

BATTALION INAUGURATION

8. 9 '67

Seventy officers under the President, Mr. J.W. Sandford M.B.E. J.P. gathered at Abbeylands Hotel, Newtownabbey for the first part of our celebrations. The guests included

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| Ald. H. A. Mc Kay, Mayor of Larne | W. J. Gordon, N.I.D. Exec. |
| Ald. J. J. Patterson, Mayor of Carrickfergus | A. E. Fogarty J.P., N.I.D. Secy. |
| Rev. A. McAloney, Chap. 1st Randalstown Co. | G. W. Graham, Secy. for Training |
| Rev. J. Givane, Chap. 75th Belfast Co. | |

After photographs of the chief guests and of the entire representations had been taken outside and in the vestibule, all retired to the dining room where the Battalion Chaplain gave thanks before the meal commenced. The five course dinner, cost was very generously defrayed by an anonymous friend of The Boys' Brigade in East Antrim.

Following the toast to H.M. The Queen ^{proposed} by the Battalion President, the Secretary gave apologies for Revs. W. G. M. Martin and Andrew Orr and Mr. Wm. Allen.

A ten minute interval allowed those present to refresh themselves after the excellent meal and upon resumption, the President welcomed highly honoured to occupy the positions and recalled that when the East Antrim Officers Council had been formed in 1945, he

THE BOYS' BRIGADE



EAST ANTRIM BATTALION

PRESIDENT: J. W. SANDFORD, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.S.

**BATTALION
INAUGURATION**

8 and 9 SEPTEMBER, 1967

GROUP GROWS TO BATTALION

ONE THOUSAND officers and boys in 16 companies in the East Antrim Group of the Boys' Brigade have been upgraded with the formation of the East Antrim Battalion.

The companies concerned extend from Greenisland to Cairncastle and take in Ballyclare, Ballyeaston and Ballynure.

To mark the change in administration, celebrations will be held on Friday and Saturday. There will be a dinner in Abbeylands Hotel, Newtownabbey, and a conference at Rathmore House, Larne, when the theme will be "Commitment and Involvement."

Both the Mayors of Carrickfergus and of Larne will attend and many leading speakers will take part.

The first elected office-bearers in the new Battalion are: President, Mr. J. Wesley Sandford (former Mayor of Larne, ex-Captain First Larne Company and first chairman when the East Antrim Group was formed in 1945); vice-presidents, Mr. Jonathan Simms (Captain, Third Carrickfergus Company) and Mr. Trevor Robinson (Lieutenant, Second Larne Company, junior section); chaplain, the Rev. C. E. Brennan (Whitehead Presbyterian Church); secretary, Mr. Brian P. Smyth (former Captain, First Greenisland Company); treasurer, Mr. Alex M'Bride (Lieutenant, First Carrickfergus Company).

The East Antrim Group of the Boys' Brigade was formed in 1945 to cater for the needs of boys in the district. At that time there were about 300 boys in seven Companies and Life Boy Teams.

was appointed the first chairman. To mark the occasion he had great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Tom Down, President of 2nd Larne Company and himself would present to the Battalion, Colours and these would be ready in time for the first Battalion Colours Parade. This was received with rousing applause. Mr. Sandford then introduced Ald. Hugh A. McKay and called on him to bring greetings from the Civic Authorities in the district.

Alderman McKay said he was delighted to share the occasion for three reasons (1) we had the sense to elect Mr. Sandford, his old friend, as our President (2) Rathmore House was in his borough and he had had the pleasure of visiting it on a number of occasions. He considered it to be a spiritual power house for B.B. officers (3) The reputation and standing of the B.B. in East Antrim was so high that he felt it an honour to be asked. He said he was pleased to note the success of the movement and brought not only civic greetings but his own personal hopes for the success of the B.B. among young people.

Alderman T. J. Patterson, Mayor of Carrickfergus, in proposing the toast of The Boys' Brigade felt it was an honour to have the privilege as the B.B. to him was the most outstanding of all organisations. It had done a tremendous task throughout the world. He congratulated the junior section and on its smooth change over from The Life Boys and paid tribute to Mr. Sandford who had given so much service to the public in various

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ABBEYLANDS HOTEL, NEWTOWNABBEY

Friday, 8th September, 1967

positions. He was confident that The Boys' Brigade would continue to leave its footprints throughout East Antrim.

