

John Schreiner

**BOYS
FOR
CHRIST**



CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE



Christian Service Brigade

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BOYS FOR CHRIST

A Guidebook for Leaders of Boys



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FOREWORD

Growing things entrance all of us. It has been my pleasure and profit to have watched the Christian Service Brigade grow from the faintest beginnings to its present widespread ministry to real American boys in many part of the land; and I shall see it grow even farther afield in the days to come. It is a movement of life, spiritual life, made available for us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. From its outset the Brigade has had every evidence of being under the blessing and guidance of God.

The Brigade is distinctly a boys' outfit. Good fellows get together, not only for a good and wholesome time of recreation, but most of all for training of hands, head, and heart. Under its inspiration and information, boys are led to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, to become good soldiers of the great Captain of their salvation.

Parents and pastors will do well to acquaint themselves with this unique movement in winning the boys for Christ. You will be glad for every boy that enrolls in the Brigade.

V. RAYMOND EDMAN

Wheaton, Illinois
May 1, 1942

Boys For Christ

A GUIDEBOOK FOR LEADERS OF BOYS

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BECAUSE OF CALVARY

If you have been to Calvary, and seeing the Saviour hanging there, dying for you, have thrown open your heart's door that your slain and risen Lord might enter there; and if with all your heart you love that Lord and desire to follow Him and be His witness, telling the news of eternal life through Him to those who do not know Him; if you have ever felt a burden for lively, eager boys ready to follow whatever leader will stand before them wherever he leads; and if you are willing to lead them to Him, the Christ of Calvary, regardless of what it may cost you: then it is for you that these pages are written.

I

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE—

Its Purpose and History

THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE

To reach boys with the straightforward gospel message of salvation through the blood of Christ, to draw those boys to Him, and to show them that being a Christian is a manly thing and extends into every part of their lives, and that every Christian has a man-sized job before him, the job of being a witness—"a good soldier of Jesus Christ"—is in brief the whole purpose of the *Christian Service Brigade*.

HISTORY

High lights of the Brigade's history show how this aim has been clarified and how in the lives of some boys it has begun to be realized.

Glen Ellyn, Illinois, December, 1937

Torchlight illuminated the little room in which there sat a circle of boys, and an older boy, their Captain. Out of a story, then told, Brigade's theme grew, a story of the "consecration of the torch" in ancient Scotland and in other far-off lands, which spoke of the spreading of the Word of Light throughout the world. Nineteen hundred years ago the King of Kings had sent forth eleven valiant men as "Knights" or torchbearers to take a message from Him to every nation and to every tribe. On every side men were forgetting that commission, but the order was still in force, and in those boys hearts the vision burned of an unfinished work, now theirs to perform.

United for action, the *Christian Service Squad* came into existence. The Torch, the Sword, and the Word of God became the emblems of the Squad and symbolized its watchword: "Bright and Keen for Christ." Boy en-

thusiasm proved contagious and the squad outgrew its name. Early in 1938 it became the *Christian Service Brigade*—organized for service. Growth involved difficulties which demonstrated the need for a planned program of activity and achievement.

Bemidji, Minnesota, July, 1938

Oak Hills Fellowship, doing pioneer mission work in northern Minnesota, provided a pattern of policy and tradition for the newly formed Brigade, that the gospel witness might by all possible means be presented efficiently and winsomely. Some concentrated work during that summer produced the first edition of the *Brigade Handbook*, which introduced the characteristic Brigade achievement program based on the ranks of Knighthood.

Wheaton, Illinois, September, 1938

New organization brought new impetus. Other men saw the opportunity offered in the leadership of boys, and new Battalions of the Brigade were formed. A number of Wheaton College students became active in the work. By June there were seven Battalions. Another year raised the mark to eighteen, and then the vision began to spread to other areas.

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, June, 1939

Brigade's first camp, lasting only five days, introduced a new field of activity destined to show a phenomenal growth. In the summer of 1940 there were five weeks of camp and nine weeks in 1941. Camp has proved Brigade's most powerful single agency in winning boys and in guiding their growth in grace. The program ideal includes all of camping at its best, fully dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wheaton, Illinois, October, 1939

Inevitable was the question, "Who will do something

for the girls?" Miss Betty Whitaker of Wheaton, in answer, organized the "Girl's Guild," later changed to "Pioneer Girls," which provides an intensely interesting program of Bible study and Christian service for girls, well seasoned with provision for good times and wholesome recreation.

While the work among boys and girls was growing under the guidance of Brigade and Guild leaders, it became evident that not only to them was the vision granted, but also to some in other quarters.

Summit, Illinois, March, 1940

Four boys grinned and walked into the church basement, wondering what was to come. Their Sunday School teacher had announced a meeting, but they knew nothing of the time spent in prayer and planning which lay behind the announcement. Doubts were soon forgotten in a round of challenging games, stories, and songs. The closing prayer came all too soon. They left determined to 'tell the gang.'

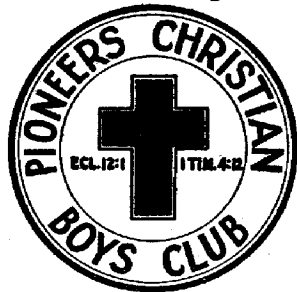
Twenty-four boys filled the ranks the following week. Exciting relays, feats of strength and skill, plotted wit and strategy in contests quickened pulses. As the meeting drew to a close, the boys sat silent and intent. They were listening to a story of the Saviour's love.

Identical in its purpose with the Brigade and very similar in plan and program as it was, this group's beginning and growth was entirely spontaneous and independent of the other work. Not till a year and one-half later did the two leaders become acquainted.

The summer months introduced an outdoor program of games, hikes, and wood lore, culminating in two weeks of camping in the wild North Woods of Wisconsin.

During those happy weeks many were saved, and others dedicated their lives to Christ. All were drawn close to the Lord.

It was following camp that the need for organization was felt. Thoughtful planning and waiting upon God brought a program of activities interrelated with Bible study and service, based on the theme of wood lore and exploring the deep things of God. They held tremendous potentiality for drawing boys. This group then became the first "Stockade" of the *Pioneer Christian Boys' Club*.



Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, December, 1940

The Christian Service Brigade, the older work, became incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the stated purpose being "the non-sectarian Christian education of youth." The constitution defines its aim more specifically, thus: "to lead all those whom it reaches into a real experience of the Lord Jesus Christ and a definite acceptance of Him both as Savior and as Lord in every phase of their lives."

Oswego, Illinois, September, 1941

In the fulness of time the Lord brought together the two young men in whose hearts he had put the burning desire to win boys for Him. *Pioneers, Brigade*, and the lives of both men were committed to the Lord for whatever future course He might lead them to follow. A real heart unity resulted, which was followed by the official union of the *Pioneer Christian Boys Club* with the *Christian Service Brigade*. Although Pioneer Stockades then became Brigade Battalions, the Brigade Program in its entirety was greatly strengthened and its scope increased.

by the introduction of the "Brigade Pioneer" ranks, especially appropriate for activity among older boys.

Wheaton, Illinois, May 1942

BOYS FOR CHRIST, a Guidebook for Leaders of Boys goes to press, dedicated to the Lord for the purpose of giving to men anywhere the same vision which gave birth to the Christian Service Brigade and has empowered its progress. It is to Mr. Al Conn of Chicago, a real Brigade friend, that we are especially indebted for making possible the publication of this manual, to numerous others also sincere thanks should be given for help and advice in many ways.

II

THE BRIGADE LEADER

"BRIGHT AND KEEN FOR CHRIST"

Brigade's standard of leadership is high, for it is everywhere recognized that leadership is the most essential element in boys' work of any sort. Brigade's motto, *Bright and Keen for Christ*, has a special significance to the Brigade leader:

"BRIGHT" speaks of his enthusiasm and real interest in his boys which makes him truly appealing to them. The Torch aflame, the emblem of the word, symbolizes a clear-cut, winsome witness for Christ, lived and spoken. That *winsomeness* is essential. It includes being "all things to all men," or boys, and is the secret in *winning* them.

"KEEN" as a two-edged sword is the Word of God. It is the content of that winsome witness. We have a promise concerning the Word, when we speak it forth. God has said that it will accomplish His purpose and will

not return unto Him void. The Word faithfully taught will bear fruit. The word "KEEN" and its symbol, the Sword, speak of a witness which is not only *winsome*, but also *effective*.

"For CHRIST," and for Him alone, is the labor. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it." If our work of winning boys is motivated by any desire, even by love for the boys themselves, more than by love for the Lord Jesus Christ, our work is useless. The Brigade leader labors valiantly as a Knight for Christ—"that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

THE LEADER'S QUALIFICATIONS

The leader of boys is a MAN, not merely the adult male of the species, but one who is all that the boys must desire to be, having the essentials of true character as a part of his life. The standard is high, and it must be so, for you and I can never lead boys into a standard of life higher than our own.

Leading boys to Christ is costly, because the Christian leader is called first to be a follower of Him who has said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." He has also warned, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost?" Let us sit down together, then, and count the cost of leading boys, or, if you will, of boy-building. In this building program we are workmen. No one of us is the master craftsman; we are laborers. The material with which we work is the lives of boys. We build under the direction of the Master Builder, and according to His plans.

What does it take to be a leader of boys. Let us consider some of the requirements:

In the first place, have you a *heart* for boys? Can you love them? Of course, everyone loves some boys, rough and ready, and game for whatever you have to suggest; but can you love just as much the undernourished, whimpering, little fellow who is always a poor sport and seems to spoil everybody's fun? The love of the Christ of Calvary, whose ambassador you are, is just as much for him, and he is the very one who most needs your love. The love of a real leader for his boys is wonderful in the fruit it produces in those boys, and in the leader as well. Show a boy that you are interested in him and he will warm to you. Let him know that you have confidence in him and he will aspire to make good that trust. It is love that wins boys and holds them. It is that sort of love that makes that leader spend much time agonizing in prayer for each one of his boys, earnestly desiring each one for the Lord.

Again, have you a *head* for boys? Can you understand them? There is a great deal of boy psychology that the boys' leader needs to know. Much can be learned by the study of books, much more from the study of boys. The leader of boys must be able to think quickly and accurately. He must also be well informed. Every boy admires a leader who "knows his stuff."

