was a period of activity complimented by a reasonable amount of free time. Each 'Tent' took turn as 'Duty Squad' and were on Orderly Duties from Reveille until Lights-Out. A typical daily programme might be along the following lines:

7.30	Reveille
7.40	First Cookhouse - (Orderly Squad)
8.00	Second Cookhouse - (Breakfast served)
8.45	Tent Inspection
9.15	All Clear - (Orderly Squad dismissed)
	Morning Activities - (Sports etc)
12.45	First Cookhouse - (Orderly Squad)
1.00	Second Cookhouse - (Lunch served)
2.00	All Clear - (Orderly Squad dismissed)
	Afternoon Activities - (Free time)
5.15	First Cookhouse - (Orderly Squad)
5.30	Second Cookhouse - (Dinner served)
6.15	All Clear - (Orderly Squad dismissed)
	Evening Activities - (Football/Cricket/Pudox)
10.00	First and Second Cookhouse - (Supper served)
10.30	Camp Devotions
11.00	Last Post (Lights-Out and all quiet)

Sundays were much quieter. Following Parade to the local Church, recreation usually included activities such as a Swimming Parade to a nearby river, a long country walk and hill-climb or, perhaps, a treasure hunt.

Every Camp had its mandatory ghost. In the case of the amalgam of Companies (32nd, 17th, and 41st) who camped at Meigle, Perthshire from 1948 until 1985, the story of 'Bella Duff' would be passed on to each succeeding recruit attending his first Camp. The story was based on Isabella Duff, a Fifteenth Century damsel who suffered a terrible fate whilst locked in Belmont Castle (situated on the edge of the campsite). With every passing year the tale would become more gruesome and bloodthirsty as each experienced camper added his own gory details.

During July 2004, the '49' returned to Penrhyn Bay, North Wales, for Summer Camp, a site the Company has been visiting since 1986. The 49th had established such an excellent relationship with the local Church that they are invited to actively participate in the Church Services. During the 2004 Camp the '49' organised a 'flying visit' to Larne, Northern Ireland, where the Mayor honoured the Company with a Civic Reception. During their two day stay in Ireland the Company accepted an invitation to play against Larne Football Club. The Boys of the '49' held the professionals to a five-all draw! The 49th's visit, and result against Larne F.C., was widely reported in two of the local newspapers.

It is important to acknowledge that, with the support of their wives, many BB Officers were prepared to give up part of their summer holidays to ensure that BB Camp was possible, a sacrifice very often overlooked.

‘SOUND OFF’

BANDS

‘When the Trumpet of the Lord shall sound...’

It seems likely that the ‘Volunteer influence’ during the earliest days of the BB led to the creation of Company Bands. Flutes, being reasonably inexpensive and fairly easy to master, were adopted by a number of Companies. Within a few years Bugle Bands, Brass Bands and Pipe Bands began to appear, the instruments often being the gift of an anonymous benefactor.



The Bands of the 9th and 32nd at Strachur, 1892

The number of Company Bands registered during Session 1914-15 clearly demonstrates the growth and popularity of Band work. Within Glasgow Battalion there was a total of 107 Bands, made up of 15 Brass, 50 Pipe, 37 Bugle and 3 Flute, involving a total of 1,377 musicians. By the start of Session 1938-39 there were 161 Bands operating within the Battalion, comprising 102 Pipe, 38 Bugle and 21 Brass.

Learning to play a musical instrument could prove a daunting prospect for all concerned, family and neighbours included! The BB provided free instruments and tuition to any Boy who wished to avail himself of the challenge of learning the art of music. No matter the type of Band, most Recruits wanted to play the drum. However, only a few drummers were required at any one time in most Bands and prospective recruits were encouraged to take up a wind instrument. As with flutes, bugles were relatively inexpensive and, having only five notes, were fairly easy to learn and quickly became the favoured instrument of some Companies. The more ambitious Companies opted to form a Pipe Band, or began experimenting with Brass Bands, both of which required a fuller commitment in terms of finance, practice and rehearsal. Once the early stages had been mastered, recognisable sounds began to emerge from the instruments and eventually melodies and harmonies became identifiable.

Joining the Company Band opened up new vistas for Boys who, perhaps, had little knowledge or appreciation of music. Membership of the BB Band introduced Boys to a whole variety of musical tastes ranging from traditional marches to “musicals”, and from hymns to the popular music of the day. Pipe Band tunes included the old standards, *Scotland the Brave* and *Rowan Tree*, while *Georgia* and *Alexandria* were regular favourites of the Bugle Bands.

It is incorrect to suggest that BB Bands never amounted to much musically. From the early days many BB Bands were demonstrating excellent musical ability and a number of Boys went on to become either professional musicians or music teachers.

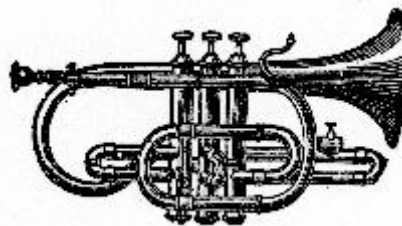
The decline in Brass Band work during the late 1960s was so severe that by the time the 41st had formed their Band (Session 1974-75) there was only one other Brass Band fully active within the Battalion (76th) and, before long, that Band would go into decline. The Band of the 41st progressed rapidly and was sufficiently accomplished to perform at the Scotland v England Football Match at Hampden in 1976. The Band became an important feature of the Company and was engaged for numerous events ranging from playing Christmas Carols to performing at Gala Days.

Using the 41st Band as a foundation, Boys from the 5th, and 227th were invited to combine and form the Partick District Brass Band. Before long, the District Band earned such a good reputation that they had a standing engagement with Edinburgh Battalion, to play for the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland by the Lord High Commissioner, a duty that was to be faithfully carried out for fifteen years. Beating Retreat on Edinburgh Castle, and the Riding of the Marches, at Sanquhar, were other events that the Band eagerly looked forward to. At Sanquhar, the Dalmellington Silver Band, a very fine Senior Band, often tried to upstage the BB Band. If for example, the BB Band played *'The Chieftain'* the Dalmellington Band would come prepared the following year expecting to outplay the BB Band. However, The BB Band was always one step ahead. The Dalmellington Band finally admitted defeat when the Partick District Band, accompanied by other BB Bands, which included Bugles, Pipes, and Flutes, began playing in combination. The Senior Band just couldn't compete with that!