In his reply, Rev. G. L. Brennan B.A. C.F. said that the Founder of the B.B. built no castles in the air. Carrickfergus Castle was founded on a rock and that was a pattern for us. There was no greater call than the call of service in the Brotherhood of Christ.

Mr. Wm. J. Gordon, a member of N.I.D. Executive then rose at the invitation of the President to propose the toast of "The East Antrim Battalion." He stressed that in The Boys' Brigade, boys come first. There had been perseverance to attain battalion status but this was not enough. Help and advice were available from B.B. House and at Training Courses. He had to raise our sights, look to the future, broaden our horizons. There was hard work ahead but with the full support of every officer the Battalion should be successful and he certainly hoped that would be the case.

Thanks to Mr. Gordon were expressed by Rev. R. V. A. Lynas B.A. B.D. Chaplain 2nd Larne Co. in his reply, and he paid tribute to the work of the Officers in East Antrim. He said he would like to think that Chaplains would be more faithful as this was a work for the Kingdom of God. He called upon each member to give of their best and said he was confident that the flag would continue to fly to the glory of God.

The President, in thanking the speaker said ~~to~~ he felt that

the position should go round and that two years should be sufficient.
He paid tribute to those who had organised the evening which had been
a tremendous success.

Rev. L. C. Brennan thanked the anonymous person who had
made the evening possible by defraying the cost of the meal and after
applause the first part of our celebration ended by the singing of the
Vesper Hymn followed by the Benediction.

Saturday 9th September 1967.

Another large representation of officers gathered at Rathmore House
where after a meal, Chaplains, Captain and Leaders in charge of
Junior sections heard a talk by Rev. A. L. McAloney on Christian
Education and the part played by the N.I.D. Executive Committee
on that subject. A discussion followed led by the Battalion
Chaplain.

While this was going on, the other officers heard a talk
by W. J. Gordon on "Responsibilities of Officership" and here again
a useful and informative discussion followed. When it
came time to break for supper it was felt that
discussions could have continued for some time.

Following supper, all attended a dedicatory service, conducted by
Rev. Brennan, at which the speaker was Rev. John Givan, Chaplain
75th Belfast Coy. Mr. Givan read from Isaiah 66 and
likened the experience of the young lad to that which we ourselves
require. Are you, he said, a leader of boys and have to say 'I am
unfit for this task?' Are you reverent, disciplined, obvious in your attitude
to God and His day?

As Isaiah needed cleansing, so do we. It was essential. How
could we advance Christ's Kingdom if we were not members of it. He
referred to Isaiah's conviction, his awareness of need; to his confession
and cleansing and finally to his commission and consecration.
When God calls, he said, He equips and implores all officers to
say like Isaiah 'Here am I' - not partly but completely.
A wonderful service bringing to an end an inspiring week end

Boys' Brigade inauguration celebrations

OVER 80 officers of the Boys' Brigade attended the inaugural celebrations of the East Antrim Battalion.

At a dinner held in Abbeylands Hotel, Whiteabbey, on Friday, chief guests included Alderman T. J. Patterson, Mayor of Carrickfergus, and Alderman H. A. McKay, Mayor of Larne.

In bringing greetings from civic authorities in the area, Alderman McKay referred to the high reputation of the Boys' Brigade in East Antrim, and said he was pleased to note the growth of the movement.

Alderman Patterson, proposing the toast of the Boys' Brigade, said it was the most outstanding of all organisations.

He paid tribute to the new battalion president, Mr. J. Wesley Sandford, a former Mayor of Larne, who had given over 50 years of service to the movement.

Replying, Rev. C. E. Brennen said there was no greater call than that to service in the brotherhood of Christ.

Mr. William J. Gordon, a member of the Northern Ireland District Executive, proposed the toast of "The East Antrim Battalion," and Rev. R. V. A. Lynas replied, paying tribute to those who had served in the past and saying he was confident that the BB flag would continue to fly to the glory of God in the district.

The Saturday celebrations were held at Rathmore House, Larne, where a talk on "The object and ourselves" was given by Rev. John Girvan, chaplain, 75th Belfast Company. Mr. Girvan said it was essential that the person seeking to advance Christ's Kingdom among boys must himself or herself be a member of that Kingdom.

Rev. A. L. McAloney, chaplain, 1st Randalstown Company, presided, and a talk on the responsibilities of officers was given by Mr. W. J. Gordon.

EAST ANTRIM TIMES 14. 9. '67.



