



Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storm That is Life?



A Great Servant to Kirkcaldy and Her Youth

When Kirkcaldy's Heritage in 50 Objects reached its target by completing the project to coincide with Kirkcaldy Civic Society's 50th birthday, it was unlikely to be the end. We were aware that some major stories still required to be related but were equally aware that the strictures and pressures of producing an Object each month has an inhibiting effect.

Kirkcaldy's foundation industries, such as pottery and linen, could never be satisfactorily dealt with inside a monthly cycle. Coal would have been another but here we were fortunate enough to secure the services of Chris Sparling as a guest writer – so that story was produced. It is now the team's intention to work through the 'missing' Objects but not with a monthly deadline – these will appear on an ad-hoc basis but they will be done to complement the body of work already produced – whether they be numbered or not!

The original idea of 50 was to complement the 50th birthday of the Society. That said – not everything has to be capable of being described as major or important – Kirkcaldy has a myriad of people, firms and places which are well worthy of being featured. An example of this is the *4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Boy's Brigade* – said, at one time, to be the largest in the country. This was a story we had intended to feature but time pressures won the day. For generations of Kirkcaldy lads one man was synonymous with the Brigade and that was Peter Kinninmonth Livingstone. There was much more to P.K. Livingstone than simply being a Boys' Brigade Officer and his is a story worth recounting. It is also one in which we can lightly touch on the history of the Brigade in Kirkcaldy, which is a box well worth ticking. So, the result is that Captain P.K. Livingstone has his story told but it also acts as bookends for an account of the first 60 years of the Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy.

Pat Livingstone was heavily involved in the civic life of the town and especially with the youth of Kirkcaldy. So, the first of these auxiliary stories

examines the life and legacy of one of Kirkcaldy's sons who has these days seemingly disappeared under the radar. Livingstone's decades of service certainly deserve to come under the spotlight and the bonus is that the Boys' Brigade also gets a worthy mention.

Mr P. K. Livingstone's Many Services to Community

Former Magistrate – 50 Years
a B.B. Officer

KIRKCALDY lost one of its most distinguished and respected citizens by the death last Saturday of Mr Peter K. Livingstone, an Honorary Sheriff of Fife, former Magistrate and historian, but best known for his outstanding service to the Boys' Brigade.

The easiest way to look at the life of P.K. Livingstone is to start at the end and build on his obituary. For this, the *Fife Free Press* of the 19th January 1963 is an invaluable source of information:-

Page 6 carried the substantial headline - **“Death of a Noted Kirkcaldy Man”** with two strap-lines of **“ Mr. P.K.**

Livingstone's Many Services to the Community” followed by **“ Former Magistrate – 50 Years a B.B. Officer”**. The opening paragraphs of the article set the scene.

“Kirkcaldy lost one of its most distinguished and respected citizens by the death last Saturday of Mr Peter K. Livingstone, an Honorary Sheriff of Fife, former Magistrate and historian, but best known for his outstanding service to the Boys' Brigade.

“For 50 years, from 1905 to 1955, he was an officer in the *4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Brigade*, reputed to be the largest in existence, and was commanding officer for 39 years. On his retiral he was appointed Honorary Captain.

“Tributes to Mr Livingstone's service to the community and to the community at large have been paid by Provost James W.M. Gourlay and Sheriff Sinclair Shaw, Q.C., and many others”.

Peter K. Livingstone was one of four children born to James K. Livingstone. Research shows James had married Isabella Kininmonth, a daughter of the late Peter Kininmonth, in Kirkcaldy in 1880 at 275 High Street. Sadly however, when we consult the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the 7th February 1885 we learn that Mrs Livingstone had died at 3 Rosebery Terrace. It would be difficult not to think that the death would be connected with childbirth.

The *Fife Free Press* of the 5th June 1886 reveals that Mr Livingstone has married again. This time the wedding is in Ealing, London, with the bride being Isa Rettie, the 3rd daughter of George Rettie of Ealing Dean. That must have been rather a traumatic experience for Peter, with his mother dying almost as soon as he was born, then having a stepmother 14 months later.

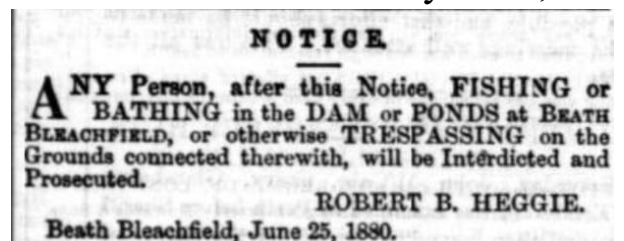
The children from the two marriages were:-

- James Francis Livingstone – 1881. (Isabella Kinninmonth)
- Peter Kinninmonth Livingstone – 1885. (Isabella Kinninmonth)
- Ella Livingstone – 1888. (Isa Rettie)
- Mabel Livingstone- 1889.(Isa Rettie)

James K. Livingston was a yarn merchant and bleacher and we learn from his *Dundee Courier* obituary of Monday the 10th November 1913 that he had been the sole proprietor of the Beath Bleach-fields – trading as *Messrs. Heggie & Livingstone*. The article noted that his wife had predeceased him only 4 weeks previously. Her death was found to have taken place on the 10th October at the family home, Rowanbank, Townsend Crescent. and a report was carried by the *Fife Free Press* the following day.

A little further research using the *Fife Free Press* of the 21st January 1928 adds a little more detail to the narrative. This particular article deals with the sale of the bleach-field to the *Fife Coal Company* with the vendor being our subject – P.K. Livingstone. The article relates that the business had been bought by *Messrs. Heggie and Livingstone* in 1883 although it also states that the bleachfield had been in existence for over 100 years at that stage.

Without question the business was in the hands of the Heggie's prior to 1883, as we traced an advertisement in the *Dunfermline Press* of the 3rd July 1880, signed by Robert B. Heggie, warning that anyone found fishing or bathing in the dam or ponds at the bleachfield would be prosecuted. If you think that you have heard the name Robert B. Heggie previously – you would be correct. This was the Kirkcaldy dyer who was heavily involved in the celebrated Stable's Case covered in our very first Object – the Volunteers Green. It seems fair to assume that Heggie and Livingstone, both Kirkcaldy men, formed their



partnership in 1883. However, that would be wrong as the *Fife Free Press* of the 15th August 1885 discloses that “ Mr Robert B. Heggie, Kirkcaldy, has just assumed Mr James K. Livingstone as a partner with him in his extensive bleach-works, which have been so long and successfully carried on at Beath and the business of linen, yarn merchants and bleachers will in future, we understand, be carried out by them as the firm of *Heggie & Livingstone*.”

Robert B. Heggie died in 1906, at the age of 70, and the business would have passed to James K. Livingstone as his sole partner – explaining why in Livingstone's own obituary he was described as the sole owner. On his death in 1913 the business went to his son, Peter K. Livingstone, despite the fact that Peter was the second son, as his older brother, James F., followed a different occupation. The assumption must be that Peter ran the business, which remained trading as *Heggie & Livingstone*, until 1928.

James Francis Livingstone, the elder son, died on the 27th July 1952, in Glasgow, with a short obituary being carried in the *Fife Free Press* on the 2nd August. This is no help in explaining why he did not succeed to the bleachfield but, instead, spent 50 years in the employment of *Michael Nairn & Co*. The first five years were spent in Kirkcaldy which was followed by 45 years in the firm's Glasgow warehouse from which he retired in 1948. He died at age 71, was a bachelor, with golf being his main pastime. He was said to be quiet and unassuming. James is not in any way central to the story.

James was not the first of the siblings to pass away. The youngest, Ella Margaret, died in Morningside, Edinburgh, in 1936 aged only 49. The briefest examination of local newspapers shows Ella to be a very successful student at Kirkcaldy High School and then at the University of St. Andrews where she gained an M.A. The *Fife Free Press* of the 3rd April 1909 records that Ella has secured:-

- A First Rank in English Literature.
- A First Rank in Old English.
- A First Class in History.
- A First Class in Moral Philosophy.

If that is not enough we learn that Ella had considerable ability in music, as some years earlier, the *Fife Free Press* of the 11th January 1904 reported that

Ella had achieved a first class pass in the local examination of the *London College of Music*. The instrument where she showed proficiency in was the pianoforte/piano.

LEAGUE OF PITY
— A CHILDREN'S —
FANCY DRESS DANCE
AND ENTERTAINMENT
WILL BE HELD IN THE
Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy
OR
Wednesday, 18th April, 1906,
For Children Seventeen Years and under
TICKETS (including Supper), 2/6.
Doors Open at 5.15 p.m.
Commence at 6 o'clock,
Money and Unsold Tickets to be sent to
Mr SUTHERLAND, Commercial Bank, before
Tuesday, 10th April.
Seats in Body of the Hall, for Associates
only, Reserved and Numbered (Fancy or
Evening Dress), 2/-.
Seats in Gallery, Reserved and Numbered
4/-. Unreserved, 2/- and 1/.

Information on her sister Mabel was extremely scarce with *The Fife Free Press* reporting in their editions of the 1st June 1901 and the 16th April 1904 that Mabel had also passed examinations of the *London College of Music* which had been held in Edinburgh. The only other notable event which was traced was that she took part in a *Children's Fancy Dress Dance* which was reported on in the *Fife Free Press* of the 21st April 1906. The remarkable article gave the names of over 200 children together with their costumes. It seemed an amazing amount of detail until the names of the

organisers were listed. The cream of Kirkcaldy society were present with R.C. Lockhart, as the Master of Ceremonies. The event had been the brainchild of Mrs Lenderum and the object was to raise money for the *Edinburgh League of Pity*, in which it successfully raised £40. It must have been a remarkable sight with three examples being:-

Edith Kinninmonth as a *Dresden China Shepherdess*.

Bertie Milliken as the *Duke of Gordon*.

Miss Lenderum as *Fraulien Emmy Von Linsingen*. We just had to have a look at the last named and indeed the *Von Linsingens* were real and were senior Prussian military figures – although who Emmy was, we do not know.

Not much to unearth from a lifetime, with Mabel being the last of the siblings to die. As with her sister, Mabel died in Edinburgh in 1966 aged 77. It is quite hard to believe that from the four children – only one married and there was no surviving issue. The family had simply gone!

Peter K. Livingstone was always described as a Yarn Merchant and a Bleacher and we know that he took possession of *Beath Bleach-field* in 1913 following his father's death. A report in the *Dundee Courier and Advertiser* of the 27th February 1927 highlighted a problem for Mr Livingstone and his manager, a Mr D. Chalmers. The problem was that the bleach-field pond was emptying faster than it could be filled. The article commented that

“hundreds of gallons per minute were entering the Cowdenbeath bleach-field pond . None is going to the bleach-field, yet the pond is emptying fast. Where is the water going?”. This was a worry for the *Fife Coal Company* who had two pits in the area – Dalbeath and Moss-side. The water had to be disappearing into the mine workings but had not as yet shown itself. The pond when full had an area of roughly 120 yards by 20 yards and was now only half full. It was assumed that some form of subsidence had taken place at the pond bottom. While the major worry was that the water was filling up mine workings there was also an issue with the sewage from the west end of Cowdenbeath. Apparently it was piped to the outlet of the pond where it was cleansed by the surplus water.

Mr Chalmers was quoted as saying that he had been at the site for 42 years and that it had existed for 40 years before that. He was able to confirm that there had always been a constant supply of water with a copious overflow. Work was steady with 35 individuals being employed at that he had guaranteed work for the next year. “He could keep the workers occupied for another day but after that he did not know what to do. The bleachfield pond, when full, was also a storage pond for the works, and it was this he would miss the most”.