Included in the Band's repertoire was music that would have been familiar to BB Bandsmen of the 1920s and '30s. Brass Band music included the 'old marches', *True & Trusty*, *Slaidburn*, and the selection *Scottish Gems*. Brass and Bugle arrangements of *Mechanized Infantry*, *Bab El Mandeb*, and *Sunset*, were also played. Later arrangements included *St. Louis Blues*, *Kalinka*, *Annie's Song* and a whole host of modern, popular melodies that could be performed at fairly short notice. Band outings usually meant a meal; sometimes it was a proper 'sit-down' affair, on other occasions it was fish-and-chips from a bag. There must be some scientific explanation as to why bandsmen could always polish-off vast amounts of food!

Building on the success of the Partick District Band, during the latter-half of the 1970s an open invitation was extended to Companies throughout the Battalion offering Boys the opportunity to learn to play Brass instruments. A number of Companies responded, some forwarding one Boy, others half a dozen. Within a short period of time a healthy Battalion Band had been established and, before long, there were four capable Brass Bands operating within the Battalion; 5th, 41st, 118th and the 137th.

For many years the 227th were noted as having a superb Silver Band but, like most other Companies, lack of interest during the early 1970s caused the Band to falter. However, the 227th did manage to retain a few Boys interested in playing Brass instruments and, following the union with the 41st, in 1980, the new Company (32nd) benefited from a stronger Band. The Band of the '32' was now providing the foundation and driving force for Brass Band work throughout the Battalion.



All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



49th Bugle Band performing at their Inspection & Display (Henderson Memorial Halls) - 1947



Partick District Brass Band (comprising 5th & 41st Companies) at Edinburgh Castle, 1977

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



Officers of the 9th & 32nd, 1892
Standing: James Farmer (Capt. 32nd) William McKerrow, James P. Trotter. Alex Fairlie, Joe Taylor.
Seated: William Kidston (Capt. 9th) and John Kidston



Officers of the 49th - 1947
Bill Douglas, George McLagan, Bill Ogilvie (Captain), John Hamilton, Bill Crumless.

All Part of the Story

PART EIGHT

‘INDOORS’

INSPECTION & DISPLAY

The Company Inspection and Display was the culmination of the Session's work. A great deal of thought and care was put into selecting a suitable 'Inspecting Officer' or 'Guest of Honour'. Ideally, the type of person was someone of standing in the community who was sympathetic to the BB and, perhaps more importantly, someone to whom the Boys could relate.

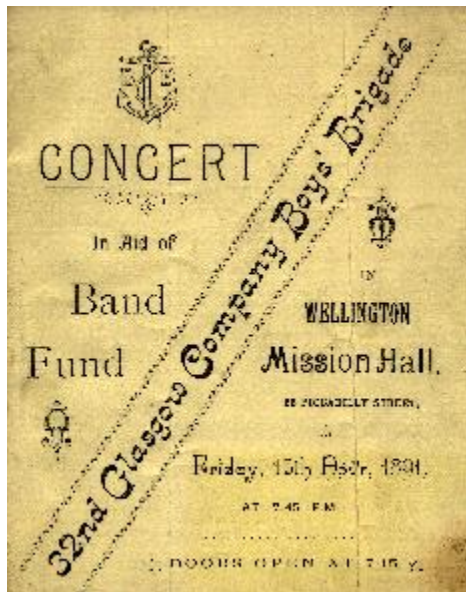
As well as a formal occasion at which the Company's principal awards and trophies could be presented, the Annual Display was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the activities of the Company to a normally partisan audience. The Display also provided a showcase for attracting recruits from interested spectators.



Inspecting the Ranks - 49th Glasgow (1947)

COMPANY CONCERTS

Many Companies became adept at producing their own Concerts and Pantomimes. Written by the Officers, the Shows often brought out undiscovered or dormant talent in the Boys. Surviving examples of early Concert programmes include those illustrated, dating from 1891:



Concert Programmes dated 1891 & 1892

Several local Companies staged their own Annual Concerts and Pantomimes and, for some years, Kelvingrove District held Life Boy Concerts at Stobcross House; a memorable experience those productions proved to be. Company Concerts often provided an outlet for talent the Boys didn't know they had! The actor and writer Roddy McMillan, perhaps best remembered for his role as *'Para Handy'* in the BBC Television series *'The Vital Spark'* or for his roles in films such as *'Whisky Galore'*, began his stage career in 1937, performing in the 32nd's Pantomime, *'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'*. Others, who perhaps aspired to no great fame, found a talent and confidence due to their participation in BB Concerts.

Tremendous preparation goes into a Concert; a date is set, the scripts have to be written and copied, the roles cast, scenery made, rehearsals arranged, programmes printed and tickets sold. When the great day finally arrives the success of the Show is down to the Boys. It took courage for young lads to appear on stage in front of their peers and parents. The fact they acquitted themselves so well is all the more to their credit. The tremendous energy and wealth of talent put into producing Shows, with virtually no capital, should not be underestimated. The Sketches and Pantomimes were always of a high quality and well received by a normally partisan audience; as far as parents and supporters were concerned, the Boys on stage are 'Our Boys' and they are always fantastic!

The 227th produced a regular run of fund-raising Concerts and one of the last in the series, entitled *"Jings Bagdad"*, was staged in Anderston Parish Church hall in 1973, a venue that would soon become familiar to later members of that Company. The last Company to produce a regular sequence of Concerts in Anderston was the 41st, their succession of Concerts entitled *'Guys 'N' Guise'* ran from 1973 to 1979. All members of the Company were involved on stage and in making scenery. The skill acquired in scenery production resulted in members of the Company (by this time the 32nd) producing a fifteen-foot long scale-model 'Glasgow Tram' for the Battalion Centenary Show – *'Arena '83'* - which was held in the Kelvin Hall.

COMPANY MAGAZINES

The first recorded appearance of a Company Magazine in Anderston was the 'Company Chronicle' of the 32nd which appeared in 1924. The 'Chronicle' had a chequered career but was still in existence during the 1960s. Following amalgamation with the 17th the magazine took on a new lease of life and was regularly produced until around 1970. As well as an outlet for sharpening the reporting skills of members, the Company Magazine was a useful tool for keeping friends and ex-members in touch with the Company's progress and activities. The 49th still periodically produce "THE FORTYNINER" the magazine of the Company.