A boys' leader must be a Bible student. The ministry to boys, perhaps more than any other ministry, requires readiness for spontaneous teaching. Often that "out of season" kind of teaching is the kind that counts the most. There is no educational or scholastic standard too high for the leader of boys.



"Can you keep up with them"

Have you, again, a *body* for boys? Can you keep up with them? Although robust health is certainly not an absolute requirement for boy-leadership, nevertheless the vital nervous energy that breeds that most powerful and contagious force, enthusiasm, is most essential. Enthusiasm is the key to successful leadership in boys' activities. Any group of

normal boys will enter much more readily into difficult and even disagreeable work, given a vigorous and enthusiastic leader, than even into a game which is simply planned and not promoted. Boys will allow for any type of physical handicap the leader may have and, at times, be the more loyal to him for it, if he will only supply the dynamic and enthusiastic leadership they so eagerly follow.

Any man earnestly desiring to be found an acceptable servant of Christ in winning boys already possesses in part the necessary qualifications, and the part which remains he will by the same token develop.

Where will we lead our boys? To the Saviour first, that they might know and trust in Him. Then, as they begin the Christian walk we must guide and teach them to walk closely with Him. If at first they follow us, their leaders, if we walk with Him, it is well, but it is ours to point continually to the Saviour and say, "Behold Him," until their eyes are truly fastened upon Him, and we, perhaps, are even forgotten.

SOME GUIDE THOUGHTS FOR BUILDERS

Leading a boy to take his stand for Christ does not require a long exposition of doctrine. In the first place,

be a friend to your boys. Through all your dealing with them, let them know that they can count on you to be understanding and to be fair. Win the boy's confidence, then watch for an opportunity to talk with him of Christ. It will come. Pray much for the opening and for wisdom in speaking when it comes. Suggest a little walk somewhere; solicit the boy's help in some piece of work before you, even though the help may not be needed; take him for a ride in a car, or, if in camp, for a little boat ride. Many other practical ways of making opportunities will present themselves to you. In one of the early Brigade camps, one leader tells of nine campers led to a profession



of acceptance of Christ individually in one day; in every case the opportunity was brought about in one of the ways just suggested.

When the opportunity comes, and you are alone with a boy, what then? By way of suggestion, three practical and very important rules might be useful: (1) Keep the message simple; (2) Make very clear the essential parts of God's plan of redemption; (3) Avoid the danger of forcing.

(1) The simple message

"Billy, have *you* ever asked the Lord Jesus to come into your heart; like the boys we talked about in Brigade today?"

"No, sir!"

"Do you understand what it means to trust Him with all your heart?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Would you like to take Him as your Saviour?"

"Yes, Sir, I would!"

"What does Saviour mean?"

"That's somebody that saves you."

"But why do you need a Saviour?"

"Because I've sinned."

"Would you like to take the Lord Jesus as your Saviour right now?"

"Yes, Sir, I would!"

"We can talk to Him just the same way we do to each other, Billy, wouldn't you like to talk to Him now? Just ask Him to come in and take your sins away and save you, right now, forever."

Just as simply as this may a boy be brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and to the decision which is the most important of his whole lifetime! How wonderful to share with a boy who has just decided for Christ the knowledge we have from the Word that the very angels in heaven are rejoicing because he has come to his Saviour.

(2) *Some Things That Must be Made Very Clear*

a. *Sin*: Except there be a realization of the fact of sin, salvation can mean very little. To seek to win a boy for Christ without talking about his own sin and need for a Saviour is like drawing a picture of a sinking ship, and leaving out the water.

b. *Faith*: What does it mean to trust? The question comes naturally out of the discussion of the Knight's pledge: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him alone as my Saviour . . ." The story is often told of the tight-rope artist performing over Niagara Falls. He announced he would wheel a boy across in a wheelbarrow. A group of boys in the crowd were arguing about whether he would succeed. Jack believed he could do it and con-

tended strongly for the point. Somehow they were overheard by the artist himself. "Do you really believe that I can do this?" he asked Jack.

"Absolutely!" was Jack's too-quick reply.

"Then you are just the boy I want—climb into the wheelbarrow."

To believe in the man was one thing, to trust his whole life to him was something quite different. Saving faith in Christ holds no reservations; it is a complete and unhesitating decision.

c. *Life*: Choosing Christ and the Christian life is not a smooth path or an easy thing, but what true soldier wants an easy battle? Deciding for Christ marks the beginning of the march; ahead lie great difficulty, peril, and temptation; but without the battle there can be no victory. The pathway of victory is that of full consecration. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life: that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a Soldier."

(3) *A Danger to be Avoided*

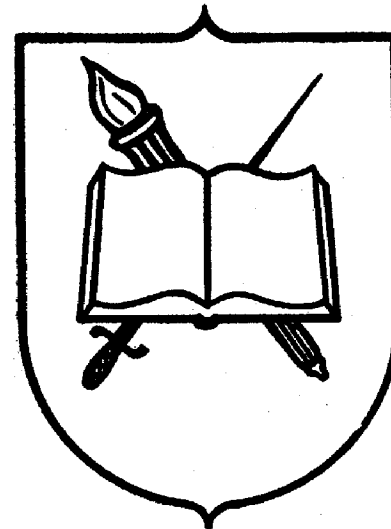
Except the Spirit of God work in the heart of a boy convincing him of his sin and of his need for Christ, there can be ^{No} regeneration. There must a constant guarding against bringing boys to lip-confession of Christ in order to please their leader. One boy, who when about twelve was led to profess Christ under the pressure of well-meant zeal, became a confessed infidel at the age of seventeen,

and he himself attributed it to the fact that he had been virtually forced into a profession which had never been a decision of the heart. The act of receiving Christ and becoming a Christian is a contract between the heart of the sinner and the heart of God. Let the boy who is deciding for Christ understand ever so clearly that God looks on the heart and unless his words are the prayer of his whole heart and soul, they mean nothing.

TEACHING THE BIBLE TO BOYS



Boys love a story, and the man who works with them soon learns to frame in story form the thoughts that he would give them. Every Brigade Battalion meeting includes as its most important and climatic part the teaching period variously referred to as *Bible study time*, *story hour*, *campfire*, or *discussion period*. At that time the leader brings a message to his boys. Many means are used; frequently boys take part in discussion; most often, however, some form of the story is used. Sometimes the whole message of salvation or consecration is clothed in an exciting story, complete with beginning, climax, and ending, and nothing is added. At other times the "heart-talk" method drives home the message more powerfully; thought follows thought with narrative sequence, with stories frequently inserted for illustration. We might look in for a few moments on a typical Battalion meeting story time. The leader is sitting with a circle of boys, a closed Bible in his hand. He refers to the Brigade emblem, Torch, Sword, and Bible, which hangs, emblazoned on a shield, upon the wall of the Battalion den. He is speaking:



"Bright and Keen for Christ"

year before that—this Book right here! Did you know that this Book is printed in more languages than any other book in all the world, or than all the rest together, for that matter? When the very first printing press was made, the first book it turned out was the Bible. From that day to this it has been printed more than any other book. Don't you think there must be some reason for it?

"When you or I want to find out what some big word means we go look it up in the dictionary and we take Mr. Webster's word for it and believe he is right. Why? Because he and the present-day compilers of the dictionary know their stuff. When we want to check up on some fact of science, we accept the report of the leading scientists of our day, don't we? And the bigger the man's reputation the better we think the proof that what he says is true. Right? Fellows, this Book is the *Word of God*. If Webster's word is good on English, and if some profes-

"In the center of that emblem there is a Book; what do you know about that Book? Of course, it is the Bible; we call it the Word of God; but do you know there are some wonderful facts about that Book?

"What was last year's world's best seller, do you know? It was the same as the year before, and the

Good

sor's word is good on science, God's word certainly ought to be good on everything. Then if this Book is heralded by people all over the world as the Book of books, as the world's best seller, and as the Word of God, then don't you think there ought to be something in it for us?

"How would you like to get a personal letter from the President of the United States? That would be worth showing the fellows, wouldn't it? But listen, what if you had a letter at home in your top bureau drawer that was addressed right to you, and at the bottom was signed by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God? Wouldn't you treasure that? Wouldn't you take it out carefully and read it over and over again? But, fellows, do you know, we do have a message from Him that has in it every word of what He would write in a letter like that to you! It is this Book right here again. (The Book is open now.) The message to you is an invitation—a wonderful one—He said that 'whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

"It's a wonderful Book, Boys! It is like a fabulous gold mine. Each week at our Brigade meeting we are going to dig into this great mine and bring out a few new nuggets of gold. We are going to explore a bit in the Book and find some wonderful things we never knew were there."

THE LEADER'S SELF-ANALYSIS

Prayerfully ask these questions of yourself.

1. Do I pray for my boys individually and by name, bearing up each one as a burden before the Lord, earnestly desiring his salvation and that he enter into the fulness of the Christian life?

2. Am I making a real effort to speak to this boy and to that one, upon every opportunity, concerning his relationship to Christ?

3. Do I fully understand and can I make plain to my boys the way of salvation and its relationship to their daily lives?

4. Do I see in a boy who has just received the Lord Jesus Christ into his heart a babe in Christ who must be tenderly nourished and cared for, rather than just another saved and hence not to be worried about?

5. Am I learning to speak winsomely to boys?

6. Do I regard my appointment with my boys each week as a sacred trust which must be kept, realizing that an irregular leader is no leader at all?

7. Am I ready to adapt myself to emergencies that arise in connection with my work with boys, being an all-time leader of boys, not just the leader of a meeting?

8. Am I prepared to devote time to Bible study and prayer and to dealing with my boys even when it demands a real sacrifice on my part?

9. Do I try to make it possible for boys to feel that they can both respect me as their leader and confide in me as their friend?

10. Realizing that it is a boy's nature to idolize his leader and to emulate him, am I drawing upon the power of God to keep my life standards so high in physical, mental, and moral cleanliness and strength that no boy need stumble by following me?

11. Am I appreciating the fact that a boy craves the confidence and interest of an older man, especially that of his leader, recognizing that it is a great privilege to enter into the inner sanctum of a boy's confidence?

12. Do I draw boys to myself simply as a means of winning them to Christ and am I careful to lead them to attach themselves to Him rather than to me?

13. Am I watching for pitfalls which may confront my boys, that I may help them in the time of temptation to put their trust in the Lord Jesus?