Even as he spoke, the *Fife Coal Company* were pumping water directly into the bleach-field, in order that the pond could be emptied and the source of the loss identified and rectified. A large crowd had gathered as, in a mining community, it most certainly mattered where the water was disappearing to!

We had earlier stumbled on an article from the *Kirkcaldy Times* of the 15th April 1885. In this we learned that the same Mr Chalmers had been given a presentation on leaving *Roths Bleachfield* (Markinch) – this, in time, became part of Tullis Russell. He had been twelve years with the firm and was leaving to take up a post with *Messrs. Heggie* at Beath Bleach-field, seemingly, just months before James K. Livingstone was assumed as a partner.

So, clearly, an uncomfortable time for all, but especially the owner. The situation did not last overlong as was reported by the *Fife Free Press* on the 21st January 1928. Mr P.K. Livingstone had sold the bleach-field to the *Fife Coal*

FIFE COAL COMPANY ACQUIRE BEATH BLEACHFIELD.—Fife Coal Company have acquired the old established Beath Bleach-field, Cowdenbeath, where about forty girls and a few men are employed. It will be recalled that a subsidence took place there last year, causing the water in the adjoining pond to disappear, and making it an extremely difficult matter to carry on with the work of the bleachfield. This scarcity of water was a hindrance to the owner, Mr P. K. Livingstone, Kirkcaldy, who had many orders. He was reluctant to part with the concern in view of the hardship it would involve on the workers.

Company. The article appeared to suggest that the Coal Company were still pumping water into the bleach-field meaning that the problem had not been solved. Livingstone was given great credit for his reluctance to sell, given he was concerned about the fate of the employees if he did so. It would seem that there was every possibility that Livingstone would be granted a lease from the *Fife Coal Company* to allow him to maintain the business. Interestingly, the article highlighted that the bleachfield was established long before coal came to be worked in the area and now, here it was, in the epicentre of a network of collieries.

Peter Livingstone was 77 years of age when he died and had been in failing health for the last two years of his life but, as the obituary records, he was still able to get about although “his tall figure, perhaps not as upright as formerly, was still a familiar figure in the town. He died at his home at 6 East Fergus Place and was survived by his widow and sister Margaret, who lived in Edinburgh”.

The obituary recorded that “he had given a lifetime of service to the community in which he was held in the highest esteem. His leadership, his example and his help, were valued by all who knew him or knew of his work”. Four major services to Kirkcaldy were mentioned and these were:-

- A Youth Leader.
- A Judge.
- A Town Councillor.
- A Chairman of many organisations.

In relation to these, the article observed that “he gave unstintingly of his time, his talent, his sympathy and his understanding”. These are fine words and there is no reason to doubt that he lived up to them. Many, we are sure, would be delighted to be the recipient of such a tribute.

The obituary accepted that it was in the field of youth leadership that he was best known - “during his long association with the Boys' Brigade many thousands of boys passed through the ranks of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company and came to know and respect the man who was their Commanding Officer for so many years”.

The Boys' Brigade, the earliest of all organisations working among boys,

was founded in 1883, by Sir William A. Smith of Glasgow and has spread widely throughout Great Britain, Ireland and also in many foreign countries. Its Object, as stated in the Constitution, is as follows:-

THE OBJECT OF THE BRIGADE SHALL BE THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM AMONG BOYS, AND THE PROMOTION OF HABITS OF OBEDIENCE, REVERENCE, DISCIPLINE, SELF RESPECT, AND ALL THAT TENDS TOWARDS A TRUE CHRISTIAN MANLINESS.

Started in connection with the church, by William A. Smith, an earnest church worker, it has been found especially helpful in church work among boys, securing their interest by; drill, physical exercises, ambulance work, signalling, bugle, brass and pipe band training, sports, camps etc., and laying great emphasis on religious instruction by means of a Brigade Bible Class and short character-forming talks at Drill Parades. As distinct from some other organisations for boys, it desires the closest connection with a church or other Christian Organisation, which is in full control, through its officers, of the religious instruction given to the boys. The clergyman or minister of the church with which a Company of the Brigade is connected may be either an officer or chaplain of the company.

It was the 27th January 1893, which saw the 4th Company being formed and it was 12 years later in 1905 that P.K. Livingstone was enrolled as a lieutenant. For a little more detail on the founding of the movement in Kirkcaldy we need look no further than Livingstone's own 1953 book – *The Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy*. The author writes that “100 years ago (1853) there were no movements or organisations in our land towards the helping of and directing youth to noble living and high adventure. This service to youth appeared later in the century”.

But Kirkcaldy can claim a first in this field, by being, in 1860, the first Scottish town to initiate the banding of lads together for training and discipline. This was *The Juvenile Volunteers* and was formed by an ex-superintendent of police – Mr James Thomson. He enrolled boys between the ages of 10 and 15 and in a short space of time had enrolled 130 boys. The Corn Exchange, in Market Street, which had only just been opened a year earlier, was used for drill. However, in the summer months, they drilled on the sands or in the playground of the High School. It is stated that most evenings 50 boys were under instruction and Colonel Ferguson of Raith and Captain Bremner of the *Rifle Volunteers* were extremely interested in the

movement. Bremner was the first captain of the *Rifle Volunteers* in Kirkcaldy – he rose to become the Chief Constable of Fife. He was also the nephew of Kirkcaldy's child poet – Pet Marjorie, although she was long dead before he was born.

It must be assumed that the Juvenile movement was a spin off from the founding of the *Volunteer Movement* itself in 1859. The movement was a part-time citizen army featuring corps; in rifles, artillery and engineering. Kirkcaldy perhaps did not have the first *Volunteer Corps* in the country but, almost certainly, the first Juvenile Corps.

What was astonishing to learn was that Mr Thomson had been able to secure three small cannons, of 2¼ pounds calibre, for use by his *Juvenile Volunteers*

Thomson has applied to Colonel Ferguson to obtain two cannon for the corps, of from four to six pounders, and that gentleman has promised that these shall not be wanting. The young soldiers have their drill in the Corn Exchange, the use of it having been cordially granted by the Magistrates; and a subscription, headed by the Provost, is being started to aid them in obtaining uniforms, of which a pattern suit has been prepared and approved.

for long gun practice – for 10 year old children!! This just had to be verified and, sure enough, the *Scotsman* of Friday, the 16th March 1860, carried the above details in a short article. It seems that a subscription,

headed by the Provost, was also being started to aid them in the purchase of uniforms. The report indicated that the request for the cannons was being made to Colonel Ferguson. By the time the *Glasgow Courier* was published, on the 5th April 1860, the numbers had swollen to 155, the officers had been appointed and Mr Thomson intended to set about forming a musical band. From what we unearthed – the claim that Kirkcaldy was the first in Scotland appears correct. By the end of the year there were any number of such groups all over the country with Inverness boasting a roll of 300.

As mentioned earlier, the Boys' Brigade was the brainchild of its founder, William Alexander Smith, in 1883. It grew both at home and overseas and when Livingstone published his book in 1953 he quoted the memberships as:-

- Boys' Brigade – Great Britain and Ireland 83,291
- The Life Boys – the Brigade's Junior Organisation 59,652
- The Overseas Strength in 28 countries 16,406

Those who were interested in the youth of Kirkcaldy were not slow to realise the potential of the new organisation and, in 1888, The Rev. Alexander Weir, of Victoria Road United Presbyterian Church, proposed that every church in the town should have a Company of the Boy's Brigade and, have these companies formed into a Battalion, headquartered at the Working Lads' Institute. A little research revealed that it had been agreed to form a *Kirkcaldy Working Lads Institute* and this was scheduled to be formally opened on the 21st February. As an aside, the accommodation would be within Mr Hunter's Hall in Kirk Wynd which was to be leased for a 3 year period at £37 per annum. Some £200 was to be spent on equipment. *The Fife Free Press* of the 25th February reported on the opening and indeed Mr Weir's suggestion is there in print! Mr Weir's Victoria Road U.P. Church was quickly off the mark as can be seen from the table below.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Date of Enrolment</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Original Captain.</u>
1 st Kirkcaldy	10 th Oct. 1888	Victoria Road U.P.	Thomas Saunders
2 nd “	29 th Nov. 1888	Abbotshall Free	Andrew Morton
3 rd “	14 th Feb. 1890	Raith Parish	James Smith
4 th “	18 th Feb. 1893	St. Brycedale	Rev. J.N. Balfour
5 th Kirkcaldy	13 th Nov. 1893	Pathhead Free	Rev. A. Coutts

We reproduce the first advertisement that could be traced for the 1st Company and it is taken from the *Fife Free Press* of the 22nd September 1888.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.—The 1st KIRKCALDY COMPANY meets in VICTORIA ROAD U.P. CHURCH HALL every TUESDAY EVENING at 8 prompt. Lads from 13 to 18 cordially invited.

The first annual inspection was reported in the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the 24th May 1889. Given the Beveridge Park did not yet exist, the event was held in the Raith Grounds and it involved only the 1st & 2nd Companies. The event was preceded by the two companies marching through the streets led by the Newhaven Boys' Brigade Brass Band. The inspecting officer was Colonel Johnston of the *Fife Artillery Volunteers* who was accompanied by several of his officers.

The article reveals that the “Companies were put through a lengthened series of military tactics by their respective instructors, much to the amusement and satisfaction of the onlookers”. Colonel Johnston spoke a great deal

about discipline, homing in on “his belief that a young man could not command until he had learned to obey. They were also learning to exercise the qualities of unselfishness, obedience and discipline which would stand them in good stead in later life”. The parade ended with a programme of sports which featured 5-a-side football, three legged races, sprints and the tug of war. The music played during the sports was again provided by Newhaven Boys' Brigade Band.

Also, *The Fifeshire Advertiser* of the same date, but in another column, reported that the 1st and 2nd Companies had held their inaugural Annual Church parades the following day. Abbotshall had held theirs in the morning, with Victoria U.P. Church taking place in the afternoon.

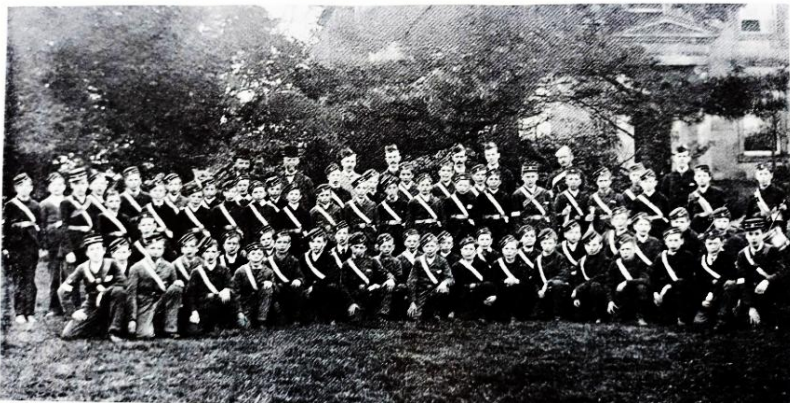
It would be wrong to think that the movement was met with universal acclaim. That busy edition of the 24th May carried a letter from *Consistency* who declared “that it can not be denied that when the Church is training its youth to play at soldiers, thus it is sowing the seeds of militarism”.

If that was not enough, the edition carried an editorial, probably by Lachlan MacBean, indicating that “the success of the Boys' Brigade had brought about attacks on the organisation by very good, but we feel misguided, persons. *The Edinburgh Ladies' Peace Society* has made an assault on the new organisation on the grounds that it encourages the martial spirit”.