*'Flying Angel' - The 41st at Anderston Parish Church, 1980
Ian McKail, Kenny Anderson and, the 'Angel' - Sgt. Robert Walker*

All Part of the Story

PART NINE

‘ALL CLEAR’

THE 1950s and BEYOND

With the Second World War ended life gradually began to return to normality as the 1950s dawned. The work of individual BB Companies continued and local Officers remained at the forefront of the Battalion, planning and organising. Andy Montgomery (115th/32nd/41st) became involved in the musical production of a number of ‘*The Young Brother Shows*’, The Life Boy version of ‘*Fanfare*’. Bill Herron (115th) served the BB in various supporting roles, eventually as Glasgow Battalion Vice-President from 1972-74. Of course, let’s not forget that the success of the BB relied on the un-named and largely forgotten Officers, Instructors and supporters who quietly carried out their duties, often under extremely difficult circumstances. Without their commitment the work of the local Companies would not have been quite so consistent or effective.

In common with most areas of towns and cities, those who grew up in, or were associated with Anderston, developed strong local identity. A similar sense of identity and belonging could be applied to the individual BB Companies which operated within the area. Whilst the BB was easily recognisable by its uniform of cap, belt and haversack, each Company had its own appeal that helped attract and retain members. Company identity fostered loyalty and esprit-de-corps among the members which they carried with them throughout their lives.

‘Will Your Anchor Hold?’

The 1960s heralded a dramatic change in the demographics of the Anderston area. The era was labelled as the ‘*Swinging Sixties*’, largely due to the pop-music scene and the emergence of a more permissive society. What was certainly ‘swinging’ in Anderston were the hammers of the demolition workers. Comprehensive Redevelopment meant exactly what it stated. Virtually the entire community was swept away; even the familiar street patterns were to disappear under new roadways. The relocation of almost seventy percent of the local population brought about the closure of many Churches which, in turn, led to the decline and demise of a number of BB Companies. Redevelopment accounted not only for the removal of the familiar tenement dwellings; more importantly, the community was virtually destroyed. Dreams of resurrecting the ‘old community spirit’ in a badly planned new housing area never quite worked out. Against this background, the new Anderston Parish Church and the local BB Companies had to struggle for survival. The majority of Church members ended up living outside the area, commuting to Church each Sunday; clearly, the Church was no longer drawing from the local community, a cause for concern.

Prior to the 1980s it was not uncommon for many to be awakened on the first Sunday of each month by the sound of a BB Church Parade. Regrettably, the sound and sight of a BB Company Parading with its Band have all but disappeared from the streets of Glasgow.

For some Boys, membership of the BB lasted only a few weeks; it was not for them. Others, upon completion of their ‘Boy Service’, continued in the Company as Officers. It was this method of progression that gave Companies continuity and helped maintain local identity and traditions.

The BB was a mission arm of the Church and, through a Boy’s membership, parents could be drawn into contact with the local Church. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for some Church leaders to accuse BB Officers of failing to increase Church membership. The majority of Boys upon being discharged from the Company seldom joined the parent Church. The failure is perhaps not so much on the part of the local Company, who manage to retain the interest of the Boys, but of the Church, which fails to attract and hold the young men. The purpose of the BB is to sow seeds and, as any gardener or farmer will confirm, once sown, seeds require nurturing and time before a harvest can be expected. The Boys’ Brigade, in the right hands, can be a useful tool of the Christian Church.

‘When the strong tides lift and the cables strain’

Redevelopment and the movement of the population out of the district caused the union of the following Churches; Anderston Old (51st), St. Mark’s-Lancefield (32nd), and Anderston & St. Peter’s (17th). Session 1963-64 saw the amalgamation of the 17th with the 32nd. Under the Captaincy of Jimmy McKail (32nd) and, in accordance with Battalion Rules, the united Company adopted the number of the older Company, hence the 17th number was retained. The Company continued in St. Mark’s-Lancefield until the new Anderston Parish Church was completed in 1968. The 51st opted not to join the 17th at the time of the union and simply went out of existence. Bill Menzies who had tried to keep the 51st afloat did eventually join the staff of the 17th where he provided valuable support until his death in 1979.

The erection of new housing, towards the end of the 1960s, helped slow the decline in the population of the area and, for a period, BB membership held steady. The 17th was again in the ascendancy with over forty Boys in the Junior Section and around thirty Boys in the Company Section. The 41st at this time had a Junior Section of around twenty, but the Company Section was teetering on the brink of extinction.

Activities enjoyed by the 17th during the late 1960s included weekend hiking expeditions that took members of the Company from Kilcreggan, over the hills via Garelochhead, to Glen Fruin, where the night was spent camping by Fruin Water. The following day the party journeyed down the Glen and over Highlandsman’s Wood into Helensburgh, in time to catch the train home to North Street (Charing Cross). When planning a hike it was always wise to prepare for the worst; the weather was always unpredictable - nothing new there! However, one Easter weekend, during a training exercise to Inversnaid, Loch Lomond, the hikers were caught in a sudden snowstorm and were in danger of being snowbound. The unexpected change in the weather caused a bit of excitement and swift action was required to extricate the party before the weather set-in on what, at that time, was a fairly isolated part of the country. All made it safely back to Glasgow, wiser, but none the worse for the experience.

The final redevelopment phase of the area, begun in 1973, saw the remaining housing on Cranstonhill cleared, which had a further impact on BB membership. It is to the credit of many of the Boys who, during this period, because of their allegiance to the 17th and to the 41st, were willing to commute to the Companies from as far afield as Balornock and Knightswood.

THE UNCERTAIN 1970s

‘Grounded firm and Deep...’

Membership of the 17th Company Section began to go into decline during the early 1970s and, under growing pressure from the Church authorities, the Company opted to leave Anderston Parish Church and unite with the 41st (Kent Road - St. Vincent), as the 41st at the start of Session 1974-75. ‘Church Politics’ also affected the ‘49’ during this same period; following dispute with the Minister of Sandyford-Henderson, in 1977, the 49th decided to relocate to St. Columba (Gaelic), St. Vincent Street. The upheaval did not impair the efficiency of the Company; two years later they won the Gill Memorial Trophy awarded to the best all-round Company in the District.

Although largely untouched by the earlier effects of redevelopment, Kent Road - St. Vincent’s 41st, during the late 1960s, was going through a rough patch. The Company entered a period of revival in 1970 when Andy Montgomery (ex-115th/32nd) took over the Captaincy. Assisted by Donnie McKinnon and J.N. Cooper (both ex-32nd) and later, Robbie McFarlane (101st), the Company, rejuvenated by Andy’s drive and enthusiasm, quickly grew in strength. The vitality and success of the 41st at this time clearly demonstrates that, no matter the social background or resources available, the enthusiasm of the Officers will generate positive response from the Boys (and parents). Within a few years the Company had grown from four members to thirty-two, had formed a Bugle Band, staged four successful Concerts and held regular Summer Camps. The Company held weekend retreats at Montrose House, Balmaha, where a great deal of time was spent canoeing on Loch Lomond.