14. Do I really love my boys—and with the sort of love that will readily forgive, but not minimize or overlook their faults and failures?

15. Am I ready to acknowledge my own failures and seek victory over them, remembering when the victory is gained that it is not my victory but my Lord's?

16. Am I ready to fade out of the picture completely, even when credit rightly due me is overlooked or wrongly placed?

"Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24

COMMISSIONING OF OFFICERS

By official dispatch from Brigade headquarters, Brigade officers are commissioned to rank. A man's commission is his authorization to command a Battalion, Area or other Brigade unit, or to assist in such command. It represents a setting-apart for the special work of winning boys to Christ. It is based upon His great commission to all who would follow Him to take the message "to every creature."

FORM OF COMMISSION

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE
"Bright and Keen for Christ"

WHEREAS: the Lord Jesus Christ has called all who have put their trust in Him to bear the message of Salvation to every creature and has commissioned them to go forth as His witnesses, and

WHEREAS: the CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE is an instrument appointed of God to win boys, that fellowship commissions men to be set apart for the work of winning boys;

THEREFORE: be it known that

.....
is hereby commissioned to the rank of in the
CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE

Term of tenure to be ... year from this
day of Nineteen hundred and
on which this commission is granted.

(SEAL) (Signed)
(Brigade Commander)

(Signed)
(Area Commander)

THE ENDURING LABOR

In tables of granite with care you may carve
The message you have today
To stand immemorial through the years
But granite will waste away.

You may work the words in the hardest rock
Or in iron's most alloy
But I'll write the message that's in my heart
Down into the heart of a boy.

Your words carved deep on a massive pillar
Of marble glistening white
Will be lost in the remnants of crumbling dust,
But the message that I will write

Will live through the years, throughout all time
As the lips of men impart
The message they've heard from the boy I knew
When I wrote that word in his heart.

You may build with mighty timbers hewn
Of virgin forest trees;
You may work in iron, plaster, or stone,
Or in all of the strongest of these,

But if when you've toiled and your work is done
You would view that work with joy,
And know that your labor is worth the prize,
Then work in the heart of a boy.

The work is a labor of heart with heart
And a will to understand,
Assuring that boy that you're standing by
Ready to lend a hand,

Ready to see as he will see
The lions that loom in the way,
But ready to say, "They are chained, my lad,
Go forward, but watch and pray."

Ready to lift when he falters or falls,
"Take courage, my lad, press on,
Looking to Christ, the King, stay not
Till the prize at last is won."

III

KNIGHTHOOD
AND THE
BRIGADE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

THE PARABLE OF KNIGHTHOOD



A certain great king was ruler of a vast realm. His rule was wise and good, but there were many things demanding his attention in the affairs of his country which took him far afield. As his nation grew he became aware that some method must be employed which would assure justice and good law throughout the land. From among his country's men of valor he chose the strongest, the bravest, and the most valiant, and bade them come to his court. There in companionship with him they came to know his way of wisdom and justice. Each of them pledged the full allegiance and loyalty of his life to the service of that king.

When each of them had proved himself ready and worthy to bear the standard of the king, he called them all together and entrusting to them the very honor of his court, he made them Knights. Then to the remotest corners of his kingdom he sent them forth. They bore his colors and standard, were clad in armor which he had given them and they went forth in his name—bearing his messages, executing his commands, fighting battles for him. When they won in battle it was his victory; if they were worsted it was his defeat. And so the rule of this wise king was carried throughout the land; each knight spoke and acted as the king would speak and act, for their very lives were his. But there is another King greater than he.

One day, on top of a little hill, there stood one who was called the "King of Kings." About Him were gathered eleven men, whose eyes were fastened steadfastly upon His face as He spoke. "Go," He commanded them, "into all the world, and proclaim the good news to every creature." The eleven "Knights" thus commissioned, watched as their King was taken up from them into Heaven. They stood long enough to receive the promise from His angel that He would in like manner return, but theirs now was to perform the task He had given them. Now, equipped with the armor of the Holy Spirit, they fearlessly applied themselves to the work, and thus the task of heralding to the world the good news of salvation in Christ was begun. It has continued to this day, but is still unfinished. To man and boy today comes the challenge: "Who will go as Knights for Christ, bearing His tidings, going out in His Name and under His standard, ready to 'endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ?'"

THE RANKS OF KNIGHTHOOD

(As based on the fifth edition of the Brigade Handbook.)

The Knight Dexter:

Insignia: Field Azure—the heater shield.

Charge: Or—The Bend Dexter.
(Blue shield with bar of gold.)

Dexter: The first rank of Knighthood is of great importance because it represents a Brigadier's first step of advancement. Until he achieves the rank *Dexter* he is classed as a page, and encouraged to work hard to enter the Knighthood.



The Test for the Knight Dexter

1. *Give, understand, and explain the Knight's pledge. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him alone as my Saviour, I, as a Brigadier, will purpose in my heart to keep myself bright and keen for Christ, that I may glorify Him.*

Purpose:

To give the Battalion Leader a definite opportunity to talk to each boy about receiving Christ as his Saviour, and to be certain that each boy understands thoroughly the way of salvation and what it means to trust in Christ. It is not necessary for a boy to make a profession of Christ in order to pass this part of the test Dexter, for that would make it a mechanical thing, but it is the responsibility of the leader to be sure that each boy who recites and explains the pledge understands the way of salvation and more than that is given a definite opportunity to decide for Christ. This test is the leader's opportunity for personal work. It is of very great importance, however, that no boy be given the impression that receiving Christ is a part of the test to be passed.

Helps:

The leader should wait, to pass boys on this test, for an opportunity to be alone with each boy—or, on rare occasions, with two boys at a time. From the first word "Trusting" the meaning of faith can be made plain. The first clause of the pledge speaks of Salvation, the remainder pertains to the Christian life. It is of utmost importance, when leading a boy to receive the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, to guide him in making Him his Lord as well.

2. *Be regular and sportsmanlike in participation in all parts of the Brigade program.*

Purpose:

The boy who receives the high honor of Knighthood

in the Brigade must be one whom his fellow-Brigadiers can look up to, and can consider worthy of the honor. This test leaves something to the judgment of the Battalion leader, and even though a boy may be able to do all his recitation and reading perfectly, if his behavior shows him not to be a true "all-around Brigadier," he should not be awarded the ranks of Knighthood.

Helps: Necessary absences for example, due to sickness, do not militate against his "regular" record.

3. *Know, understand, and live the Knight's Seven Points of Valor.*

The passing of the test requires knowing the Seven Points, understanding each, and realizing the relationship each bears to the Christian life and testimony and to Knighthood for Christ. The Scripture reference for each point should be looked up and read, but need not be memorized.

(1) *Honor:* (Zechariah 8:16) "Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor . . ." The seventeenth verse is also appropriate. If we as Brigade leaders can teach our boys the real value of an unrepachable honor, we will have accomplished an invaluable service to them and to the world.

(2) *Courage:* (Joshua 1:9) "Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid . . . for the Lord thy God is with thee . . ." Every boy realizes that courage is necessary for a Knight. Many are the vivid boy-stories of courageous boys and men.

(3) *Chivalry:* (Matthew 25:35,40) "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . ye have done it unto Me." This, the most characteristic of the Knightly virtues, includes courtesy, manliness, and compassion for those who are weaker and in distress. Per-

haps the most important thing that chivalry must teach boys today is the manly and Knightly high honor for womanhood. A remarkable and very appropriate part of the prayer of the Highlander Boys' Club of Mr. G. W. Ollinger, in Denver, Colorado, nearly a generation ago was this:

"Teach me to respect all women as I do my mother; make my life one of service; and when I am tempted, may I sit humbly at the foot of the Cross and look up to Thee for strength. Amen."

(4) *Purity:* (Psalms 24:3,4) "He that hath clean hands and a pure heart. . . . He shall receive the blessing of the Lord . . ." Tennyson wrote of Sir Galahad, "My strength is as the strength of ten because my heart is pure." If absolute purity of body, mind, and heart is seen by boys to be the manly thing and a thing worthy whatever it costs, it will mean much to them in life to come.

(5) *Loyalty:* (I Corinthians 15:58) "Be ye steadfast." This point comprehends loyalty to chums, to the Brigade, and to our country, but most of all to our King "as good soldiers of Jesus Christ."

(6) *Obedience:* (Exodus 19:5) "If ye will obey my voice . . . ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me . . ." Obedience to God, above all, and to parents and Brigade officers as well, is absolutely essential to Knighthood, and to every good Brigadier. Boys today are characterized by their lack of discipline. The Brigade leader who is wise and sympathetic can require of his boys a high standard of obedience which will truly count in their lives.

(7) *Consecration:* (Romans 12:1) "We present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God . . ." As every Knight must give his full allegiance to his king, in whose name he goes forth to battle, so must

the Brigadier-Knight for Christ fully give himself to his King in full consecration and devotion.

Purpose: To hold high the standard of life which is so characteristic of Christian Knighthood. The seven points of valor are the test of Christian Knighthood. The Knighthood requirements are intended not so much to measure what a boy has done as what he is. Manifestly a Knight for Christ must be a Christian. His decision for Christ is never to be regarded as any part of the test requirements. Those requirements, however, are clearly seen to be designed for the growth and training for service of Christian boys. No unsaved boy could live the Knight's seventh point of valor.

Helps: The points of valor with their Scripture references make excellent suggestive material for Brigade talks; tell stories of heroes of valor who have demonstrated these different points.

4. Achieve one Brigade Craftsman Certificate.

Purpose: To encourage the boys to begin work in the extensive field of Brigade crafts. The crafts themselves will be discussed later. (See page 36.)

Helps: Battalion leaders should discuss the craft list with their boys, choose two or three crafts to work on, then send to Brigade headquarters for the standards for those crafts, procuring books on the subject from the Brigade Library or elsewhere. Special demonstrations in the crafts in question will add considerably to the Battalion program.

5. Enlist one new man as a member of the Brigade.

Purpose:

The test for real interest is ability to sell. The boy who brings his chums into the Brigade is the more likely to be a loyal Brigadier himself.

Helps: Under special circumstances (as for instance where

Brigadiers in country communities have enlisted all the boys in the neighborhood and are able to find no more) this requirement may be passed by writing a letter to Brigade headquarters explaining the situation and including in the letter a well written paragraph on "What the Brigade means to me."