The 4th company, which became synonymous with the Brigade in Kirkcaldy, was formed at a meeting on the 27th January 1893 and was connected with St. Brycedale Free Church. The date of the official enrolment of the company is given as the 18th February. Four months after that date the first

inspection was held in Balsusney Park with, once again, Colonel Johnston doing the honours. Balsusney Park is now the site of the War Memorial Gardens. The parade featured 76 boys and a photograph of the occasion is reproduced here taken from P.K. Livingstone's publication. There are several stellar Kirkcaldy names featured:- J.T. Stocks, his

FIRST INSPECTION OF THE COMPANY, 1893



Gentlemen and Officers of Rank: J. T. Stocks, Charles Maxton, Mr M. H. Sains, John Miller, Captain J. N. Bellant, Lieutenant H. J. Stocks, Colonel-in-Chief, Colonel J. W. Johnston of East Wemyss, Lieutenant James T. Davidson.

son, Harris L. Stocks, Sir Michael Nairn, Charles Maxton (owner of Balsusney House and Park) and Colonel J.W. Johnston. In fact, as he was preparing his book for publication in 1953, Captain Livingstone was still trying to establish the name of the officer standing next to Harris Stocks with newspaper appeals.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that Colonel John W. Johnston was a partner in the East Wemyss linen firm of *G. & J. Johnston* along with his brother Russell. He was an accountant by profession and had joined the Wemyss Company of the *Fife Royal Artillery Volunteers* as a Private. His father was Captain at the time. He rose to become Colonel Commander of the Battalion spending over 50 years with the regiment.

The Fife Free Press, of the 28th July 1894, reveals that the 4th Company had just returned from a camp at Silverburn in Leven on the evening of Monday the 23rd – arriving at Kirkcaldy and Sinclairtown Stations. Also on the train were boys from the 2nd, 5th & 6th companies who had been based in the school at Lundin Links, also for a camp of 5 day's duration. The article suggests that the 4th Company had held a camp in the same place the previous year, which would have made it the initial camp for the Kirkcaldy companies – but, try as we might, no trace could be found in any press articles of such an event.

The boys who attended the camps had spent the previous winter paying into a Camp Fund, as they each required the sum of 5/- to attend. This was for food alone, as all the other costs were met by the Brigade. It was Sir Ralph Anstruther who carried out the camp inspection in Lundin Links, while Colonel Johnston carried out the inspection at Silverburn. The local School Board had given permission to use Lundin Links School as a base and it was David Russell of Silverburn who provided the accommodation at the disused flax mill at Silverburn – the very mill which is now the subject of a massive restoration!

This section could not have been left without an example of the daily activities during camp life. We wonder how today's youngsters would view the activities. A musical concert was held in the Simpson Institute in Upper Largo to raise money

The routine for each day was much the same, and we subjoin the camp orders of Saturday.

A.M.

6. —Reveille.

6.15.—Service of Biscuits.

6.30.—Company Parade.

7.30.—1st Bathing Parade (optional)

8.15.—1st Breakfast: Bugle.

8.30.—Breakfast.

9. —Morning Prayers.

10. —Camp Inspection.

10.15.—Company Parade.

11.30.—2nd Bathing Parade (optional)

P.M.

1. —1st Dinner Bugle.

1.15.—Dinner.

2.30.—Assemble for Inspection.

4. —Camp Photographs.

4.15.—Sports Finish.

6.16.—First Tea Bugle.

6.30.—Tea.

9.30.—Evening Prayers.

9.45.—Service of Biscuits.

10.—Tattoo, when every boy must be in-doors.

10.15.—Lights out.

for the Camp Fund, with the event being organised by the local minister. The article indicates that it was very well attended and that the brigade band took part. The article concluded by revealing “that the boys appeared to thoroughly enjoy the holiday, and the utmost good feeling prevailed between them and the people living in the district”. It should be kept in mind that, at that time, Boys' Brigade camps provided one of the few opportunities for a holiday for many of the lads from working class backgrounds.

As previously mentioned, the first captain of the 4th was the Reverend J.N. Balfour but, in 1885, he resigned to take up a new ministry. That said, he returned to Kirkcaldy to take part in the 1943 Jubilee celebrations of the company. It was Lieutenant Harris L. Stocks who was appointed Captain in his place until his own death on the Somme in 1916. This death had a huge impact on the structure of the Brigade in the town which will be covered later. As an aside, Captain Harris L. Stocks married the Reverend Balfour's sister, Annie. Sadly, she did not have a long life and that was also true of their only child. The couple married in 1899 and Annie Stocks died in 1906. Their daughter, also Annie, died in 1907 - not even a year old! Again, in those far of times the death may well have been connected with childbirth.

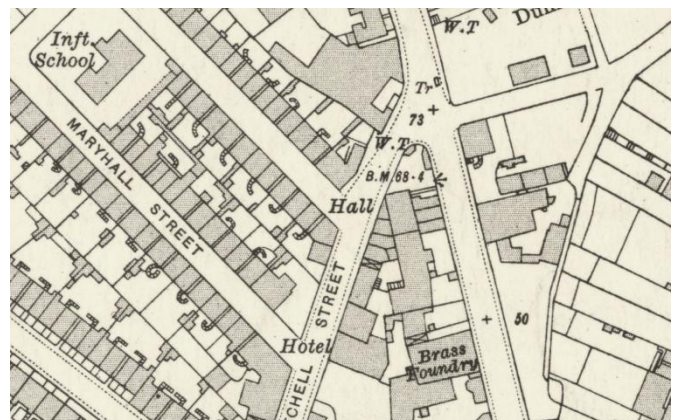
In 1901, Captain Harkness of the Royal Marine Artillery, who at the time was Adjutant of the Fife Artillery, presented a silver cup to be awarded to the best drilled team among the Boys' Brigade Companies in Fife. The first competition was held in Cupar and the cup was won by the 4th Kirkcaldy Company under Captain Stocks. A photograph, taken from Livingstone's book, shows the winning team and includes their names. Perhaps some readers may recognise a face or two.



1st Team Winners of Harkness Cup, 1901

Front Row—Wm. Dorrat, Tom Welsh, Tom Macpherson, Captain H. L. Stocks, Duncan Noble.
 Second Row—Geo. Grant, Jas. Reilly, J. Oliphant, John Reilly.
 Seated—A. Watson, R. Fairgrieve.

To give an idea of the growth of the Company, in 1902, 68 boys were involved – 10 years later, in 1912, the number had risen to 224. This was perhaps influenced by two factors – firstly, in 1903, Harris Stocks rented the *Mitchell Street Hall* as a meeting place



and also for recreation. The Halls are still in existence and a map is shown here outlining the site.



However, this was dwarfed in 1905 when the Victoria Road Church came up for sale and was purchased by Captain Stocks. His intention was to make the building the Headquarters of the Company and, when this aim was accomplished, it was stated that the halls were “the finest building for the use of boys and youths that can be seen in the town.” The Hall was opened on the 21st September 1905 by Colonel Johnston. The opening was covered in the *Fife Free Press* of the 23rd September.

What was very interesting is that the article carried a letter from Sir Michael Nairn which, primarily, was apologising for not being able to attend the opening as he and his wife were en-route for America. While praising the work of Captain Stocks he also had an interesting take on youth discipline. If not blaming, he pointed at the growth of factories for the issue. His stance was that, when home weaving was the major industry, then the children were at home under the eye of their parents. Factories took them out of the house and away from parental supervision, leading to a 'deterioration of refinement' although 'creating greater material prosperity'. Strange words from a man who created so many of Kirkcaldy's factories.

At his own expense, Harris Stocks had relaid the whole of the main hall floor, added a new heating system and had built some extra rooms to the west side of the building. The accommodation then provided:-

- The main hall
- A spacious gymnasium
- A games Room
- Magazine Room
- Reading room and library
- Committee Room
- Large store for camping material

The officer's quarters were upstairs, in what had been the gallery of the church, with one room for the officers and another for the staff-sergeants.

In 1909, once again, Captain Stocks put his hand in his pocket to add a band hall which was built at the rear of the main hall and above the game's room. The new hall was opened on the 1st October 1909 and as always the *Fife Free Press* carried a report the following day. The article mentioned that Lieutenant P.K. Livingstone was a member of the platform party.

The Reverend Milne paid a handsome tribute to Captain Stocks by remarking that “the Captain had come to the conclusion that there were many lads of our town standing in need of looking after and Mr Stocks had built this magnificent hall for the young lads. If such an act was not Christianity, he did not know what Christianity was”. Interestingly, many, if not all, of the local bands were present.

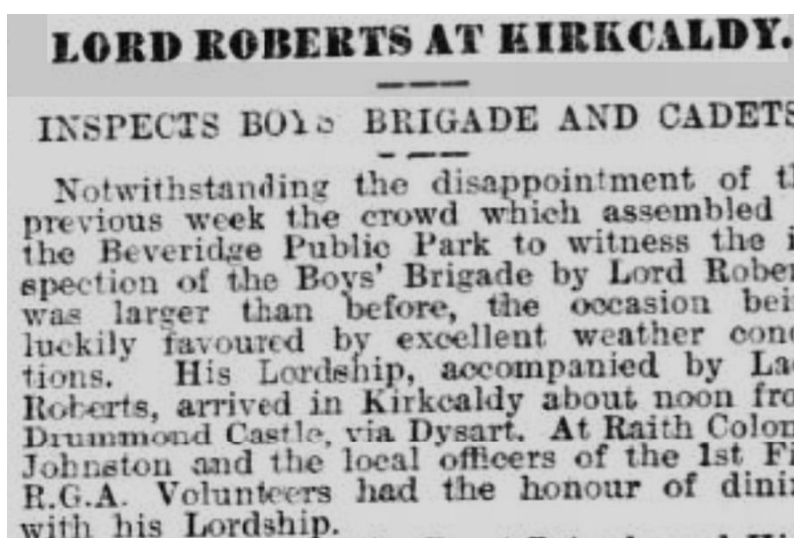
Mention was made earlier of the numbers of boys involved in the Company and this required a division into two half-companies. One half drilled in the Victoria Halls, with the other utilising St. Brycedale Church Hall. The following week the two halves changed halls which offered everyone the use of the new facilities at least each fortnight. It also allowed a greater number of lads to be involved than had only one base been used.

For information and interest, here are some of the other features and happenings in the first decade of the 20th Century. There was an acceptance that back in those early days it was felt that the Brigade had a three pronged attraction – the opportunity to do military style drill, the opportunity to learn an instrument and play in a band plus, of course, the opportunity to be involved in organised and competitive sport.

- In 1905 a flute band was formed.
- An Ambulance Section was set up.
- A Signalling Section was set up.
- In 1906, 150 boys gave a display of drill, ambulance work and signalling exercises, at the Scottish National Exhibition at Saughton in Edinburgh.
- Again, in 1906, Kirkcaldy was so impressed by the work of Harris Stocks that a Bazaar was held to help the Company funds and also to encourage Captain Stocks. £258 was realised with £100 of the total

from Sir Michael Nairn.