Unfortunately, a declining congregation at Kent Road – St. Vincent led to a decision to close the Church in June 1977. In order to maintain a BB presence in Anderston, the Officers of the 41st, aware of the recent difficulties experienced by the 17th, took the decision to negotiate with Anderston Parish Church. The Anderston Church authorities, unable to fill the void when the 17th departed, now acknowledged the value of the BB and the Company was openly welcomed into the Church for the start of Session 1977-78. Andy Montgomery resigned at the close of Session 1978-79 and Captaincy of the Company was passed to John Cooper. Little did the Officers know at this time, that further union was imminent and that the 41st would soon be subject to another change.

Re-enter the 32nd

The union of Kelvingrove Church, home of the 227th, with Anderston Parish Church took place in 1979. The Church authorities decreed that there should be only one BB Company attached to the congregation. This was a puzzling decision as, at this time, the 41st was meeting in the Anderston Church halls while the 227th were meeting approximately one-mile away in Kelvinhaugh School. Despite protestations from the Officers of both Companies, the Kirk Session could not be persuaded to allow the two Companies to continue separately. Thus, at the start of Session 1980-81 the union of the 41st and the 227th was imposed. One wonders what became of the missionary vision, so evident in days gone by when Churches could support more than one Company. Whatever, the fate of both Companies had been sealed.

A joint staff meeting was called to discuss how best to proceed with the amalgamation. Naturally the Company number was high on the agenda. The Officers of the 227th were unenthusiastic about accepting the number of the older Company and, after much debate, a compromise was tabled, proposing, that in order to keep some form of continuity, the ‘new Company’ should adopt an identity formerly associated with an Anderston Company. And, so it was that the 32nd number was resurrected, under the Captaincy of Jim Scott, former Captain of the 227th. It is interesting to note that, the majority of the 41st Officers at this time had some level of association with the original ‘32’.

The Changing Face of the BB in Anderston 1950-80

1950	32 nd and the 115 th unite as the 32 nd
1950	17 th and the 100 th unite as the 17 th
1957	256 th disbanded, remnant absorbed into the 17 th
1962	7 th disbanded
1963	17 th and the 32 nd unite as the 17 th
1965	282 nd disbanded
1966	51 st disbanded
1974	17 th and the 41 st unite as the 41 st
1976	82 nd disbanded
1977	49 th relocate to St. Columba (Gaelic) Church
1980	41 st and the 227 th unite, reverting to the use of the 32 nd number



*Postage stamp
issued to mark the
Centenary of the Movement, 1983*

CENTENARY 1983

Glasgow will always be the home of the BB, and so it was in 1983 that, once again, BB members from across the world converged on the Birthplace of The Boys' Brigade. Anderston Officers had played a prominent role in the 1933 Jubilee Celebrations; given the decimation of the area, would Anderston Officers be in a position to play key roles in the Brigade Centenary events? The short answer is yes! By 1980 the 32nd was one of only two Companies still operating in Anderston. It is astonishing to record the immense contribution the Company made in supporting the Brigade Centenary. Fifty years after the Jubilee Celebrations, it was as if fate had decreed that the '32' would once again be at the forefront and heavily involved in the arrangements of a major milestone in Brigade history.

At the time of the BB Centenary, J.N. Cooper (32nd) was chairman of the BB National Bands Committee and Musical Director of the Glasgow Battalion Brass Band which was firmly rooted in the 32nd Company Band. At the risk of appearing to blow my own trumpet (or should that be cornet?) it is the case that events which the Company Band took part in are too varied and numerous to mention. Suffice to say that without the unwavering support of the Boys and Officers the Band would have been unable to fulfil the various engagements.

Officers of the '32' were part of the production team responsible for the Battalion Centenary Show, "*Arena '83*". Mention must again be made of the huge 'Glasgow Tram' the Senior Boys of the '32' built for the Centenary Show. The model Tram certainly provided an interesting and much talked about contribution to the spectacle. On the Sunday following the week-long commitment to the show (including rehearsals), the Battalion Band formed part of the 450 strong massed Boys' Brigade Brass Band which was assembled to lead the Praise at the Centenary Thanksgiving Service held in Ibrox Park. On such an auspicious and historic occasion the privilege of conducting the Massed Bands for the Service fell to John Cooper, an Officer of the 32nd.

The Battalion Band also participated in The Royal Review in Edinburgh, the Thanksgiving Service, broadcast by Scottish Television, Centenary Songs of Praise broadcast on BBC Television, and The Andy Cameron New Year Radio Show (BBC Scotland). The Band of the 32nd was involved in recording nine tracks for The Boys' Brigade Centenary LP Record '*Centenary Album*' (Lismore Recording). As earlier indicated, the Band popped up at a multitude of events ranging from Gala Days to Royal events. And, lest there be any doubt, this was an accomplished Band whose services were very much sought after.

Following the Brigade Centenary, the Officers of the '32' continued to play an important role in developing Brass Band work within the Battalion. The Battalion Band, now seventy strong, and re-named 'The Central Band', instituted a series of Annual Concerts and continued performing at a variety of major events.



All Part of the Story A MOMENT IN TIME



1892

BANDS of the 32nd GLASGOW



**1983: Warrant Officers (Rear row): A. Martin, I. Martin and G. Hillan
Officers (Front row): I. McPherson, K. Anderson, J. Wright, J.N. Cooper (Bandmaster), K. Baxter and R. Walker**

All Part of the Story
A MOMENT IN TIME



NCOs of the 32nd pictured on the stairway at Park Gardens - 1894



NCOs of the 49th pictured in the Courtyard of Henderson Memorial Hall - 1947
Rear: D. Rowan, T. Crumless, R. Wilson. Front: J. White, D. Milne, A. Marshall. T. Rowan.

REFLECTIONS

The majority of Companies celebrated the Centenary year with special Parades, Dinners and Dances. The following poem 'Centenary Reflections' was penned by John Hamilton (ex-19th), former Officer and Captain of the 49th Glasgow and, was read at the Company's Ex-Member's Centenary Dinner. Whilst The words are clearly intended as tribute to the '49', the sentiment could easily be applied to any number of Companies. I am grateful to Mr. Hamilton for his permission to reproduce the text.