6. Read the Gospel according to St. John, and tell the purpose for which it was written.

To stimulate formation of the Bible-reading habit. A chapter a day for three weeks will finish the book. Then the boys should be encouraged to start reading the New Testament for the Chevron test.

Helps: Gospels of John may be given to new Brigadiers to encourage passing this test and number 7. Testaments may be given to Knights Dexter. John 20:31 will help the boys tell why John's Gospel was written.

7. Memorize and recite the following verses:

John 1: 10-12

John 14: 1-6

John 3: 14-17

John 20: 31

Purpose:

To encourage boys to hide God's word in their hearts, and to acquaint them with the contexts of the already familiar texts.

Helps: The whole of each passage must be recited at one time, though the four passages may be recited at four different times.

Each Battalion leader initials each test which is passed in the boy's handbook and records it on his own chart (official form B-1.) Duplicate charts may be kept, one to be posted in the Battalion meeting room, one to be kept by the leader. When a boy attains one of the ranks of Knighthood, a star may be placed on the first of these charts, blue for the Knight Dexter, red for the Knight of the Chevron, and gold for the Knight of the Cross.

THE BADGE FOR THE KNIGHT DEXTER is awarded when the candidate is ceremonially knighted. It is worn over the heart on the left pocket. He does not remove this badge when he attains a higher rank.

THE KNIGHT OF THE CHEVRON

(Originally called Barony)



Insignia: Field: Gules—the Heater Shield

Charge: Argent—The Chevron
(Crimson shield with silver chevron)

The Test for the Chevron

A Knight Dexter shall receive the rank of the Chevron when:

1. *He shall continue regular in attendance at the meetings of the Brigade.*

The advancing Brigade member is the regular one.

2. *He shall have demonstrated in conduct, attitude, and chivalry that he is worthy of the Knighthood, and can be entrusted with the rank of the Chevron.*

Again the judgment of the leader is involved; the boy who advances in Knighthood must have the right sort of testimony of life among the other boys.

3. *He shall drill a detail in the fifteen points of the drill manual.*

The details of the drill are discussed in another section. (See page 40.) The function of the military element in the Brigade program is important. If Brigade boys become accustomed to standing and walking with backs straight and heads erect, and if they understand the courtesy expressed by a military salute, for the sake of these two things alone this emphasis would be shown to be eminently worthwhile.

4. *He shall design and execute some project in handicraft.*

Handicraft activities provide an important part of many Battalion meetings. An effort is made to tie in the handicraft projects with the rest of the Brigade program. Brigade shields and Scripture mottoes are frequently made. The Brigade Adjutant's headquarters maintains a file of useful projects which provide source material for leaders who wish help in planning the Battalion activities.

5. *He shall enlist two new men as members of the Brigade.*

The live Battalion is the growing one; its extension department consists of its members.

6. *He shall read the New Testament.*

In this Bible-reading, Brigadiers grow in grace and acquire the habit of reading the Word as well.

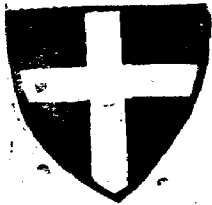
7. *He shall memorize the following verses:*

<i>Matthew 1:21</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:8-9</i>
<i>Acts 4:12</i>	<i>Philippians 4:19</i>
<i>Acts 16:31</i>	<i>II Timothy 2:15</i>
<i>Romans 10:9-10</i>	<i>Titus 3:5</i>
<i>II Corinthians 5:17</i>	<i>I Peter 2:24</i>
<i>Galatians 2:20</i>	<i>I John 5:13</i>
	<i>Revelation 3:20</i>

The selected verses are from many of the books of the New Testament. They are part of the Knight's equipment, for they tell the Gospel story in the language of Scripture.

THE KNIGHT OF THE CROSS

(Originally called the "Earldom")



Insignia: Field: Purple—The Heater Shield

Charge: Blanc—The Cross
(purple shield with cross pure white)

The Test of the Cross

The Knight of the Chevron shall receive the rank of the Cross when:

1. *He shall have assumed a position of respect among members of the Brigade.*
2. *He shall prove capable of important trust.*
3. *He shall enlist three more new men as regular members of the Brigade.*

The Knight of the Cross is the highest earned rank in the Brigade. It represents high achievement, but more than that, a high standard of life as measured by Brigade activities.

4. *He shall drill the entire Brigade in all of the fifteen points of the drill manual in an efficient fashion, and render the Brigade courtesies.*

In the test for the Cross, leadership ability among the boys is measured.

5. *He shall carry out or assist in some worthy Brigade project of a constructive nature.*

Many useful project suggestions may be obtained by correspondence with the Brigade Adjutant's headquarters.

6. *He shall read the books of Psalms and Isaiah.*

7. *He shall memorize and recite the following portions from those books.*

Psalms 19

Isaiah 1:18

Psalms 46

Isaiah 44:22-23

Psalms 121

Isaiah 53

8. *He shall meet the requirements of the induction ceremony of the Knight of the Cross.*

A simple but deeply significant ceremony marks the awarding of the rank of the Cross, based on the ritual surrounding the orders of knighthood in ancient times. A description of the three Knighthood ceremonies here follows.

THE CEREMONIES OF THE KNIGHTHOOD

The Dexter Ceremony—

Central to the place of ceremony is the Brigade emblem—lighted torch, sword, and open Bible. The torch usually provides the only light. The ranking officer—probably the Area, Division, or Brigade Commander—performs the ceremony. A Herald or aide reads the requirements for the rank Dexter and the candidates' names are called in the order in which they have become qualified for the rank. As each is called he approaches the commander from the left and kneels before him on both knees, his head erect. That officer draws his sword and touches it to the candidate's shoulder, proclaims him a Knight Dexter and gives him his order, as: "Robert Brown, thou art a Knight Dexter after the order of David who said 'Through God we shall do valiantly.'" The Commander then kneels, facing the boy, and placing his hands on the boy's shoulders commits him to the Lord in prayer. Both then stand, the Knight moves off to the right and the next candidate steps up.

There are five orders of Knighthood, which do not differ in rank. The Commander gives each boy the order he deems most fitting. They are as follows:

1. The order of Caleb, of whom the Word testifies he "wholly followed the Lord."
2. The order of Joshua, to whom God said "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
3. The order of David, who said "Through God, we shall do valiantly."
4. The order of Daniel, who "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself."
5. The order of Paul, who said, "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

When all the candidate have thus been knighted, the Commander turns, speaks a word about the meaning of the rank which they have just achieved, and delivers to each his badge.

The Chevron Ceremony—

Opportunity is given to the candidate for the Chevron to testify as to his desire to be a true Knight for Christ. He enters as did the Dexter candidate, but before he kneels the Commander calls him by name and asks, "As thou goest on in the ranks of Knighthood, what is thy desire?" He answers, "I want my life to count for Christ—" and then goes on in his own words to tell how and why. Then he kneels. The touch of the sword is the same as for the Dexter ceremony, but as the Commander kneels, the candidate prays, giving his life and his all to Christ in reconsecration. When the ceremonies for the different ranks are held on the same evening, the Dexter

ceremony is first, the Chevron second, and the Cross last.

The ceremony for the Knight of the Cross

Whenever possible, this ceremony should be held in a chapel. At the hour of sunset, the candidate enters. He goes into a room alone with two or three officers or old Knights of the Cross. They instruct him in the meaning of the oath of the Knight of the Cross. He is clothed in the white robe and scarlet mantle of the Knight of the Cross. If there are Dexter and Chevron ceremonies the same evening, he awaits their completion. He enters the chapel again and stands before the Brigade emblem.

The candidate's own captain questions him first regarding his test requirements, qualifications, and preparation. When he is satisfied, he turns, and saluting the Commander, recommends the candidate for advancement. The Commander examines him further if he wishes, and then instructs him to return to the chapel by an hour before dawn. He is pledged to silence until he shall repeat the oath of the Knight of the Cross at sunrise. They stand facing each other; the Commander places his hands upon the boy's shoulders and commits him to the Lord in prayer. Without speaking, the Knight then turns and walks from the chapel.

An hour before daybreak finds the Knight kneeling alone in the chapel, clad in the ceremonial robe, beginning his vigil, a time of prayer, devotion, and consecration. At the break of dawn the Commander enters, bearing the sword and a Bible. He speaks: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Arise, thou that dost watch for the morning." The Knight rises but does not speak. The Commander continues: "Take in thy hand the Sword of Light and take the Word of Truth." He puts the sword into his right hand, the Bible

into his left, and asks, "What is the oath of thy Knight-hood?"

The Knight speaks,

"The sword in my hand—for my Saviour,
The heart in my breast—for my Saviour,
The swiftness of my sight, the thought of my
brain, the life of my life—for my Saviour,
Here grows a man—for my Saviour,
I am His."*

The Bible he may keep, the sword he returns to the Commander, who follows the form, touching him on the shoulder, and proclaims: "Thou are a Knight of the Cross of Christ, follow thou Him." They kneel together in silent prayer for a moment, then rise and depart.

BRIGADE CRAFTSMAN CERTIFICATES

Life to a boy is a maze of exciting things to do and to learn about. The lore of a thousand activities beckons to him and bids for his interest. Hobbies, sciences, sports, and trades parade before him. Every boy finds his interest going out strongly in one direction or another, be it books or baseball, stamps or stars. To encourage all that is good in the things thus making their bid for the interest and energies of the Brigadier, and to show the relationship those activities bear to the Christian life, Brigade offers the Craftsman Certificate program. The following paragraphs explain the program in the Brigadier's handbook:

THE CRAFTSMAN

"And whatsoever we do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God."

(Colossians 3:17)

The Brigadier is *Bright and Keen for Christ* in every part of his daily life. Every boy has different interests.

*Adapted from "The Lost Prince" by Frances Hodges Burnett.