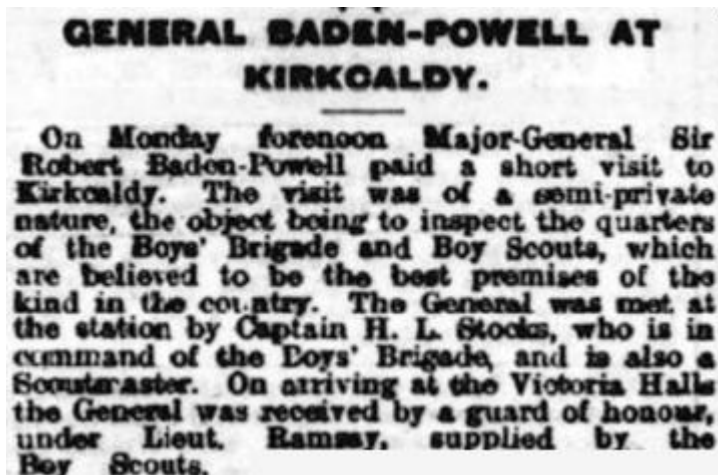
- The year 1906 brought an important event and an important visitor to Kirkcaldy. This was Field Marshall Lord Roberts V.C. Roberts (known to his soldiers as Bobs) was considered an outstanding military commander when the British Empire was at its zenith. On the 8th September 1906 arrangements had been made for Lord Roberts to inspect the company while a guest of Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson. Such was Robert's fame that 10,000 people turned up to see the great man. The Brigade mustered 155 boys along with 43 cadets – but Lord Roberts did not appear – there had been a mistake with the date! The inspection was taken by Colonel Hamilton but the position was redeemed the following Saturday. On the 15th September, once again, in the Beveridge Park, before 12,000 people, Lord Roberts carried out the inspection. A snippet of the *Fife Free Press* report from the 22nd September is shown here. The Brigade performed some military evolutions and gave a gymnastic display. Not to be outdone, lads from the Ambulance Section showed some of the skills taught to them by Dr. Emslie Henderson.



Lord Roberts expressed his gratitude to those who were interesting themselves in this work and told his audience “that he knows of towns where, if a tradesman or anyone else wanted a boy whom they could depend upon to work for them, he went to the Boy's Brigade, or the Church Lad's Brigade”.

- In 1908, a Brass Band was formed with David Pearson as conductor.
- The Brass Band gave its first performance in the Beveridge Park in June 1909.
- Captain Harris Stocks regularly played the euphonium with the band.
- In 1910, the Victoria Halls were inspected by Sir R.S.S.S. Baden-Powell. This was something completely unknown to the team and being a tangent – had to be investigated. As always, the *Fife Free Press* came to the rescue. When examining the edition of the 26th March

1910 we find that the Major-General had spent a little time in the town on the previous Monday morning. Although it was a short visit some interesting information was provided in the report.



Baden-Powell was met at the station by Captain Stocks (it turns out that he was also a scoutmaster). The visit was semi-private with the prime intention of visiting/inspecting the quarters of the Boys' Brigade and the Boy Scouts – believed to be the best accommodation in the country. On arrival, a guard of honour was provided by the scouts under the

command of Lieutenant Ramsay. The inspection was carried out in the company of Colonel Oswald of Dunnikier. On leaving, the Major-General “hoped that the scouts would abide by their law, make use of the facilities and play their games”. This strongly suggests that the Boys' Brigade and the Scouts shared the same hall. Prior to leaving, Harris Stocks called for three cheers for the guest. A large crowd had assembled outside to see the *Hero of Mafeking* and when Baden-Powell went to his car – he was cheered to the echo. The next port of call was another school day for the team – he visited the *Wigwam* in Balsusney Road! Never heard of this but it transpires it was a cottage which had been bought by Harris Stocks on behalf of the Scouts. Every week, 4 different scouts lived in the cottage – learning and doing their own cooking and household chores. The important guest expressed his extreme satisfaction and was then driven to Cupar – stopping at the New Inn to inspect the Falkland Scouts. They would have a long tramp from Falkland to the New Inn if no transport was available!

It was quite intriguing to discover this connection with the Boy Scouts and a little research provided the answer. It was contained in the Officer's Handbook for the 4th Company which was produced in 1910. It made mention that the “most recent development of the Company's work is the formation of two Scout Patrols on the lines laid down by Lieut.-Gen. Baden-Powell, C.B. These patrols were not in any way separated from the Company, but are made up of some 16 boys selected chiefly by the votes of their comrades from the 60 volunteers, all of whom were ready to join. The Scouts may be termed the advance party of the Company, and certainly they

are subjected to training which is much more severe than anything got in ordinary drill. They are supposed to know something about ambulance work and signalling, and as the course of their training unfolds they will acquire some knowledge of wood craft and field work, besides which they are trained to know, if thrown on their own resources, how to live outside under circumstances which to the untrained eye would be puzzling, perhaps impossible. Part of the training should make them able to cook meals from the simplest possible materials, with no apparatus except what they carry in their haversacks, and with a camp fire made from such materials as can be easily got. If the training, even to a small extent, produces the results which are aimed at in the scout movement, there can be no doubt that this new and popular movement will do much for all the boys that take part in it. In practice, the outside work lends itself to training in; cross country running, general observation, tracking, despatch running, cooking and bivouacking. It is clear that Harris Stocks saw these skills as complimentary to those of the Boys' Brigade.

The *Wigwam* also just had to be investigated. It would seem that it was purchased by Harris Stocks in 1909 and was set up as a training site in housekeeping for the Scouts. The *Fife Free Press* of the 1st January 1910 indicates that it is to be called the *Wigwam* – so, it has either undergone a

change of name or, was a new build. The same newspaper on the 10th November 1917 carried an advertisement to let the property. We learn it has 2 public rooms – 3 bedrooms – a kitchen – a scullery and a bathroom. The property could be viewed by contacting Robert Stocks at Osborne House –

TWO LET, with Immediate Entry, the COTTAGE, known as "THE WIGWAM," situated in Balsusney Road, Kirkealdy, containing two Public Rooms, 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Scullery, and Bathroom, with hot and cold water throughout. There is a Large Garden.

The House may be seen on application to Mr Robert Stocks, Osborne House, Kirkealdy. For further particulars apply to Messrs Tod Murray & Jamieson, 66 Queen Street, Edinburgh, or Messrs Gibson & Spears, Solicitors Kirkealdy.

Robert Stocks at Osborne House – the brother of Harris. In February 1919, we find the property exposed for sale at a roup in the George Hotel. The *Fife Free Press* tells us, on the 1st March 1919, that it has been bought by a publican – Harry Gates from Lady Helen Street. It fetched £605. We can safely assume therefore that it was not Willed to the Scouts and they only used it for a 6 year period at most. A quick search shows that Harry was the proprietor of the High Street's *National Hotel* and his house in Lady Helen Street was number 14. However – where is the *Wigwam* – a question for another day?

However, the other day has indeed arrived! – we could not resist searching

– 30 Balsusney Road – in 1915 the owner is Harris L Stocks with the occupiers – the 4th Kirkcaldy Troop of Boy Scouts.

The visit by Baden-Powell is perhaps a portend of a 1911 trip by the Lion Patrol to Norway. *The Fife Free Press* of the 8th July 1911 tells us that Captain Stocks and two medical friends had made a trip to the *Land of the Midnight Sun* in 1909. The purpose was to sketch out a route which, in the future, could be transversed by a troop of Scouts. For months before the trip those selected underwent fitness training, medical examinations, dental examinations and much outdoor camping in Priory Park until they became experts at erecting their tents.

The troop left Kirkcaldy by train on the evening of the 6th July and on arriving in Edinburgh pulled their trek-cart, loaded with their equipment, to Leith. There, the S.S. Thorsa awaited to carry them to Norway. All the costs were met by Captain Stocks. The return was scheduled for the 23rd – when a tug boat was to carry them from Leith back to Kirkcaldy. Try as we might we could not find addresses for the party who comprised of:-

- Patrol Leader James C. Robertson
- Corporal Thomas Christie
- James M. Page
- William McGraw
- John S.M. Foreman
- Leonard M. Thomson
- Thomas Chalmers
- Robert Fairgrieve
- Assistant Scoutmaster George Gourlay *
- Captain H. L. Stocks
- Dr. W. Emslie Henderson (Medical officer for Schools in Westmoreland)
- Dr. R.F. Mudie of Ladybank

BOY SCOUTS OFF TO NORWAY

Captain H. L. Stocks and his Lion Patrol of Boy Scouts left Kirkcaldy on Thursday evening on their unique and interesting expedition to Norway. The following are taking part in what will no doubt prove a most enjoyable tour:—

- Captain and Scoutmaster H. L. Stocks.
- Dr Henderson, Kendal (late of Kirkcaldy).
- Dr Mudie, Ladybank.
- Assist. Scoutmaster Geo. Gourlay, Alexandra Street.
- Patrol-leader James C. Robertson, Ramsay Road.
- Corporal Thomas Christie, 101 Mid Street.
- James M. Page, 44 West Smeaton Street.
- William M'Graw, Loughborough Road.
- John S. M. Furnas, Harcourt Road.
- Leonard M. Thomson, Dumfries Road.
- Thomas Chalmers, Commercial Street.
- Robert Fairgrieve, Maria Street.

There will be besides six pony drivers with six ponies to carry the baggage and provisions of the party, and readers are referred to last Saturday's "Advertiser" for a full description of the expedition.

The party mustered at their Wigwam in Balcaney Road at five o'clock on Thursday evening, and having stowed their kit-bags, tents, etc., on their own trek cart, the Patrol pulled it to the Station, where they boarded the 5.46 train for Waverley. A large num-

It would have been interesting to find addresses but, in fact, a Census was carried out in 1910. When time permits we will try and establish where some/all of the lads lived. Some readers may then recognise some of those involved. By great good fortune at the very last moment an article was located in the *Kirkcaldy Times* of the 8th of July 1911. It provides the addresses and is included here.

*One which we did stumble upon was in an article in the *Fife Free Press* of the 24th November 1917. It was reported that Mr & Mrs Robert Gourlay, of 33 Alexandra Street, had received a telegram to say that their son, Second-Lieutenant George Gourlay, of the 73rd Machine Gun Corps, had been killed in action. The report confirmed his strong connections with the Boys' Brigade and the Scouts, going as far as indicating that he had been one of Captain Stock's right hand men. He had been employed as a designer with Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd prior to the War.

**THE ROLL OF HONOUR.
HEAVY CASUALTIES AMONG
LOCAL YEOMANRY.**



ONE OF KIRKCALDY OFFICER KILLED
Mr and Mrs Robert Gourlay, 33 Alexandra Street, Kirkcaldy, received a telegram on Sunday evening informing them that their son, Second-Lieutenant George Gourlay, 73rd Machine Gun Corps, had been killed in action.

The above was found simply by chance, but was it fate? The reason for the question is that, almost the very last sentence in *The Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy* reads – “one remembers the happy boyish figure of Staff-Sergeant George Gourlay who gave his life in World War I.”

As a statistic showing the numbers of lads who were members of that one company, the 4th, here is a table taken from that first decade of the 20th Century.

Year	Event	Present All Ranks.
1905	Inspection	98
1906	“	178
1906	Summer Camp	100
1907	Inspection	200
1908	“	198
1908	Summer Camp	130
1909	Inspection	208
1909	Summer Camp	107
1910	Church Parade	280

1910	Inspection	250
1911	“	232
1911	Summer Camp	127

These figures were extracted from P.K. Livingstone's book and gives an idea of just how many young boys were kept off the streets and, for many, gave them their only opportunity of a holiday. On that theme of ensuring young lads had a purpose, another set of statistics makes for interesting reading in relation to skills which some boys were taught. For many this would probably not have been possible outwith the Brigade. These are taken from 1912:-

The Brass Band had 2 Officers, 2 Staff Sergeants, 5 Staff Corporals, 4 N.C.O.'s and 19 Privates. A total of 32 individuals involved.

The Bugle Band had 1 Staff Sergeant, 1 Staff Corporal, 3 N.C.O.'s and 11 Privates. A total of 16 individuals involved.

The Ambulance Section had 2 Staff Sergeants, 4 N.C.O.'s and 20 Privates. A total of 26 individuals involved.

