

Factsheet

NUMBER 23: THE BRIGADE ARCHIVE

Looking Back...



The **Brigade Archive**, as we know it today, came into being in August 1997 following an initial report and listing of material by the newly-formed Brigade Historical Group (H.G.) which has managed the Archive since that date.

Pror to 1997 archive material had been relegated to obscure cupboards and attics of various HQ buildings over the years. Much material was, sadly, lost or destroyed during moves from one building to another and by 'loans' that were never returned. However, a large quantity of priceless documents and other material has been retained and we can thank those Brigade Staff members over the years who have resisted the easy option of simply throwing it out.

In 1997 the Assistant General Secretary, Mr David Harris, was responsible for overseeing the successful handover to the auspices of the H.G. Between 1997 and 2001 two of the attic rooms at NHQ were converted to repositories with steel shelving, cabinets, boxes and new lighting installed. The process of conserving and cataloguing material has continued apace and many new donations have been received.

The Archive is always active, developing and improving. At present it is only open by appointment (By contacting NHQ) when private research can be undertaken in liaison with the H.G.. Donations of material, large and small, are always most welcome. We work with Yorkshire Libraries, Museums and Archives Service and our details can be accessed on the Internet via the 'A2A' (Access to Archives initiative) run by the National Archives at Kew.

Currently (2005) we are planning our move to the new NHQ building where there will be a single repository room. We intend to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Grant-Aid to further improve cataloguing, conservation and access.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ARCHIVE HOLDINGS

1. Council-Governing Body Minute Books 9th October 1891 - Present day. Hand written (up to 1935) and typed minute books covering the Executive decision making of the organisation from its foundation. Includes Executive & Incorporated Society volumes.
2. 'Brigade' Magazine - Newsletter.(Chronicles of the organisation) Full set. (Bound Volumes 1894 - 1977) and Individual copies. Issued monthly and bi-monthly, from issue 1 Vol 1. Illustrated and detailed accounts of activities.

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3. Incorporated Church Scout Patrols. 1909 - 1913. Bound Volumes of 'The Scout Message' & original minute book.
4. Indexed Record Cards. Mainly 1920s - present - day. Companies (c.3000), Officers (c.5000), Other Formations (c.1000). Information re. Church connections, dates of activity, ranks, addresses, official numbers etc.
5. Lads' Magazines: Vanguard (10 editions 1970s) & Drumbeat (6 editions in two formats 1960s).
6. Collection of photographs. CLB, CGB, LDCLB, CLCGB. Including glass slides of London Camps 1900 - 1914.
7. Collection of printed material issued by the CLB & CLCGB organisations 1892 - present day.
8. Handbooks & Guides. Infantry Training, Rules & Regulations. First Aid, Pocket Books.
9. Collection of locally produced company histories. 20th Cent.
10. The Bishop of Exeter's Report 1966. Questionnaires, Findings & Analysis. Copies of Report.
11. Amalgamation of the CLB & CGB. Documents etc. 1976 - 1978.
12. Royal Reviews of the Brigade & Visits. Documents, reports, letters, photographs, parade orders, programmes, certificates.
13. CLB - CLCGB Annual Reports. 1891 - Present day.
14. Brigade Lists. (Annual Directory) 1895 - 1918
15. Papers, correspondence, printed matter relating to Training Courses. KGIV & Junior Leaders. (c.1966 - 1989)
16. CLB Headquarters Diaries 1930 - 1950. & Gen Sec Correspondence - Present. (Day to day routine etc).
17. The CLB around the world. In particular material from Newfoundland (Including Avalon Battalion 'Bugle' Magazine 1971 - present), South Africa, Caribbean, St Helena.
18. The Church Girls' Brigade, Formerly The Church Nursing & Ambulance Brigade. Correspondence, photographs, minutes, printed material 1923 - 1978
19. The London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade, later London Division CLB. Printed material 1900 - 1936. Including small number of 'Gazette' (Chronicle of the LDCLB).
20. Walter M. Gee (Founder) Original letters to/from W. A. Smith of The Boys' Brigade. Copies of personal papers etc.
21. Officer & Warrant Officer warrants/certificates. 1900s - 1950s.
22. Material relating to The Brigade 'International Association' (1968-1980) and the Brigade Association (1980 - present) 'Link' Magazines (1985 - present day). Correspondence to and from Sir Hamish Forbes Bt.
23. Material relating to the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Cadet affiliation & 16th Bn. KRRC 1914-1919.
24. The original CLB 'St Andrew's Lads' Brigade' Orders.
25. Artefacts: Badges & Medals, Uniforms-accoutrements, Band Instruments, Colours, Trophies-Shields.
26. Music in the Brigade. Including The National Band & National Choir.