The Brigade Craftsman Certificates offer to each boy an opportunity to advance in his particular field. Certificates are given in any of a large number of crafts in recognition of:

- (1) Skill and familiarity in the craft as measured by the standard for that craft, and
- (2) Christian purpose in that field as evidenced in his life and also expressed in a written paper explaining how activity in that particular craft aids him in keeping himself *Bright and Keen for Christ* and in living so as to glorify Him.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

How to Qualify for Brigade Craftsman Certificates

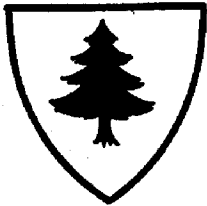
1. Write to Brigade Headquarters and mention the craft you hope to achieve. You will receive specifications and application blank for your craft, and the name of a qualified guide who will help you as you progress.
2. Contact your guide, and proceed.
3. When you have met the specifications, fill out your application, get it approved by your guide, and send it with your written paper to headquarters. Your certificate will be mailed to you if all specifications are satisfactorily met.

The Craft Standards

Specific requirements for certification for each craft are drawn up and distributed through the Brigade adjutant's headquarters. The standard of skill and excellency set by each craft specification is very high; a certificate means that the holder has truly become proficient in the particular field under consideration.

The Craft Guide

Christian men of each area where Brigade is developed are chosen for their knowledge of the individual subject matter and techniques involved in each of the Brigade crafts. A boy planning to work for a certain certificate contacts the guide for that craft in his Area and works out the requirements under his direction. Brigade captains should contact Area Headquarters for the names of local guides.



THE BRIGADE PIONEER

Insignia: Field: Tan—The Heater Shield

Charge: Vert—The Evergreen
(Pioneer—"One who goes before to prepare the way for another.")

With a background of field and forest, and with the tint of Indian lore, campcraft, and the woodsman's love for the out-of-doors, *Brigade Pioneering* presents a specialized program, for boys who want it and are ready for it, that correlates clearly the study of the woods and of nature with the study of the deep things of God and of His word—Pioneering in the Christian life. The Pioneer achievement program is open only to Brigadiers fourteen years or older who have achieved at least the rank of the Knight of the Chevron.

THE BRIGADE HERALD



Insignia: Field: Sable—The Heater Shield

Charge: Or:—The Trumpet
(Black shield with Golden trumpet.)

The Heraldship in the Brigade is not a rank to be earned. Appointments to the office are made from Brigade Headquarters at the suggestion of the Battalion and Division Commanders. It represents the recognition of leadership among the members of the Brigade and it entails definite responsibilities.

Bases for Appointment of Heralds

1. He must have advanced in the Brigade at least to the rank of Knighthood.
2. He must be capable of taking a definite position of leadership in the Brigade.
3. He should in most cases be at least fifteen years of age.
4. Basically and primarily he must have an unflinching Christian testimony both in word and in life.

The Herald is on his way to a higher position of leadership in the Brigade and his appointment is extremely significant as representing an intermediate step between Brigadier and Brigade leader, for it indicates the leadership training emphasis, already intimated in the progressive ranks of Knighthood, which is so essentially characteristic of Brigade. A young boys' leader, while talking with a more experienced worker, once mentioned that leadership training was perhaps one of the most important aspects of boys' work. The older man's reply was, "boys' work *is* leadership training!" The key position in the Brigade, as in boys' work everywhere, is that of the Captain or the man who actually meets each week with the

boys. What Brigade Captains are, the Brigade is. Moreover, the Brigade Captains of tomorrow are the Brigadiers of today. The greatest source of leadership in any good boys' work is destined to be its membership.

The Battalion leader needs to be mindful of this as he carries on his work, in order that he may observe and seek to develop latent leadership ability in members of his group. The ranks of Knighthood will help to reveal it; the Brigade Heraldship may provide a means of recognizing and encouraging it.

The Herald Battalion

A group of older boys vitally interested in direct training for Brigade leadership, having three or more heralds in their number, may become a *Herald Battalion* and be chartered as such.

THE DRILL MANUAL

Only the simplest marching maneuvers are included in the Brigade Drill Manual, because it is of great importance that military movements and positions be correctly performed.

Proper performance requires repeated practice, and it is not in order for practice to take too much time in the Battalion meetings, therefore the drill manual includes only fifteen simple points. Every Battalion should learn them perfectly; five to ten minutes drill at each meeting should prove fully adequate. The fifteen points should be taught a few at a time, and should be thoroughly reviewed.

Giving the Commands

Every military command should be given loudly, clearly, and sharply. The *preparatory command* is given first as "Forward" with a rising inflection. There is a pause for an instant, and then the *command of execution*

is given sharply: "March." Both preparatory command and command of execution are always given and no order is executed until the latter command is given.

Cadence

Counting cadence: "one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four," etc., provides great assistance to the boys' learning to keep step and time.

The Fifteen Points

1. Brigade, Attention—Every boy snaps into position when the command is given. Body and head are erect, back and shoulders straight, chin in, eyes straight ahead. Heels are together, toes at an angle of about forty-five degrees, hands at the side, fingers extended and together, thumbs along the seam of the trousers. This is a rigid, but comfortable position, the weight rests equally upon the heels and balls of the feet. The preparatory command is the unit drilled, as "Battalion," "Squad," etc.

2. Forward, *March*—No boy moves until the command *march* is given. Then each steps forward on the left foot, continuing forward at an even cadence with uniform steps of about twenty-four inches. The step will of course vary with the age of the group, but must be uniform within the group. This command is only given when the detail is standing at attention, or executing "Mark time, march."

3. To the rear, *March*—This order is given only when the detail is marching. The command of execution is given as the right foot touches the ground. The left foot is advanced and each boy makes a half turn to the right, pivoting on the balls of both feet, steps off on his left foot and continues the march in the opposite direction. The cadence is: "To the rear, march, step, turn, step." The words "*Step, turn, step*" are only used when teaching the maneuver.

4. By the right flank, *March*—This order, also, is given only when the detail is on the march. It is performed just the same as "to the rear, *March*," except that each boy performs a quarter turn to the right and continues the march in the new direction.

5. By the left flank, *March*—This order is given only when the detail is on the march and is identical with number 4 except that the turn is to the left.

6. Column right, *March*—This order is given only when the detail is on the march in a column of files. The boy at the head of the column executes "by the right flank" when the command "*march*" is given, and each of the other boys continues the forward march until he comes to the place where the first man turned, then he follows his example and continues the march following him in the new direction.

7. Column left, *March*—This is identical with number 6 except that the turn is to the left.

8. Mark time, *March*—This order is given only when the detail is standing at attention. On the command *March*, each boy raises his left foot about two inches from the ground, without moving his head, arms, or shoulders, and proceeds to march in place keeping step and cadence.

9. Brigade, *Halt*—"Battalion, halt," "Squad, halt," or "Detail, halt," are used when the appropriate units are being drilled. The command, *halt*, is given as the left foot touches the ground, the right foot is advanced on the count of *one* and the left foot clicks beside it on *two*. The detail stands at attention. The count "one, two," following the command of execution is used only in teaching the maneuver.

10. Right, *Face*—This order, given only when the detail is standing at attention, accomplishes individual

quarter turn to the right. On the command, *face*, each boy pivots on the heel of his right foot and the toe of his left and executes the quarter turn to the right. His head, shoulders, and arms remain in a rigid position.

11. Left, *Face*—This is identical with number 10 except that the pivot is on the heel of the left foot and the toe of the right, and the quarter turn is to the left.

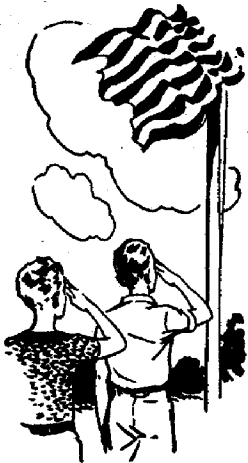
12. About, *Face*—This order is given only when the boys are standing at attention and accomplishes a half turn to the right. When teaching this maneuver the count "one, two" follows the command of execution. On "one" the toe of the right foot is moved back to a position about four inches behind the left heel. On two the half turn to the right is executed by pivoting on the heel of the left foot and the toe of the right. Head, shoulders, and arms remain in a rigid position.

13. Parade, *Rest*—The position of attention should never be sustained for more than a few moments, so for the making of announcements, or for use during ceremonies where a rigid position is desired the Parade *Rest* is used. This order is given only when the detail is standing at attention. At the command, *rest*, each boy moves his left foot about twelve inches to the left, keeping his right foot in place. The fingers of his left hand grasp his right wrist behind his back. The weight is equally distributed on both feet.

14. Right, *Dress*—*Front*—this order is given when a detail is first called to attention or whenever a straightening of the line is necessary. At the command *dress* each boy's head and eyes snap to the right and his left hand rests upon his left hip, elbow protruding straight to the side. The turning of the head enables each one to line himself up with the rest of the boys; the elbow protruding acts as a gauge for the distance between boys. The

tallest boy who is at the head or right end of the line does not raise his arm. At the command *front*, head and eyes snap to the front, and arms drop to the sides.

15. Hand, *Salute-Two*—Perhaps the most important, and most difficult of the fifteen points is the salute. At the command *Salute* the index finger of the right hand touches the right eyebrow, the thumb and four fingers together and extended, the palm down. The forearm is straight as a line from the elbow to the end of the fingers, and is at an angle of forty-five degrees to the ground. The elbow is forward and extends only a little to the right. This position is held until the command, *two*, is given, then arm drops to the side.



BRIGADE COURTESIES

Battalion stands at attention, officer in charge facing the line. At his command they execute "Hand Salute." He executes "About face" and then salutes. When salute is returned he turns and commands, "Two."

The Purpose of the Brigade Courtesies is to show respect and welcome to special visitors to the Battalion. It should be practiced at regular meetings as a part of the Battalion routine.

IV

BRIGADE ORGANIZATION

THE BRIGADE BATTALION

The burden of responsibility for reaching the boys in any community falls upon the Christians, particularly the Christian men, of that community. Commonly, therefore,

it is the church that sponsors the Brigade Battalion. Frequently, however, a community or inter-church sponsorship proves best.

The Battalion is the local Brigade group, meeting weekly under the leadership of a captain and one or more lieutenants. Its place of meeting may be a church, a school building, a recreational or community center, or even a private home. Some truly successful Battalions have often met in cellars or garages for lack of better quarters. The Battalion is divided into squads, organized as units under the leadership of Corporals. It is also administered in part by Service men, as Scribe, Quartermaster, Librarian, and perhaps Bugler.

A brief discussion of the component parts of the Battalion organization will clarify its place and method of operation.