The Signalling Section had 1 Officer, 1 Staff Sergeant, 1 Staff Corporal, 4 N.C.O.'s and 20 Privates. A total of 27 individuals involved.

The Company strength plus the above were listed as 13 officers, 8 Staff Sergeants, 9 Staff Corporals, 39 N.C.O.'s and 214 Privates. This leads to 283 individuals learning comradeship, discipline and a number of useful skills.

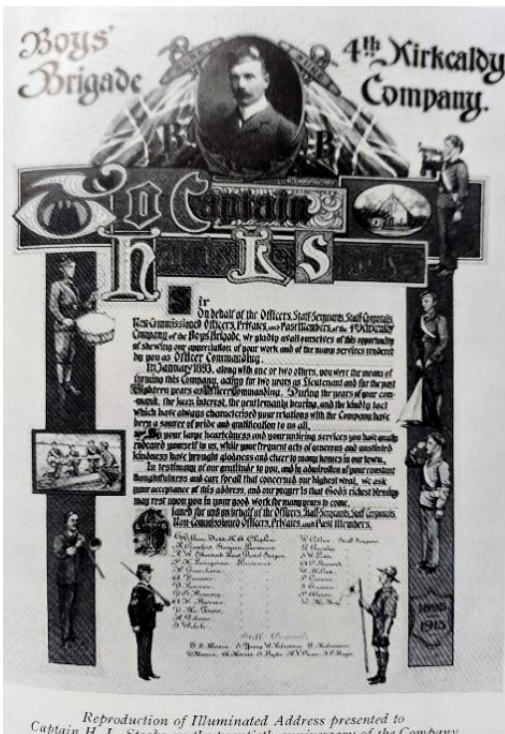
The year 1913 saw the Company reach its 20th Anniversary and Captain Stocks had remarkably been present at each of the 20 Annual Inspections. In an acknowledgement of this, and his outstanding work, he was presented with an illuminated address and a solid silver coffee service. The coffee service was engraved with:-

The Boys' Brigade 4th Kirkcaldy Company

Presented to Captain H.L. Stocks by the officers, staff sergeants, non-commissioned officers, privates and past members, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Company. 1893-1913.

The illuminated address is reproduced here but is too wordy to copy in full but hopefully the photograph gives an idea of its style.

The presentation was made in the Adam Smith Hall by Dr. W. Emslie Henderson who spoke at length on the “great service Captain Stocks had done for the community by carrying the 4th Company so ably since the departure of its founder, the Rev. J.N. Balfour, M.A”. Henderson quoted a



Reproduction of Illuminated Address presented to Captain H. L. Stocks on the twentieth anniversary of the Company

mother from “a humble home in the Links who had said – ah, doctor, what Captain Stocks has been to my laddies, no tongue can tell”. *The Fife Free Press* was there and a comprehensive report was carried in the edition of the 29th March 1913 – the presentation having taken place the previous Wednesday. The report noted that “the hall was filled in every part”. The good Colonel Johnstone was on the platform along with Dr Henderson and Robert Stocks. The Reverend Balfour had returned to Kirkcaldy for the occasion and the final member of the platform party was Lieutenant P. K. Livingstone. In fairness the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the same date also carried a full page spread on the event.



One of the interesting points reported on was that, when Captain Stocks spoke, he paid tribute to an individual when mentioning the first steps taken in the embryonic Company's formation - “Sir Michael Nairn launched the new craft by supplying the funds necessary for the original expenditure for one year. I very much doubt that, if it had not been for Sir Michael, whether the new ship would have got the length of her trial trip. From that day to this, we have much to thank Sir Michael for”. This is of course Sir Michael B.

Nairn who, along with his family, did so much for Kirkcaldy in terms of philanthropy. Of course, subsequent Councils, of all hues, have studiously airbrushed the family out of the public consciousness, believing that a few street names is all their efforts are worth. The Nairn family join; Sir Sandford Fleming, John McDouall Stuart and Robert Philp as prime examples of under the radar famous Kirkcaldy folk.

Along with the speeches and the presentation, there was a very full programme to showcase the Company's skills. "The extremely efficient Brass Band under Lieutenant D. Pearson played several selections during the proceedings". Staff-Corporal T.S.Morton was commended for his trombone solo of "The Death of Nelson." A squad of Brigade members gave a display of drill both with and without arms. This was followed by a gymnastics display prior to the Ambulance and Signalling Sections giving a demonstration of their skills. Without question it was a lengthy night but both papers praised the quality of the demonstrations. The concluding items were a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*, followed by Staff Sergeant W. Miller playing the *Last Post* on the bugle and then the singing of the National Anthem.

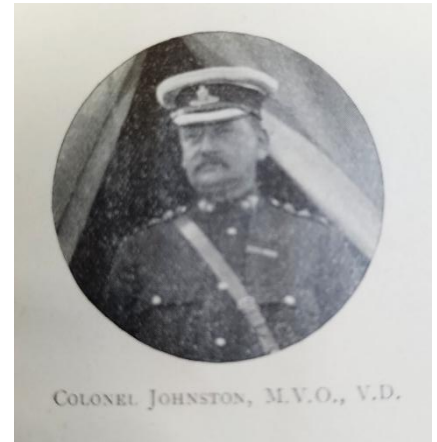
One of the striking features of both reports was the number of congratulatory telegrams and letters which were received. They came from all parts of the globe, both from past members and interested parties alike.

Little did those present know that, just over 18 months later, the playing of the *Last Post* would be sounded for a far darker purpose as the First World War claimed the lives of many of the Brigades' past members.



In its edition of Saturday, the 23rd May 1914, *The Fife Free Press* carried an advertisement, which is reproduced here, for a film being shown that evening at the Port Brae Cinema. The film covered the funeral of Sir William Smith – the founder of the Boys' Brigade, who had died on the 10th May. It is easy to forget that Smith was a Scotsman, born in Thurso in 1854. The advertisement advises that members of the 4th Company, if in full uniform, will be admitted free.

There does not seem to have been an immediate memorial service held – rather it was combined with the Annual Inspection, held on the 5th June, and the Annual Church Parade, which was held two days later, with both reported on in subsequent issues of the *Fife Free Press*. In terms of the Annual Inspection, it was held in the grounds of Balsusney Park and, once again, Colonel Johnston, was the inspecting officer. The Company strength that evening numbered 250. Badges, for both three and six years service, were pinned on the recipients by Mrs Robert Stocks (sister-in-law of Captain Stocks) and Mrs and Miss Johnston (the Colonel was unmarried, so, we suspect that this could be his sister-in-law and niece, although, one could well be his unmarried sister who resided with him acting as housekeeper.). Doubtless, many of these lads would/could have been involved in the Great War which broke out in the August. Little did they know that the town's War Memorial would, in time, be erected on the very ground they were standing on. We note that the then owner of Balsusney House and Park, Mr Maxton, was present at the inspection.



COLONEL JOHNSTON, M.V.O., V.D.

Turning to the church parade the report (13th June 1914) spoke of 250 boys and officers marching from Victoria Halls to St. Brycedale Church led by the brass and bugle bands. The service was taken by the Company Chaplain – the Reverend W. Todd M.A. – who spoke at some length on the work and life of Sir William. Certainly, memorial services were held closer to the date of death by at least the Markinch and Leven Companies with mentions being made in the *Fife Free Press* of the 23rd May.

The *Fife Free Press* of the 6th June also carried a report on drill excellence which had been displayed in a competition held in Dunfermline on the 31st May. It is included as it is, very possibly, the last competition to take place prior to the outbreak of the War. The competition was for a shield presented by a Major Wallace. Nine teams had entered but only 7 took part. The results were as follows, with the maximum possible score being 100.

- 4th (Kirkcaldy) Company - Number 1 90
- 4th (Kirkcaldy) Company - Number 3 89
- 1st Leven Boys' Brigade 88
- 4th (Kirkcaldy) Company - Number 2 87

- 1st Dunfermline Company 83
- 4th Dunfermline Company 80
- 2nd Dunfermline Company 76

The winning company was that drilled by Captain Stocks, with Lieutenant P.K. Livingstone's team only 1 point behind. It was a Colonel Storrar along with Major Wallace who carried out the judging.

Immediately the War broke out, Captain Stocks offered his services. He was accepted and, in time, rose to be a Major in the 15th Battalion of the Royal Scots. While on leave in 1915, he was present at the Company Inspection on the 27th May, again in Balsusney Park. Lieutenant P.K. Livingstone was in command that day. The Inspecting Officer was Captain Peter Herd, accompanied by Captain Stocks. This was the last Company Inspection at which Harris Stocks was present. While researching this particular item, in the hope of a photograph, we stumbled on an item from the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the 8th May 1915. It gave a list of former members of the 4th (Kirkcaldy) Company of the Boys' Brigade who were currently serving with the forces. It is simply too lengthy to include here but, as a mark of respect,

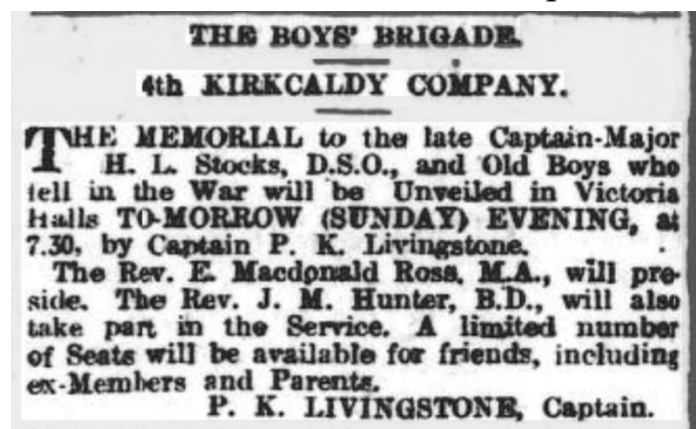


**Kirkcaldy Boys' Brigade
Roll of Honour.**

will be included at the conclusion of the narrative. As always, when researching this period, it is difficult to comprehend the

slaughter of Kirkcaldy men being reported week after week. It is hard enough looking at the casualties from a current viewpoint – what it must have been like at the time is almost unimaginable!

On the 1st July 1916, during the great offensive on the Somme, Captain Stocks was mortally wounded. The first reports suggested that he had been wounded, but it was only in February 1917 that the War Office declared that he was “presumed lost in action”. That same month a Memorial Service was held in St. Brycedale Church with over 1,400 attending. The service was held on Sunday the 18th February and was the subject of a report in the *Fife Free Press* of the 24th February. Having been posted missing for 8 months it seems a tad incongruous that the edition, which confirmed his death, also



DESIRABLE RESIDENCE FOR SALE, by Private Bargain, No. 16 Townsend Crescent, recently occupied by Major Harris L. Stocks, containing 3 Public Rooms, 5 Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom, W.C.'s, Washing-House, etc.; also Conservatory. Rental £80; entry Whitsunday. Apply to Messrs Beveridge & Aitken, Solicitors.

carried an advertisement for the sale of his house – surely a little decorum could have been shown by the sellers. The property known as *St. Katherine's* at 16 Townend Crescent had 3 public rooms, 5 bedrooms, kitchen,

bathrooms, a washhouse and a conservatory.

The edition of the 17th February carried an extensive obituary which confirmed that the 4th Kirkcaldy Company was the second largest in the whole of Britain. The newspaper also broke the news of **the magnificent bequest left by Major Stocks – the Victoria Halls and £25,000 had been bequeathed to the 4th (Kirkcaldy) Company of the Boys' Brigade.** The Will instructed that, should the Company cease to exist, then the money was to be used for the improvement, recreation and physical training of the boys of Kirkcaldy.