Centenary Reflections

*Reviewing the years that our Company has known,
We wish to pay tribute to those who have shown
By Service, Encouragement, Help and by Prayer,
An interest in Boyhood, a will to take share;
How many look back to those days grand and fine
With pride and with thanks for the old 49
Ex. Members with pleasure delight to recall
"In our day no Company could touch us at all"*

*We're proud of the B.B. with standards high set
The Object, unmatched and unchanged applies yet,
"Mind, Body, Spirit", the threefold estate,
Remain the real basis on which we create,
Service through Youth, our Founder's ideal.
Means training for manhood is vital and real
Manhood is certain, (seems needless to say)
But will it be worthy to serve in it's day?*

*Yes, prefix it Christian, it then will endure
You're now firmly anchored, Stedfast and Sure,
So, let us march, success in our sights,
Into the future, Anchor Knights!*

THE 1990s – ALL CHANGE!

Prior to the 1980s there were few limitations on the type of activities that could be offered. The 1980s saw the introduction of restrictions that curbed Officers' running of certain activities unless they had formal qualifications. The result was that many Companies, fearing litigation, ceased participating in Vaulting, Camping and other 'potentially risky activities'. Even Officers joining in a game of football with the Boys was suddenly unacceptable. The result of those impositions meant that, not only did Companies have to drastically revise their activity programme, Officers had to become more distant, and forming a bond of trust and friendship between Boy and Officer became that bit more difficult.

Uniform

The traditional BB uniform of cap, belt and haversack worn over ordinary clothing, introduced in 1885, was relatively inexpensive, simple and instantly recognisable. BB uniform remained largely unchanged until the forage cap, better known as the pill-box (with its two white braids), was phased out during the late 1960s and a field service pattern cap introduced.

At the start of the new Millennium a complete change of direction regarding uniform was proposed and subsequently adopted by the Brigade. The proposal was intended to promote the image of the Movement as a less-formal Organisation. It was argued that this new direction would help attract and retain new members. A strong national campaign, led by local Officers who proposed that Companies be allowed the option of retaining traditional uniform, resulted in Glasgow Battalion raising a Motion at Brigade Council; the motion was defeated. Much of the Glasgow argument was based on the reasoning that it doesn't really matter which style of uniform might be preferred, successful Companies depend on imaginative, energetic and committed Officers. Uniform, traditional or otherwise, is merely a tool and, for many, traditional uniform is still a most valuable, nay, essential, tool.

All Part of the Story

PART TEN

‘SUNSET’

WHAT of the FUTURE?

Involvement in the many Centenary events did provide a boost for the ‘32’. However, during the latter half of the 1980s, membership of the Company began to decline due to a combination of staff moving on and of changing social attitudes. There is still a Boys’ Brigade presence in Anderston but it is a pale shadow of what it once was.

Without doubt, redevelopment of the area brought about not only the destruction of the community, but also that of the BB. Where once there was a strong BB presence, today there are but two Companies operating, the 32nd and the 49th. It is to the credit and commitment of their Officers that both Companies still continue to meet week by week, despite difficult circumstances. The two remaining Companies are entrusted with the history and legacy of the numerous Companies that once operated in the Anderston area. I hope both Companies will continue to serve the area for as long as they find it possible. Where else can Boys be given the opportunity to discover and develop hidden talents, or take part in worthwhile character-building activities?

Whilst this history concentrates specifically on The Boys’ Brigade in Anderston, it is acknowledged that there were other fine organisations serving the youth of the area; The Girls’ Guildry (which later became The Girls’ Brigade), Scouts, Brownies, Guides and a whole lot of other Clubs and Associations. However, despite the number of youth organisations that once flourished, the BB is not only the oldest, it has the most consistent unbroken record. The resilience and durability of the Organisation is surely testament to the devotion of the thousands of BB Officers who served the Anderston Companies down through the years.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Life in the Anderston of the 1880s was very different from the world we know today. There were over 12,000 inhabitants crammed into a community that was a haphazard mixture of tenement buildings, commercial and industrial properties. The air was heavily polluted with smoke and soot from the factories; Ill-health, poverty and infant mortality was on a scale vastly different from what is considered acceptable nowadays. Despite the problems associated with daily life, Anderston was a vibrant, thriving community. How far removed from the area of today, with less than 3,000 resident, living in a de-industrialised cleaner environment. At one time there were more than thirty Churches and ten Mission Halls in the area; now only two reformed Churches remain, both with declining and ageing congregations, and St. Patrick’s, the local R.C. Church. Membership of, attendance at, and credibility of the Church today is at an all time low.

Whilst the local environment has changed beyond all recognition, the basic needs of young people remain similar to what they were in the 1880s. Polarisation continues to be a scourge on society, and rudderless young people still gather in groups in search of an outlet for their energies. Teenagers require time to learn who they are, and encouragement to look beyond where they are. Youths have always needed responsible leadership and a safe environment in which to develop their potential. Even though youth disorder, particularly among young males, is a worrying problem, fewer people are inclined to offer themselves in voluntary youth work. The simple fact is, if society does not invest in successful youth work, they must expect to reap a poor harvest. Society at large will do well to remember that ‘Today’s Boys are Tomorrows Men’. While local councils do invest huge amounts of government money into projects designed to amuse young people and keep them off the streets, they seldom succeed in addressing the deeper fundamental problems facing the youth of today. The BB has the advantage of being able to employ methods that have been tried and tested, but the BB Object goes deeper and challenges Boys at every stage of their development toward a Christian lifestyle.

'Now the day is over....'

The old familiar tenements have long since gone, as have the cobbled streets that once echoed to the sounds of The Boys' Brigade on Parade. As the memories of the past begin to fade, it is refreshing, occasionally, to think back on the carefree days of our youth, when we were members of The Boys' Brigade in Anderston. This is not intended to be a history with a gloomy ending, it is a record of the service and wonderful legacy The Boys' Brigade has given to Anderston. Before long the dwellings erected during the 1960s and 70s will be swept away in preparation for another regeneration of the area. The city planners got the 1960s Redevelopment Plan badly wrong; have they learned anything from past mistakes? Hopefully, the Christian Church will survive and, if so, I hope that a BB Company will still be around to continue the work that has been going on in the area since 1885.

Drawing to a close, it is impossible to measure the impact of the BB on society, or to do justice to all the people whose devotion, example, ability and inspirational leadership have carried the Organisation through the vicissitudes of the last one hundred and twenty years. The world owes a debt of gratitude to those involved in voluntary work and, in the area of youth work, The Boys' Brigade sets a benchmark that other youth groups seek to aspire to.