THE BATTALION COMMITTEE

Three or more men appointed by the church or sponsoring organization, or in some cases by Area Headquarters, serve as the Battalion committee who oversee the activities, program, and business connections of the Battalion. Their duties which are vital to the Battalion, may be outlined as follows:

1. *The Selection of a Captain and Lieutenants*

The key man in the whole Brigade program is the individual Battalion leader who makes the direct contact with the boys. He is selected by the local committee and must also meet the approval of the Area Headquarters and be commissioned to the rank of Captain by the Brigade Commander. His assistants are appointed in the same way and must be commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant.

If for any reason a Battalion is without a Captain, it is the responsibility of the Battalion Committee to fill

the vacancy with one of their number or to appoint a qualified Lieutenant to act until the Captain may be chosen.

2. *Providing a Meeting Place*

All proper arrangements for the Battalion's place of meeting are in the hands of the committee.

3. *Budget Planning and the Handling of Battalion Funds*

Together with the Captain, the committee plans the Battalion Budget. The treasurer of the committee handles all gifts and other money of the Battalion including the boys' dues and registration fees which are collected and given him by the scribe or by one of the Lieutenants.

4. *Promotion of Battalion Activities*

The committee is the contact point between the Battalion and the community and between the Battalion and the area headquarters. Through its members, the community becomes aware that the Brigade Battalion is organized for service and ready for action in whatever way may prove useful.

5. *Overseeing the Spiritual Life of the Battalion*

The committee's responsibility as representing the church or community is to reach the boys of the community for Christ. They advise the captain and discuss the plans with him to better the spiritual life of the Brigadiers individually and as a group.

BATTALION OFFICERS

Captain

The Captain, or Battalion Commander, is directly in charge of the local unit. His is the responsibility of seeing that the program is adequately and evenly planned to cover all phases of Brigade activity. He need not know and be able to teach all the parts of the Brigade program himself, but he must be able to learn and help others to learn.

To fill this position a man should be twenty-one years of age (exceptions may be made if approved by Area Headquarters) and a Christian of good standing for at least three years. He must have demonstrated his ability to win souls for Christ and show his zeal to do so among boys. He must be commissioned to the rank of Captain by the Brigade Commander. His commission authorizes him to approve Brigade advancement tests.

Lieutenant

Second in rank to the Captain is the Lieutenant, also commissioned from Brigade Headquarters. He is given definite responsibilities in the Battalion by the Captain. He should be thoroughly familiar with the Brigade requirements for the Knighthood and Pioneer ranks, and he is also authorized to approve tests passed, initialing the requirements in the individual Brigadier's handbook and recording the advancement on the Battalion chart (Form B-1.) The Lieutenant attends Battalion committee meetings with the Captain, where he will learn much about the administration of the Battalion. At that meeting his suggestions and ideas should be welcomed.

The Lieutenant should be at least seventeen years old and have a clear-cut Christian testimony in both word and life. He is in training for Captaincy.

BATTALION SERVICE MEN

Brigadiers showing ability to take responsibility in the group are appointed or elected as Battalion Service Men. They are as follows:

1. SCRIBE, the Battalion bookkeeper and reporter. His duties are:

- (1) To keep name, address, telephone number and advancement record of each Brigadier.
- (2) To collect and record dues.

(3) To keep the Battalion Log Book of weekly activities, and prepare monthly report for the committee.

(4) To carry on any Battalion correspondence which may be necessary.

(5) To report Battalion activities to the *Brigade Banner* and to local newspapers.

2. QUARTERMASTER, in charge of equipment and supplies, has the following duties:

(1) To keep all Battalion equipment in good repair.

(2) To check out equipment to squads or individual Brigadiers and see that it is returned in proper condition.

(3) To keep a collection of catalogs and clippings on "how-to-make-it" projects for the Battalion's use.

(4) To be responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of the meeting place. He should not be required to perform this task by himself, but he should be first to arrive and last to leave the meeting place, and should check the order of the room, windows, and lights, seeing that the door is locked when that is the order.

3. A BATTALION BUGLER can add much to the style of any Battalion meeting by punctuating it with appropriate calls.

4. LIBRARIAN maintains a Battalion book-shelf. His duties are:

(1) To discover the particular interests of the group, and procure books on those and related subjects from the Brigade Library and from such other sources as may be available.

(2) To check books out to Brigadiers, keep accurate record of each book's whereabouts, and see that it is returned in proper condition.

THE BRIGADE LIBRARY

A word about the National Brigade Library should here be inserted. Its headquarters are:

170 North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

This headquarters is ready to supply Battalion Librarians and Brigade Leaders with books and helpful material. An annual fee of one dollar provides a Battalion membership in the Library and entitles it to the privilege of checking out books from the Library to be kept for the Battalion's use for a period not exceeding two months at a time. Books are also available on many of the Brigade craft subjects. If a Battalion needs such books longer than two months, they may be renewed by letter. A fine of ten cents per book per week will be charged.

THE SQUAD WITHIN THE BATTALION

Humanity the world over has a tendency to organize. The most savage, uncivilized tribe will have some form of government. The common term among boys is not organization, but "gang," and every gang has its leaders, unwritten by-laws and constitution. Loose though it may be, there is a form of organization.

Most gangs have a den, shack, tree-house or some meeting place. They gather to play, hunt, explore, fight and get into mischief.

It is our purpose and privilege to take the gang and turn it into an organized Brigade Squad under adult Christian leadership.

The Squad

The Squad is the organized Brigade unit and the success of the whole Brigade depends upon the individual Squad, upon its attitudes and activities, and upon the leadership of its leader, the Corporal.

The Importance of the Squad

Since the Squad is the organized unit of the Brigade, and since the success of the local Battalion and Brigade movement is dependent upon it, it is important that leaders should understand and appreciate its usefulness.

1. *Gives Unity*—Just as the neighborhood gang was founded for unity and strength of kindred minds, so the Squad knits the hearts of its members together into a united spirit of co-operation. Boys come to love, honor, and work for their Squad, its ambitions and ideals. The co-operative working together in Christ-inspired activity will do much for the church of tomorrow.

2. *Develops Leaders*—The Captain, who oversees the Squad organization and the training of its Corporal, is developing Christian leadership. Few boys chosen as leaders by their companions will fail to feel the responsibility, and to benefit by the experience. The Squad is the workshop which turns out our Christian leaders of the next generation.

3. *Relieves Responsibility*—It has been wisely said that it is better to put ten men to work than it is to do ten men's work. The Corporal who manages his Squad well, keeps tab on the absent, and sick, and on advancements, relieves the Captain of much responsibility and gives him more time for studying and planning Battalion activity. The Battalion that is over-dependent upon its Captain for every minor detail will not be successful. The Captain who has trained Corporals need not worry about the success of his Battalion even in his absence.

Dangers of the Squad

The chief danger of the Squad is its independence. There should never be such a spirit in the Squad as will hinder co-operation with other Squads. The Battalion's interests, not the Squad's, are the end in view. The

Squad seeks to better itself in order to make the Battalion better, not to be little or antagonize the other squads. The wise Captain eliminates this spirit in his leaders' meetings, but encourages wholesome competition.

Starting a Squad

The method of starting a Squad is dependent upon the circumstances surrounding it. There is no cut-and-dried method. A system may work with one Battalion, but utterly fail in another. The methods mentioned are merely suggestions:

1. One good plan: Let every boy write his name on a piece of paper along with the names of a few others he would like to be with. As a rule the choosing will be mutual. With little difficulty the Captain can then divide the boys into two, three, or four Squads depending upon the number in the Battalion. Squads should not exceed seven in number, or have less than four members. It is better to form three Squads of four members than to form two Squads of six. This stimulates growth and will check the tendency to be continually organizing new Squads.

2. Another method is to let the boys divide themselves into groups for games with no mention of Squads. They will naturally go with their friends and neighborhood chums. Over the course of several meetings the Captain can observe those who naturally choose each other's company. He then divides them into Squads according to that knowledge.

3. In an old Battalion—Where Squads have been functioning for some time but without much avail and where reorganization seems necessary, it is well to dissolve all Squads and divide again. Some dissolve and reorganize every year at the beginning for the fall program. This enables the Captain to form new Squads without

disruption and to shift the individuals into the Squads where they will receive the most benefit.

4. Beginning an Additional Squad—There will be times when the formation of new Squads is necessary. When all Squads have their limit and new members continue to come in, a new Squad is needed. This should be discussed and worked out with the Corporals in the leaders' meeting. One or two members selected from each Squad form the nucleus of the new group.

The Corporal

Choosing the Corporal should as a rule be the privilege of the Squad he is to lead. He should be chosen because of his character and leadership ability rather than his popularity. The Captain may sit in on the Squad meeting and direct the minds of the boys toward the qualifications of their leader. By choosing their own leader, boys express their willingness to work with him.

Qualifications—The Corporal should be a boy of outstanding Christian character. He should have a genuine desire to see others saved and to do his part in spreading the Gospel.

He should have an appreciation of proper conduct and practice it as an example to his Squad.

He need not necessarily be older than his Squad members if his ability commands their respect. He should, however, keep ahead of them in advancement and be able to help them along the way.

He should, at all times, be the true leader of his Squad though without taking a domineering attitude. Real character is marked by a degree of gentlemanly modesty.

Duties of the Corporal—The work of the Corporal as leader of the Squad should be clearly understood by the boy before he assumes his position. It is the Captain's

responsibility to coach him in his duties and help whenever possible.

He leads his Squad in all their weekly meetings.

He plans with his Squad ways and means to carry on Squad projects.

He leads Squad hikes.

He meets with the Battalion leaders to plan Battalion activities and carry back to his Squad suggestions for the way they can help.

Training the Corporal—If possible, there should be a monthly meeting for Corporals with the Captain or with a Lieutenant. Phases of the Brigade work should be taken up and discussed thoroughly. Methods of passing tests should be emphasized and the active Corporals will promptly put them into practice in his Squad. It is well to have Corporals take notes at this meeting, perhaps to compile a little hand-book of their own on leading the Squad.

Besides this monthly training period a short-term camp is valuable. Two or three days with Corporals in the open not only gives the Captain additional opportunity to know his-men, but provides wonderful experience in out-door methods for the Squad.