LEFT—Mr. J. W. Sandford (left), president of the newly-formed East Antrim Boys' Brigade Battalion, with (from left) Alderman Hugh McKay, Mayor of Larne; Alderman T. J. Patterson, Mayor of Carrickfergus, and Mr. Jonathan Simms, Battalion vice-president, during the Battalion inauguration dinner in Abbeylands Hotel, Newtownabbey.

"EAST ANTRIM TIMES" 14. 9. '67.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

New BB Battalion

NORTHERN Ireland's newest Boys' Brigade battalion—it is also the second largest—was inaugurated last night.

Officers from the 16 companies in East Antrim attended the inauguration dinner in Newtownabbey.

Mr. J. Wesley Sandford, who has been in the B.B. 58 years, is the president of the East Antrim Battalion. Mr. Sandford is a former Mayor of Larne. To-night officers of the battalion attend a conference in Rathmore House, Larne.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH 9. 9. '67.



The president of the new East Antrim Battalion of The Boys' Brigade, Mr. J. Wesley Sandford (centre) with the Mayor of Carrickfergus, Alderman T. J. Patterson (left) and the Mayor of Larne, Alderman McKay. Also included in the photograph are (from left): Mr. Jonathan Simms, Mr. Alex McBride, Mr. Brian P. Smyth, Mr. Trevor Robinson (of Larne), and the Rev. C. E. Brennen, of Whitehead Presbyterian Church. (Photo by Photorama)

"CARRICKFERGUS ADVERTISER" 14. 9. '67

Inauguration of East Antrim B.B. Battalion

MORE THAN 80 officers of The Boys' Brigade attended the inaugural celebrations of the East Antrim Battalion on Friday and Saturday.

The chief guests at a dinner in Abbeylands Hotel, Whiteabbey, on Friday, included the Mayor of Carrickfergus, Alderman T. J. Patterson, and the Mayor of Larne, Alderman H. A. M'Kay.

Alderman M'Kay brought greetings from the Civic Authorities in his district and referred to the high reputation of The Boys' Brigade in East Antrim. He said he was pleased to note how successful the movement was. In passing, he remarked that it was seldom boys trained in the organisation appeared before him when he was acting in his capacity as magistrate.

MOST OUTSTANDING

In proposing the toast "The Boys' Brigade," Alderman Patterson said he counted it an honour to perform this function as he regarded the B.B. as the "most outstanding of all organisations." He paid tribute

to the new Battalion president, Mr. J. Wesley Sandford, who, he said, had given more than 50 years of service to the movement.

The Rev. C. E. Brennen, replying to the toast, said there was no greater call to service in the brotherhood of Christ than through The Boys' Brigade.

Mr. W. J. Gordon, of the Northern Ireland District Executive, proposed the toast "The East Antrim Battalion," to which the Rev. R. V. A. Lynas replied, paying tribute to those who had served in the past and adding that he was confident the B.B. flag would continue to fly to the glory of God in the district.

SATURDAY CELEBRATIONS

At Rathmore House, Larne, on Saturday, the celebrations continued with a discussion which followed a talk by the Rev. John Girvan, chaplain of the 75th Belfast Company entitled "Our Object and Ourselves."

The Rev. A. L. M'Aloney, chaplain First Randalstown Company, was chairman for the evening, during which a talk on the responsibilities of officership was given by Mr. W. J. Gordon.

BB warns of fraud danger

SIR—In the past you have given us valuable assistance in informing your readers of our annual effort to raise funds for the Boys' Brigade. We are most appreciative and would ask once more for your help.

Next week members of the Brigade will invite their friends and those to whom they are personally known to contribute to "BB Week." Our members will carry with them specially printed collecting cards bearing the name of their company and signed by the Officer-in-Charge.

Will your readers please note this because, not only is door-to-door collecting forbidden, but on occasions we have been forbidden by the activities of fraudulent collectors?

Every official and boy will be making his own personal contribution to this annual effort, which is the main source of income for the BB.

The greater portion of the money raised is kept by local companies to use in developing their own activities. The balance is remitted to Headquarters and helps to meet the cost of the services provided by the Brigade to companies at home and abroad.

The BB, as with other voluntary youth organisations as well as industry, commerce, and families, is hard put in the fight against rising costs, over which we have no control.

We therefore look forward confidently to all our friends and supporters to assist us in this great task.

J. W. SANDFORD,
Battalion President.
B. P. SMYTH,
Battalion Secretary.

CARRICKFERGUS

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