Anderston was a close-knit community prior to the comprehensive redevelopment programme that first impacted on the area during the 1960s. The spirit of the local community was epitomised in the Burgh motto, 'ALTER ALTERIUS AUXILIO VEGET' - *'The one flourishes by the help of the other'*. The two BB Companies remaining in Anderston might do well to take cognisance of the Burgh motto. With that thought in mind, is there a more appropriate ending to this chapter in Anderston's history than to encourage both Companies still functioning to build on the tremendous heritage to which so many people have devoted their lives. Whilst the future may be uncertain, I hope the BB will be part of the Anderston of tomorrow and will remain, Sure & Stedfast, remembering that they are *'All Part of the Story'*.



49th GLASGOW COMPANY, St. Columba Church Hall (1994)

S. McBride, B. Mathieson, D. Sergeant, R. Singleton, D. Mitchell, B. Graham, G. McConnachie, M. Farrell, F. Komolafe and A. McAtamney. Staff: S/Sgt. I. Dalziel, P. Mitchell, D.P. Mitchell (Capt.), S. McCann and S/Sgt. S. Komolafe. Junior Section: G. Greig, A. Mitchell and D. Robertson

All Part of the Story

PART ELEVEN

‘LOCAL ORGANISATION’

During the formative years of the Glasgow Battalion various committees were set up to co-ordinate its development and Officers serving in Anderston Companies were at the very heart of this. The first committee was the Battalion Executive Committee, which operated from 1885-1888, following which the Battalion was divided into separate areas, or Districts.

Appreciation of the work done by Reserve Officers (RO's) should not go unrecognised. Many RO's, after years of loyal service to their Company, continued to serve the Brigade at District and Battalion level. Close examination of the names of committee members will indicate the length of service they gave to ensure the smooth operation of their Companies, the District and the Battalion. In times of national emergency or staff shortages, RO's often stepped-in to keep a local Company operating.

It has not been possible to prepare a list of names of the countless Officers who served on the various Battalion and District Committees over the years as information relating to the committee structures is incomplete. However, details of those who served as District Conveners and Secretaries have been easier to research.

Those ‘Anderston Officers’ who served on the earliest Battalion committees, prior to the establishment of Districts, are indicated in bold print.

BATTALION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 1885-1888

BATTALION EXECUTIVE

1885-88	William A. Smith	(1 st) Battalion President
1885-88	William Nicholl	(4 th) Battalion Secretary
1885-88	F.P.R. Ferguson	(4 th) Battalion Treasurer
1889-91	Laurence Smith	(17th) Battalion Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1885-87	Hugh Reid	(7th)
1885-88	William Kidston	(9th)
1886-88	William G. Fraser	(16 th)
1887-88	Robert Douglas	(37 th)
1887-88	James Hill	(46 th)
1887-88	R.H. Sinclair	(47 th)

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

1886-88	William Kidston	(9th)
1886-88	Dr. J. MacGregor-Robertson	(9th)
1886-88	John Lammie	(6 th)
1886-88	John Gibbs	(58 th)

BIBLE CLASS COMMITTEE

1887-88	William A. Smith	(1 st)
1887-88	William Black	(12 th)
1887-88	Sam Dunlop	(22nd)
1887-88	Laurence Smith	(17th)

The Battalion was organised into three administrative Districts in 1888; as the Battalion grew in strength a fourth District was added.

WESTERN DISTRICT

Presidents	Secretaries
1888-91 Sam Dunlop (22 nd)	1888-93 James D. Robertson (82 nd)
1891-93 A.F. Peterson (76 th)	1893-95 George Binnie (107 th /17 th)
1893-95 D.R. McKenzie (13 th)	1895-96 J.H. Galbraith (4 th)
1895-96 J.L. Ferguson (19 th)	1896-98 William McKerrow (9 th)
1896-98 Joseph Taylor (9 th)	1898-00 Andrew McClure (100 th)
1898-00 William L. McKerrow (9 th)	1900-02 David E. Moore (12 th)
1900-01 Andrew McClure (100 th)	1902-04 T. Steel Campbell (5 th)
1901-03 John B. Kidston (32 nd)	1904-06 James H. Coutts (17 th)
1903-05 James M. Hannan (115 th)	1906-08 John Marshall (22 nd)
1905-06 Henry M. Hannan (115 th)	1908-10 W. David Hannan (115 th)
1906-08 James Coutts (17 th)	1910-12 John Kemp (76 th)
1908-10 James Kerr (93 rd)	1912-13 Harold A. Boyd (93 rd)
1910-12 Alex Orr (6 th)	1913-14 John E. Lyle (9 th)
1912-13 William D. Scott (5 th)	1914-15 Alexander P. Mearns (ex 58 th /17 th /101 st)
1913-15 John Cairns (75 th)	1915-16 James Reid (32 nd)
1915-18 John Stewart (19 th)	1916-17 William Bruce (60 th)
1918-19 Andrew McClure (100 th)	1917-18 Robert Wilson (26 th)
1919-20 Robert Wilson (26 th)	1918-20 W.R.J. Ferrier (122 nd)

*Companies of the Battalion were re-organised into fifteen Districts in 1920.
The Anderston Companies were attached to Kelvingrove District.*

KELVINGROVE DISTRICT

Conveners	Secretaries
1920-22 William L. Jeffrey (41 st)	1920-22 Robert Adam (41 st)
1922-24 John Hunter (5 th)	1922-24 James O.B. Stewart (2 nd)
1924-26 George C. Calvert (32 nd)	1924-26 James H. Calderwood (200 th)
1926-27 John Peebles (49 th)	1926-27 William M. Simmers (9 th)
1927-28 Andrew McClure (100 th)	1927-32 Robert N. McCormick (59 th /100 th)
1928-29 Alex. Ewing (51 st)	1932-33 <i>Vacant</i>
1929-30 W. Roy Farmer (32 nd)	1933 - James A. Crabb (17 th)
1930-31 John Peebles (49 th)	
1931-33 Dr. G. Nelson Turner (RO)	
1933-34 John Peebles (49 th)	

*In 1935 the Battalion was again rearranged into new administrative Districts
and the Anderston Companies became part of the new Blythswood District.*

BLYTHSWOOD DISTRICT

Conveners	Secretaries
1934-36 John Brown (ex-100 th)	1933-35 J.A. Crabb (17 th)
1936-38 J.P. Haggarty (193 rd)	1935-36 J.B. Mowat (32 nd)
1938-40 John Smith (2 nd)	1936-38 R.J.O. Booth (122 nd)
1940-44 William Gray (ex 41 st)	1938-40 W. Keir (41 st)
1944-46 James Frame (51 st)	1940-43 John Smith (ex-2 nd)
1946-53 Archie G. Graham (ex-122 nd)	

*The Battalion again revised the District structure in 1951 and
the Kelvingrove District was once again reinstated.*

KELVINGROVE DISTRICT

Conveners	Secretaries
1940-53 Archie G. Graham (ex-122 nd)	1940-54 John Smith (ex-2 nd)
1953-56 John G. Alexander (ex-246 th /115 th)	1954-56 Johnstone M. Campbell (51 st)
1956-60 Bill S. Menzies (ex-7 th /51 st)	1956-61 D.H. Ross (41 st)
1960-62 A.G. Graham (RO)	1961-64 J.A.R. McArthur (ex 82 nd)
1962-66 Bill Herron (ex-31st/115 th /32 nd)	1964-66 Joe Adams (ex-7 th /51 st /157 th)

Kelvingrove District was disbanded in 1966 and the Anderston Companies that managed to survive the early stages of the comprehensive redevelopment programme for the area were moved into Partick District.