Squad Meetings

The Squad should hold weekly meetings apart from the regular Battalion meeting. Brigade presents not a weekly, but a seven-day-a-week program. A Brigadier who is not *Bright and Keen for Christ* all week is not a true representative of Brigade standards. At the weekly meeting the entire Squad plans with its leader the best way to be of definite service to Christ. They plan ways and means of building up the Battalion and the individual Squad. The Corporal leads the discussions and presents plans as he has received them from the leaders' meetings. The group goes over tests and projects, deals with craft

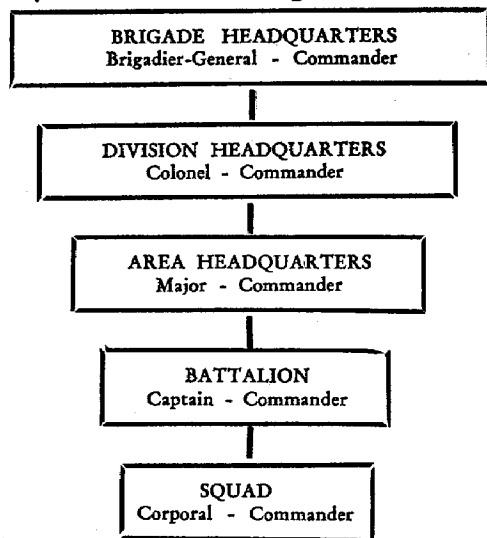
requirements and plans hikes. They are being *Bright and Keen for Christ* during the week.

The Meeting Place—When possible, the members of each squad have their cabin, cellar, or den in which they hold their meetings and carry on their special projects. A den owned and decorated by Brigadiers according to their Squad tastes makes the work play and the meeting a joy.

With the Battalion—At the regular Battalion meeting a portion of the time is given over to Squad activities. At such time the Squad puts the finishing touches on what it has done during the week. Attendance is checked, dues collected, absentees accounted for. Final instructions and last minute check-ups are made on stunts and other activities to take place during the meeting.

THE BATTALION IN THE BRIGADE

The local Battalion's relationship to the Christian Service Brigade as a National Organization is perhaps best seen by reference to this organization chart:



Area Headquarters, as its name implies, is responsible for Brigade work in a region small enough to facilitate a close contact between the Major and all of his Captains and their Battalions. It is generally a Metropolitan region as "Detroit Area" or "Chicago Area," or includes a group of communities in one general locality having a central tie, as "Wheaton (College) Area" in Illinois. The *Division* represents a large geographical region as the "Illinois Division" or the "New England Division." The *BRIGADE* is one everywhere. Though even the local Battalion meetings are frequently called "Brigade meetings," and that correctly because each is a part of the *BRIGADE*, there are not many but one *CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE*. Although an Area Commander is a Major, and a Division Commander a Colonel, they are not the only men who hold these ranks. Staff officers in the Brigade Headquarters, for example, may be commissioned to those ranks in recognition of the responsibility which is theirs.

The Vanguard Battalion

The Battalion Charters are normally granted through Area headquarters to local Brigade groups in the Area concerned, but frequently there comes a need for Brigade work in some new place—where an organized area does not exist. In such a case where satisfactory sponsorship and leadership is available, the Battalion can be chartered directly from Brigade headquarters as a *Vanguard Battalion*, its purpose being to reach boys for Christ in the new region, and to open the way for a possible new *Area* of Brigade activity.

PLANNING THE BATTALION BUDGET

To operate a Battalion successfully there is a need for funds. To disburse these funds properly and to the best advantage there is the necessity of a Battalion Budget.

The Budget is planned on the basis of the individual Brigadier and his yearly dues. By yearly dues, we mean the amount collected during the weeks in the year in which the Battalion operates. Unless there are circumstances which prohibit, the Battalion should function at least forty weeks out of the year. This allows ample time for summer camp. The budget then would be planned on a forty week basis. The amount to be paid for weekly dues should be determined by the boys themselves. In all cases the boy is encouraged to earn his dues rather than to ask his parents for them. The dues not only help with Battalion expenses, but give the boy a real part in helping the Battalion. Any boy will think more of an organization if he helps to support it.

After the budget has been planned by the Captain and his Lieutenants they present it to the Battalion Committee for approval.

An average budget should allow for registration, cost of awards, Battalion supplies, and Christian work. An example of a budget based on five cents a week would be as follows:

52 weeks—\$2.60	Standard registration fee	\$.65
	(Goes to Brigade Headquarters)	
	Battalion supplies, etc.	1.50
	Missions (a tithe)	.30
	Library15
		<hr/>
		\$2.60

Making the Budget Known

When the Battalion Committee has given its approval of the budget the plan is presented to the Battalion itself. Give every boy opportunity to understand what each item includes. When the Brigadier knows where each dollar goes and when he knows that he is helping, he is uncon-

sciously being taught thrift and financial care. Take time to discuss the importance of paying dues on time. It is unfair to the other Brigadiers not to do so.

At the first opportunity let the parents know of the budget and how it will help, not only the Battalion, but their son. A letter to each father might be written, explaining the itemized budget.

Working the Budget

Each month the dues are turned over to the Treasurer of the Battalion Committee who disburses the funds according to the will of the committee.

Starting a Battalion will necessarily involve some expense. This may be met by the donation of an establishing fund by the sponsoring organization.

PLANNING THE BATTALION PROGRAM

The Battalion Captain does not limit himself to one meeting a week with his Battalion, hoping hit or miss for a good turnout and a good program. Only by careful planning will the desired results be achieved.

The Captain plans with his Lieutenants and Battalion service men. At least once a month they meet to work out the program details for the month to follow. The program for the year is roughly outlined in advance with careful observance of seasons, holidays and community events. Each month is given a special theme, for example: "Knighthood Month," "Tract Month," "Parents' Month," "Pioneer Month," and "America Month."

With each month's goal planned, advance preparations can be made. If June is "Fathers' Month" and the climax is to be the Father and Son Banquet, those planning for that month make arrangements far in advance for handicraft displays, special stunts, camp pictures, and speakers. The whole program for June should be well-shaped and integrated by May.

The boys should have a large part in planning the program. During weekly squad meetings, plans, suggestions, likes and dislikes are discussed. At leaders' meetings, then, each Corporal expresses the opinion of his squad. The suggestions that come from the squads through their Corporals will supply ample material for Battalion activity.

REGULAR YEAR-ROUND BATTALION ACTIVITIES

Weekly Meeting of Battalion
 Weekly Meeting of Squads
 Monthly Meeting of Leaders
 Monthly Meeting of Corporal Training Class
 Monthly Battalion Hikes
 Monthly Squad Hikes
 Test Instruction
 Battalion Council
 Summer Camp (Several Weeks)
 Winter Camp (Several Days)
 Handicraft Projects
 Battalion Field Trips
 Inter-Squad Contests
 Knighthood and other Ceremonies

SPECIAL BATTALION ACTIVITIES

Parents' Night
 Father and Son Banquet
 Charge of Church Services
 Special Community Services
 District Rallies
 Tract Distribution
 Tree Planting

GAMES IN THE PROGRAM



Every boy has an inborn desire for conflict and rivalry, most profitably expressed in games and contests. Games fill a very real place in the Battalion program. Through this medium the Captain is afforded opportunity to observe his Brigadiers just as they are. It is surprising how a simple game will reveal the character of the player. Games also get things done that are otherwise regarded as work. A Recite-Down of Scripture verses is not a task of memorizing, but a part of the game. Physical exercise, mental quickness, and the co-operative spirit are brought out in the playing of games.

A good game is worth a million to a boys' leader. No one game can be declared to work everywhere. Each Battalion has its favorites which soon come to the fore. The secret of success in game leadership is never to wear a game out, but to stop while interest is high; and if enthusiasm wanes toward a certain game, drop it for several weeks. When it is renewed there will be freshness and zeal in playing it. Every Captain should have his own list of games and stunts. Good game books can be obtained from almost any library, and the Brigade library can furnish others. As a rule, games played in Brigade are those that the boys do not play during the week.

HIKES IN THE PROGRAM

What hiking and the out-of-doors mean to a boy cannot be expressed in a few words. Any well-rounded Battalion program gives an important place in hiking and camping. The purpose of hiking is not simply exercise,

enjoyment, and instruction in practical woodcraft. It is all of that and more. Paul declares in Romans that the Godhead and His eternal power are clearly seen in the things that are made. He who has not watched the gorgeous sunset, the rainbow, a placid lake, and has not been stirred with the greatness and glory of God has missed an indescribable thrill. God has strangely chosen the things of His creation to mellow the hearts and lives of men. The opportunity for soul-winning and consecration around a blazing campfire, out under a canopy of stars, can never be fully realized within the confines of church walls.

Hike with a purpose! No matter if the purpose be to quicken observation, to learn trees, to practice woodcraft, there is always the underlying fact that boys are drawn closer to the Creator by loving His creation.

Planning the Hike

A good hike is always planned. The Battalion hike, whether it be for the day or several days, is foreseen in the Battalion program. The rough essentials may be discussed in Battalion Leaders' meeting, but details are left to a Squad or a group appointed for the task of planning the hike. The Squad plans its menus, sees that preparations are made for its members to pass their tests, and pitches its tents in a group. The Squad forms the teams where games are involved, builds the bridge, and makes the signal tower or lean-to. The Squad is the unit in Brigade.

The Captain notifies Brigadiers well in advance of the hike, gives Corporals all the necessary details to assure Squad co-operation, and secures parents' permission. Parents must know the exact hour of leaving and the time when the boys will return. The hike begins with a line-up at the appointed time. Corporals report on their Squads,

"All present or accounted for." Final instructions are given, prayer follows, and the group sets out.

The distance is shortened by a spirit of fun while on the march. Songs, yells, simple games of observation and competition give the hike a savor of enjoyment.

When the destination is reached there should be a quick survey of the plot and Squads assigned to their sites. A brief time for setting up equipment and putting the site in order should be given before beginning the program. With a well planned program much can be accomplished on the hike by way of instruction, group participation, and test passing.

Hiking Clothes

What to wear on a hike depends upon the hike itself. There are a few essentials: (1) Shoes that fit. Leather shoes which support the ankles are best. Canvas shoes with rubber soles are not good. (2) Thick, dry socks that fit. (3) Trousers which have free knee action and fit the waist snugly, but not tightly. (4) The chest should not be hindered in its expansion.