Turning to the Memorial Service itself we learn that the central portion of the pews were occupied by the Boys' Brigade under Lieutenant P.K. Livingstone with the back gallery populated by members of the Kirkcaldy Volunteers under Major R.C. Lockhart. It was suggested that many of his former charges in both the Boys' Brigade and the Scouts had followed their former leader into his former regiment. The team are having to reappraise the work and legacy of Major Harris L. Stocks D.S.O. and his contribution to Kirkcaldy, in particular to its youth. The final words written in the article are appropriate and fitting “He has died, as I am sure he would have preferred to die; to rest in a soldier's grave; to be numbered amongst the nation's heroes. By his demise a big gap has been left in the business, social, moral and spiritual life of Kirkcaldy, but his unselfish, generous, kind-hearted deeds towards all classes of the community will live on and never fade. Major Stocks had died that we might live; he has laid down his life for his friends. Langtonians at home and abroad honour his memory”.

THE LATE MAJOR H. L. STOCKS' D.S.O. MEMORIAL SERVICE.



Official intimation having been received of the death of Major Harris L. Stocks, D.S.O., a memorial service was held in St Brycedale Church on Sunday evening. Long before the hour of service a great crowd had assembled in front of the church. The centre area of the church was occupied by the 4th Kirkcaldy Boys' Brigade under Lieutenant Livingstone, while the back gallery was reserved for the 1st Five Volunteers under Major R. C. Lockhart.

Writing in May 1953, P.K. Livingstone notes that “each year on the 1st July, a parade of the Company is held to the War Memorial, where the chaplain

Kirkcaldy B.B. Memorial Service

About 400 officers and boys of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company Boys' Brigade, under Captain P. K. Livingstone, attended the annual service at the War Memorial on Wednesday evening in remembrance of the late Major H. L. Stocks and ex-members who fell in the two world wars.

The service, which was also attended by many members of the public, was conducted by Rev. J. L. Proudfoot in the absence of Rev. A. E. D. MacRoberts, acting chaplain of the Company.

conducts a short Service of Remembrance and a wreath is laid". This was borne out from the pages of the *Fife Free Press* of the 4th July of that year. The article mentioned that 400 boys and officers took part in the parade and wreath laying on the evening of Wednesday the 1st July. The wreath was laid by Captain Livingstone and the report mentioned that a significant number of members of the general public were also in attendance.

However, the notes in Captain Livingstone's book also mentioned that the remains of Major Harris L.

Stocks had been found in 1925, close to Bouzincourt, near the Somme. It appears that close to the body, a silver cigarette case was found – the very one which had been presented to him in 1911 by the Boy Scouts whom he had taken on the trek to Norway. "It was learned that he had been wounded three times, held on until exhausted and had then become lost in the darkness". This has created something of a mystery for the team, as a very thorough search of the newspapers and other sources, failed to uncover anything which suggested the remains had been found. It seems incongruous that this discovery could have passed without comment in the press. In 1916, on the 15th July, the *Fife Free Press* had reported that Robert Stocks had received a letter from his brother's servant indicating that the Major had been wounded three times – so, this was not something which only came to light when the body was found.

OUR STRICKEN BRAVE.

ANXIETY ABOUT MAJOR H. L. STOCKS.
Mr Robert Stocks, Osborne House, Kirkcaldy, was in receipt of a letter yesterday from the servant of his brother, Major Harris L. Stocks, Royal Scots, stating that the Major was wounded three times in an attack, and when the enemy counter-attacked he was missed in the darkness, and has not been heard of since. We are sure that the citizens of Kirkcaldy anxiously await news of the welfare of our greatly esteemed townsman, and hope, seeing he is among the missing, that he is a prisoner of war.
Major Stocks is one of the most enthusiastic military spirits in the country, and a splendid specimen of the British soldier, erect in his bearing, and the possessor of keen penetrating eyes beneath a broad forehead. For many years he was a Captain and then Adjutant of the Fife Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers. Like the late Lord Roberts—who once came to inspect his youthful soldiers, ever so many of whom have been giving a good account of themselves in the war—Major Stocks believed in training the youth of the country, and was one of the pioneers of the Boys' Brigade movement in Scotland, and since then he has had no more ardent supporter than Major Stocks. In Kirkcaldy he raised and commands the largest company, known as No. 4 Kirkcaldy Company Boys' Brigade, and in connection with it he purchased and equipped Victoria Halls as the headquarters for the company, and is the largest and best of its kind in Britain. Major Stocks' interest does not stop here, as when Major-General Baden Powell, inaugurated the Boy Scout movement he found a valuable supporter in Major Stocks, who raised a troop in Kirkcaldy, and the public know how valuable a unit it has been to the Burgh in these days of war. In business he is most attentive, and he is managing director of the Kirkcaldy and London

A diligent search was carried out around the period of the book's publication (1953) to see if this information was challenged. Again, nothing was traced and in 1953 there would be many men still alive whose memories could go back to both 1916 and 1925. We simply have to accept that the information on the body being found is correct but, for reasons unknown, did not feature in the newspapers of the time. Harris L. Stocks "For his conspicuous bravery was awarded the Distinguished Service Order", with

DSO FOR BRAVE KIRKCALDY OFFICER

In the list of rewards for distinguished service in the field appears the name of Temporary Major Harris L. Stocks, Royal Scots, a highly-esteemed Kirkcaldy officer, who has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

the award reported in the *Fife Free Press* on the 6th January 1917. This is during the month prior to him being officially presumed dead.

So ended the life of Harris L. Stocks and his 20 years service as Captain of the Company – a Company which, under his guidance, had grown from 40 boys to 260 members and we should not forget his contribution to the Boy Scouts. As previously mentioned, he had bequeathed the Victoria Halls and the sum of £25,000 to the Company - “this princely gift has through the years been used for the benefit of boys throughout the whole burgh by the adoption of the platoon system. The devotion and enthusiasm manifested in Major Stock's character, and the nobility of his gift, have been an inspiration to those who remained to further the movement throughout the town”. (P.K. Livingstone 1953)

P.K Livingstone, despite his 50 year connection with the Brigade, was never a lad who went through the ranks. In fact, he was 20 years of age when it was suggested that he become an officer and in 1905 he joined as a lieutenant. In the final page of his book he is precise in recording that, “it was on Sunday the 28th May 1905 that he made the decision to become an Officer in the Company”. He further records, that it was the Rev. P.D. Thomson M.A. who had approached him with the request. “It is a decision that I have never regretted”. At the time of the publication of *The Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy*, he had served the Company for 48 years!

It was in 1917, that the Session of St. Brycedale Church invited Livingstone to permanently assume the Captaincy of the Company. In accepting the invitation, Captain Livingstone became the third person to hold the position, following the Rev. J. N. Balfour and Major Harris L. Stocks. However, there was soon to be an upheaval in the organisation of the Brigade in Kirkcaldy. These changes were brought about by the death of Harris Stocks and the subsequent legacy contained in his Will.

The Trustees of the legacy were first appointed in June 1917 and totalled four in number. Two came from the Kirk Session of St. Brycedale and two from the officers of the Boys' Brigade. The two appointed from the Kirk Session were:-

- William Black of Chapel, Kingskettle.
- William Young, the Session Clerk of St Brycedale, who served for 30 years as a trustee.

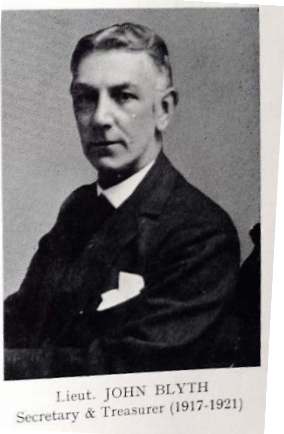
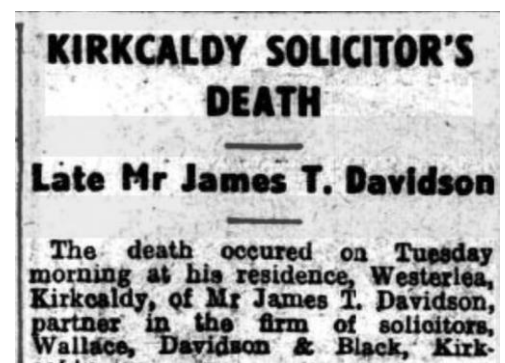
The appointees from the officers were:-

- Captain P.K.Livingston – still serving in 1953.
- R.W. Shortreed who served for 12 years.

If the names are not immediately familiar, then, William Black, was a son-in-law of Sir Michael Barker Nairn and was a director of *Michael Nairn & Co.* William Young was a partner in the firm of *David Methven & Sons.*, - better known as the *Links Pottery*. He invariably wore a flower in his button-hole and when he retired, it is said, that he travelled to Edinburgh many times each week to assist the gardeners at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Peter K. Livingston needs no introduction, but Mr Shortreed was a dentist who practised at 220 High Street for many years. He also held a surgery in Dysart on Friday nights, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, at 53 High Street. It is said that he was a quiet man but “served the Company with great enthusiasm for many years”.

Another two appointments were made – firstly, a Clerk/Treasurer to deal with the day to day running of the Trust. The first appointee was local solicitor, James T. Davidson. Davidson had been one of the first officers of the 4th Company. Mr Davidson was a longstanding and well known figure in the town and a partner in the legal firm of *Wallace, Davidson and Black* who operated from 150 High Street. He was, for many years, a major figure in the *Kirkcaldy Naturalist Society* and, as did his father before him, served for a lengthy spell as Secretary for the *Fife Society for the Blind*. He was a bachelor, dying in 1946. The firm, in the late 1970s, became *Black & Guild* operating from 38 Hunter Street.



The 4th Company also realised they would require a Secretary and Lieutenant John Blyth filled the position between 1917 and 1921. In his daytime employment he had been an assistant to Harris Stocks in the shipping business and, when *Coast Lines* took over the business, Blyth was the manager for a spell. It seems that Blyth put in many hours of work for what was termed a “ridiculous honorarium”. It seems that Blyth and his successors were responsible for dealing with; the receipt of the large sums from the Trust,

collecting subscriptions, collecting payments from the use of the billiard and table tennis equipment, had responsibility for the fabric of the building, the furniture within and even the band instruments. If that was not enough the engagement of the hall-keeper and instructors landed in their laps. In 1919, the initial investment of the legacy, saw the £25,000 placed in 3% War Bonds which would give an income of £750 per annum – a sizeable sum for the time.

The semi-jubilee of the Company fell in February 1918 but a search failed to any suggestion of a celebration. The only mention of the Brigade that month was a report that Private Thomas Buchanan, of Rosebank, Victoria Road, Kirkcaldy, had been presumed dead. He has been missing since the 23rd April 1917. He had been with a Lewis Machine Gun Section with the Royal Scots when he was reported missing. The young man was 26 when he died and, prior to the war, had been a clerk with the *Forth & Clyde Roperie Coy*. Living in Victoria Road it is perhaps no surprise that he was in the 4th Company, rising to the rank of sergeant before retiring. It seems that for many years his father, Andrew, was the caretaker at the People's Club & Institute in Glasswork Street. Presumably, at some point, before moving to Victoria Road, they would live on the top floor of the Institute.

It was the following year (1919) when “the officers, after long and careful consideration, decided to extend the Company throughout the town by establishing platoons in four districts”. The following Platoons were set up to form the 4th Company.

Platoon	Officer in Charge
No.1 Headquarters (Victoria Halls)	Lieut. John Blyth
No.2 Links	Lieut. A.B. Saunders
No.3 Pathhead	Lieut. Harry Gibson
No.4 Gallatown	Lieut. John Beck

In 1920, the officers agreed to a fifth Platoon being formed. It was connected with Abbotshall Church and Lieut. John Blyth was appointed Officer in Charge.