PARTICK DISTRICT

Convener	Secretary
1966-69 Alastair McLachlan (101 st)	1960-68 J. Mitchell Hutcheson (ex-108 th)
1969-72 J. Mitchell Hutcheson (ex-108 th)	1968-72 Derek Miller (101 st)
1972-76 Watson G. McKinnon (ex-130 th)	1972-75 Robin Hutchinson (5 th)
1976-88 Bill Frame (ex-5 th)	1975-76 Jim Wilson (253 rd)
1988-92 Bill McLellan (101 st)	1976-78 Miss Doris Thomson (ex-21 st)
1992-04 Keir Gorman (ex-76 th /12 th /6 th)	1978-83 G. Stanley Birkett (ex-122 nd)
2004- Bill Munro (5 th)	1983-86 Ross Johnstone (130 th)
	1986-04 Margaret Gorman (ex-12 th /6 th)
	2004- John Semple (5 th)



BOY RESERVES

Local Officers Serving on the Battalion Boy Reserve Committee 1920-24

1920-21	W. Jenkins Gibson (19 th)	<i>Convener</i>
1920-21	Donald McPhail (14 th);	
1920-24	William Thomson (49 th)	
1921-24	Robert Adam (41 st)	
1921-24	G. Norman Smith (19 th)	
1922-24	Arthur Kennedy (28 th)	
1922-24	William Murray (17 th)	

*Only those Officers serving within the local District are shown above.
An exception to this rule is made for Committee Conveners.*

KELVINGROVE DISTRICT

District Committee 1924-25

Robert Adam (41st) *Convener*
Miss H. Robertson (17th); Henry K. Wilson (32nd) and A.C. Peebles (49th).

District Committee 1925-27

Thomas Anderson (9th); P. Corrance (17th);
Miss Margaret McFarlane (32nd) and Miss F. Riddoch (41st).



THE LIFE BOYS Conveners

1927-28 William Black (224 th)	1929-30 Oliver Crabb (17 th)
1928-29 <i>Vacant</i>	1930-32 George C. Calvert (32 nd)

BLYTHSWOOD DISTRICT

Conveners	Secretaries
1935-37 John A. Briggs (193 rd)	1935-37 Miss M.B. Smith (193 rd)
1937-38 W. Keir (41 st)	1937-40 W. Keir (41 st)
1938-40 John A. Briggs (193 rd)	1940-45 F. McCulloch (193)
1940-45 A.W. Hutchinson (32 nd)	1945-46 D. Main (51 st /282 nd)
1945-50 W.A. Boyd (259 th)	1946-50 Miss C.D.G. Stewart (259 th / later 17 th) *
	(* Miss C.D.G. Stewart married and became Mrs. Cathy Warner of the 17 th)

KELVINGROVE DISTRICT

1950-52 Harry Balderstone (41 st)	1950-51 Bill Herron (ex-31 st /115 th)
1952-53 Bill Herron (32 nd)	1951-53 Roy D. Laing (ex-155 th /32 nd)
1953-54 W. Brown (282 nd)	1953-56 Miss Gordon (246 th)
1954-58 G. Stanley Birkett (122 nd)	1956-58 A.D. Christie (88 th)
1958-59 J.P. Haggarty (193 rd)	1958-59 Jack G. Alexander (ex-246 th /115 th)
1959-62 Jack G. Alexander (246/115)	1959-60 D. Mallis (14 th)
1962-63 W.S. Menzies (ex-7 th /51 st)	1960-66 Mrs. Cathy D.G. Warner (ex-259 th /17 th)
1963-66 Alf Leslie (156 th)	

PARTICK DISTRICT Junior Section

Convener	Secretary
1965-67 Gordon Sloan (ex-21 st)	1966-74 Miss Doris Thomson (ex-21 st)
1967-71 Jim Scott (227 th)	1974-77 Mrs. Libby Scott (227 th)
1971-74 John N. Cooper (32 nd /17 th)	
1974-76 Robbie McFarlane (101 st)	
1976-77 E. Watson (90 th)	
Junior Section Organiser	Anchor Boys Organiser
1977-86 Mrs. Libby Scott (227 th)	1990 Jean Irvine (12 th)
1986-04 Mrs. Margaret Gorman (ex-6 th /12 th)	



All Part of the Story

COMPANY DETAILS *at a* GLANCE

The amalgamation of a number of Companies can be attributed to loss of premises perhaps due to Church closure brought about by unions, or falling congregations. Other Companies were disbanded because of staff shortages. Without doubt a major contributory factor to the demise of the BB in Anderston was the redevelopment programme that blighted the entire community during the 1960s and '70s.