FORMING A NEW BRIGADE BATTALION

Where there are boys, and where there are Christian men who desire to see them won for Christ and to see the Christians among them led in paths of service for Him, there is the making of a Brigade Battalion. First the Captain must be chosen, and upon him falls the responsibility for organizing the Battalion.

The Boys

A Battalion's charter members are of utmost importance in determining the course of its progress. They are chosen carefully by the Captain—boys whom he judges to be leaders among their chums, and more than that, Christians who have a desire to make their lives and the witness

of their Battalion count for Christ. This nucleus should consist of some of the older boys of the group to be reached, then the younger boys will readily follow.

The First Meetings

The first month of meetings will determine the caliber of the Battalion, and so should be particularly well planned in advance. The following suggestions for the first three meetings of the new Battalion have been given by a leader in Brigade who has reported good success in establishing new groups:

The First Meeting

Have the room opened a little in advance; and as the boys come in, greet them by name. The room should be cleared of chairs and ready for action. The first comers may take care of this, then engage in some simple game such as hand wrestling, or just talk and swap yarns.

At the appointed time, start the meeting! Even if everyone is not there, begin on time. Have the boys fall in line according to height. A crack or board will provide a good line to "toe." The routine of a line-up and Brigade Courtesies will do much to help in the opening of a Battalion meeting. It takes less than three minutes and has the attention and co-operation of every boy. This formal beginning will prove more valuable than any "Come on!", "Let's begin!", or "Quiet, please." The routine can be taught in fifteen minutes.

With fifteen minutes of the first meeting gone, you have boys in line. This is the time for a brief, audible prayer, seeking guidance and blessing in the meeting.

Now seat the boys in a semi-circle and briefly, simply, yet thoroughly, explain what the Christian Service Brigade is. This little talk should be carefully planned in advance in order to make it graphic and interesting. The message

packed into these few minutes will sell the Brigade to the boys.

Tell them of the Knights who lived wholly to serve their king, how they took their king's name, colors, and blessing and went out to fight battles for the king, not for themselves. Tie in our relationship to our King of Kings and how we are going to be Knights for Him.

It would be well to show the Brigade emblem and explain the Torch, Sword and open Bible in the light of the Brigade motto, "Bright and Keen for Christ."

This would be an appropriate time to learn the Brigade Hymn. It should be sung with the militant zeal which will make it a part of the boy.

Answer all questions if possible. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know, but I will find out."

Don't let this second period run over twenty minutes, which will take thirty-five minutes from our hour and a half.

The next half hour may be profitably spent in games. Two or three should suffice. This proves an excellent time to observe your leaders and boys without their being conscious of the fact.

The last half hour of the meeting is the best devotional time. Let the meeting grow naturally into it, having the quiet games last. A few choruses, a prayer, and then a message. The message depends upon the group and is, therefore, left to the Captain's choice. It is not wise, however, to start a series of study lessons until your attendance has become fairly regular.

It is well to close immediately following the message. Without break or confusion, the boys may stand and be led in the Brigade benediction.

After the meeting, most boys will go home, but a few will linger to ask questions. Answer those you can, but do not linger too long. The room should be put back into order—floor swept, chairs replaced and windows closed. Leave the room, if possible, in better condition than you found it. Boys will pitch in and do the work. Don't do it yourself, though you should help.

The Second Meeting

The opening exercises should be much the same as those of the first meeting. Be sure the drills are done correctly. The officers should assume their positions in front of the ranks.

During the instruction period the boys should be supplied with a Brigade Handbook and application blanks. An explanation of the requirements for Knighthood should be given. Encourage the reading and memorizing test by announcing a quiz contest on the verses and contents of the book of John.

Now is the time for a little active instruction. Demonstrate and drill on the points in the manual which can be executed in line. This would include all points except those ending in "March."

Without breaking ranks you can go right into a game which reviews the drill. Have the Brigade give Right Dress and count off by three's, that is 1-2-3, all down the line. Have the three's take three steps forward and two's two steps and one's remain. This will give three lines and you are ready to play "Cap'n Says."

The director of the game, a Lieutenant perhaps, will command the group to do all sorts of things including drill points. He has to precede the command by "Cap'n Says" before it can be executed. If a player executes a command without "Cap'n Says" he must drop out. The

same applies if he does not obey the command when the words "Cap'n Says" are included. For instance, "Cap'n says 'Hand salute'." All should salute. "Two." Cap'n didn't say "Two," therefore all who dropped the salute are out. The director has the privilege of disobeying "Cap'n" in order to confuse the players. The game continues until a few are left. Then form two lines about three feet apart facing in. All those who went out must go between the lines receiving the "hot hand" as they go.

After the choruses preceding the message there might be a fine opportunity for testimonies. It is important that the boys become used to testifying for their Saviour. The message might be centered around the theme of witnessing.

A Lieutenant might be called upon to close with the Brigade Benediction.

The Third Meeting

By the third meeting you know who the "regulars" are.

During the instruction period the qualifications of sportsmanship and Christian conduct could be discussed. Practice the drill manual points.

During the game period try Gospel Baseball. Sides are chosen and bases laid out. A batter steps up to the plate and the pitcher hurls a Gospel of John question. If the batter answers it correctly he advances to first. If he can give the chapter from which the question was taken he advances to second. One-half minute should be allowed for answer and reference. If he fails to answer, the batter is out.

Play seven innings and congratulate the winners. It is valuable to play a three-game series in three weeks. Use the same sides and make the questions harder. It is a good way to learn the contents of John's Gospel.

Don't forget the Memory Verses. Sides may be chosen and have a "recite-down." Put variety into the questions. Not simply "Quote John 5:25." Ask for the reference alone, or to begin or complete a verse.

With boys well on their way to Knighthood and some ideas for meetings, the Battalion is on its way as an established part of the community. Now is the time to enlarge. The nucleus is formed and foundation laid. The Battalion that begins small and grows is the most likely to stand as a permanent organization and a firm one.

SECURING A BRIGADE CHARTER

Before a Battalion can be recognized by headquarters as a unit of the Christian Service Brigade, it must possess a certificate which officially recognizes its existence. This certificate is the Charter.

Requirements for a Charter

A Battalion must have at least five active members who have attained the rank of Knighthood before it can apply for a charter. There must be a sponsoring group and a Battalion Committee overseeing the unit.

Applying for the Charter

Application for the Battalion Charter should be a big event. It is wise to be in a position to apply for it within two months after starting the Battalion. It is a great stimulus to the boy to be officially recognized. The longer it is delayed, the less intense the interest. The application for charter should be signed by the head official of the sponsoring group and members of the Battalion Committee before reaching the boys.

The ritual of the signing might take the following order: At the close of the meeting the lights are turned out. The Lieutenant lights two candles placed on either side of a small table. On the table (previously arranged by the Quartermaster) is the Charter, a bottle of ink, and

a pen (an old fashioned quill for instance.) As the Lieutenant returns to his post, there is a moment of silence. The Bugler takes one step forward and briskly sounds "attention," steps back. The Scribe executes an about face; facing the ranks, he reads, "Dispatch from (sponsoring group) and Battalion Committee.

"Whereas this Battalion wishes official recognition as part of the Christian Service Brigade, and whereas certain men of standing are required to pledge their support thereto, therefore candidates for Knighthood, (names of boys) are requested to sign the official document."

The Captain steps behind the desk and commands, "Candidate Brown!" "Front and center." Brown comes front and center, standing before table. "Candidate Brown, do you wish to pledge your support to this Battalion by signing this document?" Brown answers, "I do." Captain dips the pen and hands it to Brown who signs, returns pen. Captain and Brown exchange salute after which Brown is required to "Return to your post." This is repeated with each boy who passed his Knighthood requirements. There must be at least five.

The application signed, the Scribe steps forward, blots and folds the application, placing it in a prepared envelope addressed to Brigade Headquarters.

Again the Bugle sounds. Again the Scribe turns to face the ranks and reads, "Whereas (name boy) was first to attain requirements for Knighthood, he is declared to be the official Message Carrier."

Captain commands boy front and center, handing him the sealed envelope, which he takes and carries to the nearest mail box, perhaps escorted by the rest of the Battalion.

Presentation of the Charter

The grand climax of beginning a Battalion is the actual presentation of the charter. It should be presented by the Area Commander or his representative. Here is an appropriate occasion for the boys' parents and friends to be invited.

Preparing for Story Time

A time in each Battalion meeting which presents one definite problem to the beginning leader of boys is the Bible study or story time. Many leaders ask: "How shall I find the message to bring to my boys?" In the first place let the Captain know his boys—each one—well enough to know the sort of message they need, then let him search the Scriptures for that message. Brigade Headquarters offers help in lesson materials and ideas for the Captain's use, but these will only be of aid to him if he will fit them to the needs of his own boys.

The Bible is the Captain's source-book, but he will pick up story suggestions from a multitude of sources, interpreting them in the light of the Word. Sermon illustrations, stories in tracts, actual personal experiences, classic stories molded to fit, Bible stories told in accurate but original fashion, given some thought and dramatic appeal in presentation, make excellent Brigade story-messages. Adventure stories rank at the very top in bidding for genuine boy interest, according to statistics of nationally circulated boys' magazines, and what adventure in the world can compare with true stories of Pioneer Missionaries, of early martyrs, or of twentieth century miracles in answer to prayer.

Brigade lore will furnish many suggestions—stories of Knighthood and of battle. The "Seven Points of Valor" provide the core for seven real heart messages.

Stories of love and sacrifice are widely read the world over. Wonderfully many of them will point straight to the greatest manifestation of love ever shown, and the greatest sacrifice ever made—to Calvary. Boys—especially younger ones—love animal stories. One leader used to thrill his Brigadiers with a complete menagerie. A dog story—of the sacrifice of a Newfoundland in rescuing an arctic explorer; a panther story—that of a missionary miraculously saved from death through the power of prayer; numerous lion stories;—"Christian" at the gate of Palace beautiful, David, Sampson,—of course Daniel. Brought in in this way, the message the stories carry stays long in a boy's memory.

The story is complete in itself—the Gospel message must shine right out of it—not left to the boys to guess at; they probably won't. Never, however, should moralizing be necessary. Let the story with its message pack its own punch.

Now let's go out and find the boys, win them, tell them of the love of their Saviour and Captain, lead them to Him—and then onward as *Good Soldiers of Jesus Christ*.