“This system of Platoons was a new departure. By adopting it, with the consent of the Kirk Session of St. Brycedale Church, the officers believed

they were doing all they could to help the boyhood of Kirkcaldy and bring as many boys as possible under the banner of the Boys' Brigade". (P.K. Livingstone 1953). It is also a fact that many more boys could benefit from the Stock's legacy than hitherto as the monies were left solely for the benefit of the 4th Company.

At this stage, Livingstone also mentioned that Mrs Robert Stocks had indicated her intention to present Company colours and "that this kind gesture was greatly appreciated and two beautiful flags were received from her the following year". The item gave no further information, so some more research was carried out and an article was found in the *Fife Free Press* of the 24th July 1920. Mrs Stocks had indeed provided the colours and they were presented on the 18th July in camp near Ladybank. We can only presume this is Jeaniestown. The flags, after having been dedicated by the Rev. J.N. Hunter, were presented to Lieutenants Blyth and Gibson, who received them in a kneeling position. "A short reference was made to the incalculable debt which the boys of Kirkcaldy owed to the late Captain, and to their duty to his memory. The colours were then received by the general salute and the whole ceremony was completed by a march past. A fair number of visitors were present and the whole proceedings were marked with reverence and careful precision which will undoubtedly make this unique occasion memorable to all". Irritatingly, we failed to find a photograph of the event or the colours being presented.

BOYS' BRIGADE—DEDICATION OF COLOURS.—
The 4th (Kirkcaldy) Coy. of the Boys's Brigade owes much to the members of the Stocks family, and on Sunday last they received a further gift, which is a valued treasure, Mrs Stocks, of Osborne House, presenting the company with colours. The ceremony took place in camp near Ladybank, last Sunday, and the colours were dedicated by the Rev. J. M. Hunter, one of the officers of the company. The formal ceremony was very carefully gone through, Mrs Stocks receiving the colours, after dedication, from Captain Livingstone, and thereafter presenting them to Lieutenants Blyth and Gibson, who received them kneeling.

The final reference to the Great War in Livingstone's book relates to a memorial tablet which was unveiled in the Victoria Halls in 1921. The

memorial was unveiled by Captain Livingstone and the wording of the tablet was reproduced on page 19. However, we wanted to look a little deeper into the ceremony and the first stopping point was the *Fife Free Press* of the 12th February, where we reproduce the advert for the event to be held the following day.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.
4th KIRKCALDY COMPANY.

THE MEMORIAL to the late Captain-Major H. L. Stocks, D.S.O., and Old Boys who fell in the War will be Unveiled in Victoria Halls **TO-MORROW (SUNDAY) EVENING**, at 7.30, by Captain P. K. Livingstone.

The Rev. E. Macdonald Ross, M.A., will preside. The Rev. J. M. Hunter, B.D., will also take part in the Service. A limited number of Seats will be available for friends, including ex-Members and Parents.

P. K. LIVINGSTONE, Captain.

The service itself was carried out by the Rev. E. Macdonald Ross, the Chaplain to the Company. He was assisted by the Reverend J.N. Hunter, who was mentioned earlier, and it transpires was also a lieutenant in the Company. Captain Livingstone read out the words on the tablet and the names of 69 former members of the Company who had fallen. It was believed that there were far more, but the 69 most definitely made the supreme sacrifice. After the unveiling, a group of Brigade buglers played *The Last Post*. The service concluded with the singing of *Nearer my God to Thee*. The congregation then filed past the brass memorial as the Brigade Band played *Silent is the night*.

**MEMORIAL TO MAJOR STOCKS,
D.S.O.**

IMPRESSIVE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

An impressive memorial dedication service for the late Major H. L. Stocks and the old boys of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Boys' Brigade who fell in the great war, was conducted in the Victoria Halls on Sunday evening.

The Rev. E. Macdonald Ross, M.A., chaplain of the Company, conducted the service, and was assisted by the Rev. J. M. Hunter, B.D., who is a lieutenant of the Company. The Rev. Mr Hunter read the Scripture lessons, which was taken from 2nd Samuel, chapter 1, verses 17, 19, 23, 27, and Revelations, chapter 14, and verse 13, and offered the dedicatory prayer.

*To the Glory of God
And in proud and grateful memory of
Harris Lawrence Stocks, D.S.O.
Major, 15th Battalion, The Royal Scots, Captain
4th Kirkcaldy Coy., The Boys' Brigade, And the
Old Members of this Company who fell in the
Great War, 1914-1919.*

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

In the course of the proceedings Mrs Oswald presented to Lance-Corporal Edward Graham a diploma from the B.B. Executive for gallant conduct, together with a gold watch from the officers and staff-sergts. The details of the incident which merited these awards are as follows:—"On Friday evening, 3rd June, 1921, about 7.30, two boys were bathing off a large pipe which runs into the sea in Kirkcaldy Bay. One of the boys got beyond his depth, and his companion went to his rescue. Neither of them could swim, and through fear they started to struggle fiercely with one another. Private Graham, without divesting himself of any clothes, swam out, and gripping the first boy by the neck, brought him in safely. By this time the boy's companion had gone under, but Private Graham again entered the water, and noticing him come to the surface he caught him and brought him in close to the pipe, when he was pulled into safety."

In 1922 *The Boys' Brigade Diploma for Gallant Service* was awarded to Lance-Corporal Edward Graham for saving the lives of two boys who had been bathing on the beach. This called for a little more research and the *Fife Free Press* of the 27th May 1922 added a little detail. The action appears to have taken place of the 3rd of June the previous year. It was Mrs Oswald who presented the diploma, but the hero was also presented with a gold watch from

the Officers and Staff-Sergeants of the Brigade. The rescued lads had been bathing off a large pipe which ran into the sea when one of them got out of his depth – his companion went to his rescue, although neither could swim,

and “through fear they started to struggle with each other”. Edward, without removing his clothes, swam out and grabbed one by the neck and pulled him to safety. By this time, the second boy was disappearing under the waves but, thankfully, Edward swam out once more and managed to bring him to safety. We were unable to glean anything more about Edward and where he lived. We wonder if the watch still exists?

In 1924 another platoon came into existence – this time connected to Dunnikier Church and became No. 6. The Rector of the High School – Mr J.D. Rose - was appointed Officer-in-Charge. He certainly did not have far to go as he lived directly across the road from the Church. For nothing more than interest, an advert is reproduced from the *Fife Free Press* of the 4th October 1924 showing enrolment details for the 6 Platoons for the coming winter session.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

4th KIRKCALDY COMPANY.

ENROLMENT FORMS will be issued next week at the following Halls:—

No. 1 Platoon (Headquarters), Victoria Halls, TUESDAY and THURSDAY, 7.30—8.30.

No. 2 Platoon (Links), Philp Memorial Hall, THURSDAY, 7—8.30.

No. 3 Platoon (Pathhead), Victoria Halls, TUESDAY and THURSDAY, 7.30—8.30.

No. 4 Platoon (Gallatown), Gallatown U.F. Church Hall, THURSDAY, 7.30—8.30.

No. 5 Platoon (Abbotshall), Abbotshall Parish Church Hall, THURSDAY and FRIDAY, 7.30—8.30.

No. 6 Platoon (Dunnikier), Dunnikier U.F. Church Hall, THURSDAY, 7.30—8.30.

Reserves—Victoria Halls, THURSDAY, 7.30—8.30.

Prizes for Session 1923-24 will be distributed at the various Halls in the week commencing 13th October.

P. K. LIVINGSTONE, Captain.

Hot on the heels of No.6, in 1925, came the formation of No.7 (St. John's) Platoon, which was connected with St. John's Church. This Platoon was formed by the brothers Charles and Adam Pow. Adam appears to have lived at 73 Harcourt Road as his name features in the *Fife Free Press* on the 6th April 1929. Under a small headline “Unclaimed Money Returned” it seems that Adam had shown his honesty by handing in a £1 which he had found to the police station. After the statutory period had passed, the money was returned to the finder. In truth, several individuals benefited from their honesty with sums ranging from 10 shillings to £3 being returned to them. Who remembers the ten bob note?

OLD BOYS' CLUB.—A reunion of ex-members of the 4th Kirkoaldy Company Boys' Brigade was held on Friday last in Victoria Hall. After an enjoyable tea, Lieut. D. Pearson addressed the gathering, and informed them that the meeting was called for the purpose of forming an Old Boys' Club. The late Major Stocks had this purpose in view before he met his untimely death in France, and the officers of the Company were acting according to his wishes by endeavouring to form this Club.

An Old Boy's Club was formed which had been an idea first suggested by Captain Stocks. It was in the *Fife Free Press* of the 12th March 1927 when the idea started to gain traction. The theory was that it was seen as a great pity that when boys reached the age limit (17) they had to retire from the Brigade. It was felt that the

proposed club would give former members a social meeting place although

it was also suggested that, without the structure of the brigade, – some “might become careless and fall into questionable company”. The idea was taken forward and the premises at 74 High Street were opened as a club by Captain Livingstone on the 5th August. The club rooms had billiard tables, a card room, a shooting range, table tennis facilities and a reading-room. Before long the club had arranged; cross country runs, formed a football team and carried on a literary society. At the 1st Annual General Meeting the membership stood at 114.

The *Fife Free Press* tells us of the club being on the move in its edition of the 3rd March 1934. It appears that the Will of Harris Stocks had made provision for the setting up of an ex-member's club and the property at Frankfield, Carlyle Road, was purchased by the Trust. The article mentioned that “alterations were under way and it would be one of the best clubs in the country.” It certainly has to have been a success as it was open from 10.30am until 10.00pm and had its own caretaker. The Club was opened by The Earl of Home, Sir Alex Douglas Home – who went on to become Prime Minister for a short spell. He was the same man who, almost 20 years later, opened the first phase of the current Town House. The Second World War caused issues with forming a committee and the club appears to have done no more than limp along. A sign of the end was found in the *Fife Free Press* of the 12th April 1947 in an advertisement offering 3 full size billiard tables for sale. The advert was placed by an iconic figure in the Brigade – Wallace Malloch – who was living, at the time, at 86 Sutherland Street.

Opening of New Premises

TO-DAY'S CEREMONY.

Visitors and members alike are sure to be greatly impressed by the dignity and comfort of the new club rooms which have been acquired by Major Stocks' Old Boys' Club, and which will be officially opened this afternoon by the Right Hon. The Earl of Home, K.T.

The property of Frankfield, Carlyle Road, was recently purchased by the Club, and during the past week or two the interior of the premises has been completely transformed, the members being determined to have everything in excellent order for the reception of visitors.

BOYS' BRIGADE NOTES.

Col.-Sergt. Arthur Lawrence, 4th Kirkcaldy Company Boys' Brigade, was present as representing the Company at the unveiling of the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh on Thursday.

The 14th July 1927 must have been a very proud day for Colour-Sergeant Arthur Lawrence. As the *Fife Free Press* of the 16th July reports, Arthur had been chosen to represent the Company at the unveiling of the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh.

Having chanced on the above snippet, advantage was taken of the next few paragraphs which was providing details of the summer camp which was

commencing on the same day – the 16th July. It was the normal practice for these camps to take place during the Kirkcaldy Trades Holidays. The item is reproduced to give a glimpse of camp life 100 years ago. Captain Livingstone was in charge and the advance party had set off on the Thursday afternoon. The main group were to muster at the station at 2.00pm when, at 2.40pm, a special train would carry 250 boys to Blairadam – the closest station to the camp at East on the shores of Loch Leven. The camp would last a week with the Company returning on the 23rd.