CHRONOLOGY *of* COMPANIES

Coy	Era	Church Connection	Meeting Place
2 nd	1885-1919 1919-1930 1930-1938	Berkeley Street U.P./ U.F. Blythswood U.F. / Mains Street Original Secession	Mission Hall, 7 Paterson Street. Church Hall, 256 Bath Street Church Hall, 17 Blythswood Street
7 th	1885-1962	Claremont Street U.P./ U.F./ C of S.	Mission Hall, 15 Warroch Street.
9 th	1885-1936	Wellington U.P. / U.F. / C of S.	Stobcross House, 185 Stobcross Street
14 th	1885-1961 1961-1970	Elgin Place Congregational, Bath St. Trinity Congregational	Port Dundas Dundas Vale School, Cowcaddens
17 th	1884-1912 1912-1957 1957-1963 1963-1968 1968-1974	St. George's Free / U.F. St. George's & St. Peter's U.F./C of S Anderston & St. Peter's St. Mark's-Lancefield Anderston Parish	Mission Hall, 7 Kelvin Street (Balnain St.) Church Hall, Berkeley Street Church Hall, St. Vincent Street Church Halls, 725 Argyle Street. Church Halls, 759 Argyle Street.
19 th	1886-1950	Sandyford Est. Church Sandyford-Henderson Memorial	Church Hall, 13 Kelvinhaugh Street " " " "
22 nd	1886-1902 1902-1919	Dundas Street E.U., (West Mission) Bath Street U.F.	St. Andrew's Halls, Granville Street. Church Hall, 256 Bath Street
25 th	1886-1894	Elgin Place Congregational, Bath St.	Mission Hall, 14 Bishop Street
28 th	1886-1950	Anderston Free, University Avenue Hillhead U.F./ Gilmorehill C of S	Mission Hall, 33 Clyde Street. Church Hall, Westbank Lane (off Gibson St.)
31 st	1886-1933	St. Vincent Parish	Church Hall, 14 Pembroke Street
32 nd	1886-1936 1936-1950 1950-1963 1980- cont.	Wellington U.P./ U.F. " " " St. Mark's-Lancefield Anderston Kelvingrove	Mission Hall, 21 Piccadilly Street/ Stobcross House, 185 Stobcross Street/ Church Halls, 725 Argyle Street. Church Halls, 759 Argyle Street.
33 rd 33 rd	1886-1895 1900-1906	Holm Street Original Secession Claremont Street Wesleyan Methodist	17 Mains St. (Blythswood Street) Church Hall, Claremont Street
41 st	1886-1977 ** " " 1977-1980	Kent Rd. U.P./ U.F/ C of S Kent Rd.-St. Vincent Anderston Parish/Anderston Kelvingrove	Church Hall, 69 Kent Road. " " " (& 14 Pembroke Street) Church Hall, 759 Argyle Street.
45 th	1886-1913	St. Peter's Free / U.F.	Church Hall, 55 Mains St. (Blythswood Street)
49 th	1886-1963* 1963-1977 1977- cont.	Henderson Memorial/U.P./U.F./C of S Sandyford-Henderson Memorial St. Columba (Gaelic) C of S	Church Hall, 68 Overnewton Street Church Hall, 13 Kelvinhaugh Street Woodside School / Kelvinhaugh Primary

COMPANY DETAILS *at a* GLANCE

51 st	1886-1966	Anderston U.P./U.F./ Anderston Old	Church Hall, Heddle Place
59 th	1922-1929	Highlanders Memorial U.F.	Church Hall, 55 Blythswood Street.
62 nd	1899-1901	Anderston Established	Catherine Street School
66 th	1887-1888	Trinity Congregational	Church Hall, Claremont Street.
82 nd	1888-1963 1963-1976	The Park Church St. Columba (Gaelic)	Parochial Hall, 298 Woodlands Road Church Hall, 300 St. Vincent Street.
94 th	1888-1903	Kelvinhaugh Parish Church	Church Hall, Park Street (later Yorkhill Street)
100 th	1890-1949	St. Matthew's Est. Jointly with Anderston Parish and St. Matthew's-Blythswood (1926-32)	Bothwell Circus / Drill Hall, St. Vincent Street / Cranstonhill U.F. Church Hall, Cranston Street/ Church Hall, 50 Bishop St./ Finnieston School Church Hall, North St./ Church Hall, 256 Bath St.
107 th	1890-1898	St. Columba (Gaelic)	Church Hall, Hope St.
111 th	1891-1933	St. Enoch's Free / U.F St. Enoch-Kelvingrove C of S	Church Hall, 9 Old Dumbarton Road “ “ “ “ “
115 th	1892-1904 1904-1930 1930-1950	Brownfield Est./ (Mission of St. George's) Broomielaw U.F St. Mark's-Lancefield C of S	Church Hall, 66 Brown Street / Church Hall, 54 Carrick Street / Church Halls, 725 Argyle Street.
200 th	1920-1928	Cranstonhill U.F	Church Hall, Cranston Street
212 th	1924-1963	Kelvinhaugh Est. / St. Enoch's-Kelvinhaugh C of S	Church Hall, 146 Kelvinhaugh Street
224 th	1925-1949	St. John's Episcopal	Church Hall, Houldsworth Street.
227 th	1930-1980 **	Finnieston U.F/ C of S / Kelvingrove C of S.	Derby Street/ Nairn Street School “ “ “ “ “
231 st	1925-1936	St. Mark's Parish, Cheapside Street	Washington Street School
244 th	1925-1928	St. Vincent Street C of S (Greek Thomson Church)	Mission Hall, 218 Holm Street
246 th	1931-1941	St. Peter's C of S	Church Hall, 66 Brown Street.
247 th	1931-1949	St. Vincent Street C of S	Mission Hall, 218 Holm Street.
248 th	1931-1935	Highlander's Memorial C of S	Church Hall, 55 Blythswood Street
256 th	1932-1957	Anderston (St. Martin's) C of S / Anderston & St. Peter's C of S	Kent Road Primary School Church Hall, St. Vincent Street.
282 nd	1937-1965	Central U.F. (Continuing)	Church Hall, 28 Cranston Street/ Finnieston School

* The 49th relocated to St. Columba Parish Church, 300 St. Vincent Street, Anderston in 1977.

** The union between the 41st and 227th brought about the reintroduction of the 32nd Glasgow Company number in 1980.

All Part of the Story

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Research Sources: Information has been drawn from the following reference sources:

<i>Glasgow Battalion Annual Reports</i>	1885-2004
<i>History of the Glasgow Battalion</i>	1891
<i>32nd Glasgow Company Chronicle</i>	1930-1963
<i>The Glasgow Battalion of the Boys' Brigade (1883-1983)</i>	<i>J. Berend Shaw</i>
<i>Sure & Stedfast (1983)</i>	<i>Springhall, Fraser & Hoare</i>
<i>Badges of The Boys' Brigade (2000)</i>	<i>Bolton, Howie & Mandry</i>
<i>Anderston Then & Now (2004)</i>	<i>John N. Cooper</i>

Photographs & Illustrations: Unfortunately, the original copies of certain photographs featured in this history are of impaired quality, however they are the only representations of some Companies we have been able to acquire. Other than those photographs taken from the authors own collection, the following items have been donated for inclusion in this history by:

<i>John Hamilton (ex-Captain 49th)</i>	<i>Page 34, 54 and 96.</i>
<i>Duncan Mitchell (Captain 49th)</i>	<i>Pages 30, 32, 33, 60, 70, 75, 77, 86, 87, 88, 95, 96 and 98</i>
<i>Jim MacKenzie (Captain 231st)</i>	<i>Page 34</i>
<i>Jim & Libby Scott (ex-227th/32nd)</i>	<i>Pages 45 and 47</i>