An attractive programme has been arranged for daily.
 On Monday afternoon the five-a-side football tournament takes place.
 The first heats of the 100 yards sprint will be run on Tuesday.
 Wednesday will be visitors' day. The L.N.E.R. Company are arranging a special train from Kirkcaldy, leaving at 10.40 a.m., and Sinclairtown at 10.46, returning from Blairadam at 6.45 p.m. It is hoped that parents and friends will take advantage of the special facilities.
 On this date the staff race, tug-of-war competition, visitors' races, and fancy dress football match will take place.
 Thursday will see decided the finals in the 100 yards sprint the 220 yards, quarter mile race, one mile race, relay race, boot race, high jump, long jump, throwing cricket ball, and the pillow fight.
 Camp inspection will take place on Friday, when the inspecting officer will be Major George J. Lumsden, of Tarvit. Lt. R. H. Robertson, of the 6-7th Black Watch (R.H.), will be judge of the drill competition. On Friday evening the prizes will be presented.

Some details were given of the highlights of the programme:-

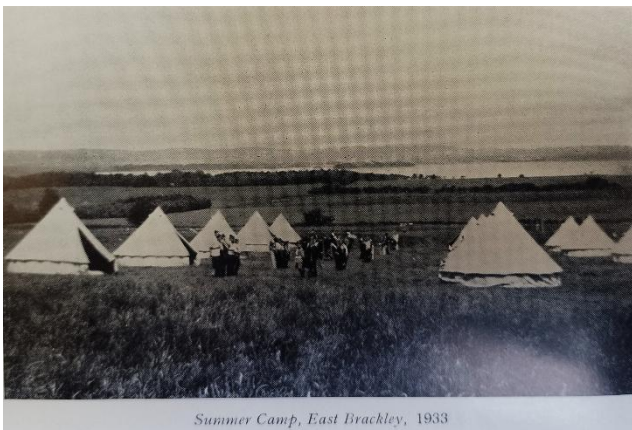
Monday – 5 a side football

Tuesday– 100 yards sprint heats.

Wednesday - This was visitors' day. A special train bringing parents and friends was leaving Kirkcaldy station at 10.40am returning at 6.45pm. The activities would include; staff races, tug-of-war, visitor's races and a fancy dress football match.

Thursday – Saw the finals of the two sprints - 100 yards and 220 yards. The quarter mile race and the full mile race, plus the relay race, were all also competed for. Over and above, there was a boot race, the high jump, the long jump, throwing the cricket ball and a pillow fight.

Friday was Camp Inspection day and Major George J. Lumsden of Tarvit was scheduled to be the Inspecting Officer. The drill competition was to be judged by Lieutenant R.H. Robertson of the 6/7th Black Watch.



Summer Camp, East Brackley, 1933

While it may seem old hat in 2025, for many boys of the time this was their only opportunity for a holiday and clearly, with the transport of the time, logistics would not be easy. East Brackley farm was used as a camp in; 1925/1927, 1930/1932 and finally in 1933. Captain Livingstone, in his book, mentions that “on the fourth occasion

of the camp at East Brackley, the Company presented the proprietor, Mr William Tod, with a silver salver and coffee service. Mr Tod had shown great kindness and had eased many of the difficulties connected with camping”. By great good fortune the book contains a photograph of that final camp in 1933 and it is included above.

The year 1928 saw the formation of yet another platoon – this time No.8 Platoon (Kirkcaldy Old) in connection with the Auld Kirk. At this stage Captain Livingstone paused to provide a recap of the Platoons and Officers-in-Charge in 1929. They were as follows -

No.1 Headquarters Platoon	Lieutenant James Clark
No.2 Links Platoon	“ A.B. Saunders
No.3 Pathhead Platoon	“ Harry Gibson
No.4 Gallatown Platoon	“ George Duncan
No.5 Abbotshall Platoon	“ John Blyth
No.6 Dunnikier Platoon	“ J.D. Rose M.A.
No.7 St. John's Platoon	“ Adam Pow
No.8 Kirkcaldy Old Platoon	“ Peter Herd
Signallers' Section	“ Alexander Thomson
Brass and Pipe Bands	“ David Pearson
Bugle Band	“ Walter Millar.

Pipe-Major John Falconer was the instructor to the Pipe Band.

The Fife Free Press of Saturday, the 19th July 1930, carried the story of heroism displayed by Boys' Brigade member William Cunningham, who was 13 and resided at 7 Nelson Street. A younger boy, William Wyles, aged 8, from 275 High Street, had been playing around the harbour when he fell into the water which was 12 feet deep at that point. The only person near was William Cunningham who, fully clothed, dived in and rescued the youngster. The witnesses who were a distance away maintained that, had it not been for Cunningham's action, Master Wyles would have perished. We were delighted to find a photograph of William Cunningham in Captain Livingstone's book – and it is only right that it is reproduced here. *The Fife Free Press* of the 1st November was able to report that William had been awarded the **Boys'**



Private WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM
Awarded B.B. Cross for Heroism

Brigade Cross for Heroism. This later report indicated that William had learnt to swim in the Brigade and the child had gone under before William reached him. The rescue was hampered by seaweed and both lads were said to be “much exhausted”.

An astonishing item was carried in the *Fife Free Press* of the 14th March 1931 and related to the children of James Greig, who lived at 13 Den Road. It transpired that seven of his boys were, or had been, connected with the



The Five Brothers Greig
TOM, HENRY, JAMES, ROBERT, CHARLES

Boys' Brigade. Two, who were now married, had left the brigade, but the eldest James had 15 years service – 13 with the B.B. and 2 with the Life Boys. He was both a Lieutenant and a member of the Silver Band. Thomas and Charles were twins and both were Staff-Sergeants with 11 years service - 9 years with the B.B., following 2 years with the Life Boys. Thomas was in the Bugle Band and his twin was a member of the Silver Band.

Henry had one year's service with the Brigade itself, following 2 years with the Life Boys. Henry was a member of the Silver Band. The youngest, Robert, had only been with the Life Boys for a year but he too was in the Silver Band. David and Alexander were the two who had served with the No.1 Platoon but had retired. The article was asking if this was a record and Captain Livingstone added in his 1953 book that the twins both eventually became lieutenants. The above photograph is from Captain Livingstone's book.

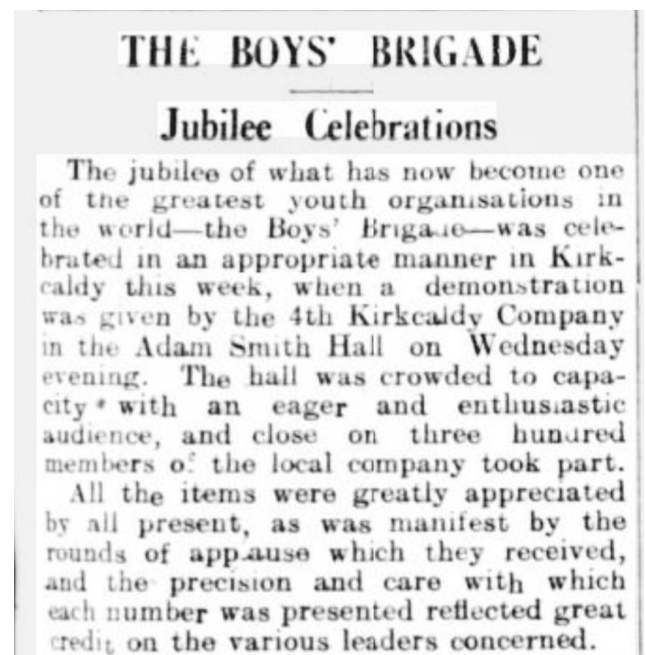
The year 1933 saw the Jubilee of the Boys' Brigade movement and the 40th anniversary of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company. To celebrate these milestones a demonstration was held in The Adam Smith Halls on Wednesday the 22nd February 1933. Captain Livingstone records the part played by each platoon in the entertainment which was as follows:-

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| • Barbells | No.1 Platoon |
| • Figure Marching | No.2 Platoon |
| • Swedish Drill | No.3 Platoon |
| • Mock Drill | No.4 Platoon |
| • Gymnastics | No.5 Platoon |

- Remembrance No.6 Platoon
 - Squad Drill No.7 Platoon
 - Indian Clubs No.8 Platoon
-
- Semaphore and Morse by the Signalling Section
 - An Ambulance Display
 - Items by the Brass, Pipe and Bugle Bands
 - Choral singing by the Old Boys' Club

One of the hopes for this story is that readers might recognise names from the past and so the *Fife Free Press* of the 25th February was scanned to add some more colour and names. The event opened before a capacity audience with over 300 boys taking part. The first item was the Pipe Band playing a selection of tunes under Lieutenant H. Kirk. The No. 1 Platoon were under the direction of Lieutenant Wm Gibson and Staff-Sergeant H. McCathie. The Links Platoon was under the direction of Lieutenant A.B. Saunders with the highlight being the singing by 52 boys of

The Anchor Song. The No.3 Platoon was led by Lieutenant H. Gibson and Staff-Sergeant Mulberron. No.4 Platoon's spot also featured "tumbling clowns" which was a well received humorous item. The gymnastics by No.5 Platoon were led by Lieutenant John Blyth and Staff-sergeant Hunter. One of the highlights was the efforts of No.6 Platoon, under Lieutenant J.D. Rose and Staff-Sergeant Bogie, which was in four parts -*The Early Days of the Brigade – The Country's Call- Remembering the Fallen and finally, the Brigade Today*. The drill routine was another highlight with the end seeing the participants form into the shape of an anchor, with one lad singing *The Brigade Boy*. This was choreographed by Lieutenant C.B. Pow. For some reason we could trace no mention of No.8 Platoon in the article. The Ambulance Section gave a display based around an accident in the street featuring stretchers and bandages with Lieutenant Ben Johnstone in command. The Signal Section features displays in semaphore and morse code supervised by Lieutenants James Chapman and Alex Thomson. The *Harris L. Stock's Old Boys Club* were in on the act with two songs -



“Comrades” and “On the Ramparts.” The various bands were said to perform admirably with the Brass Band, in particular, both playing their own selections as well as accompanying the songs and the drills”. The band was under the direction of Lieutenant David Pearson who served as Bandmaster from 1908-1937. We can only assume the members of No.8 Platoon were less than pleased to discover they were omitted

The inspection of that year was held in the Beveridge Park and was a parade of all ranks. The Inspecting Officer was Lieut.-Colonel J.D. Mitchell, D.S.O. Astonishingly, there were 419 members of the Boys' Brigade on parade supplemented by 387 Life Boys. This statistic alone shows the importance of the Brigade in Kirkcaldy. It simply can not be over estimated. During the inspection the first presentations of the King's Badge, to members of the Kirkcaldy Company, was made. The badge is the highest award that can be made to a member of the Boys' Brigade. These badges were awarded to:-

- Colour Sergeant Tom Ingram No. 1 Platoon
- Sergeant Alexander Smith No.1 Platoon
- Sergeant Alexander Cook No.7 Platoon
- Sergeant Robert Young No.7 Platoon

We wonder if any of these medals are still in relatives hands?

The same year saw two huge gatherings which were the centrepieces of the celebrations of the Boys' Brigade Jubilee. On the 9th September 1933, 30,000 members attended a Review at the *Queen's Park Recreation Ground* in Glasgow in front of Prince George – who in time became George VI. The Kirkcaldy Company was represented by 220 officers and Boys led by Captain Livingstone. The following day a Conventicle was held inside *Hampden Park* itself with 100,000 members present.

Finally, there was a Jubilee Camp which took place at Dechmont and was attended by boys from all over Britain and from places as far apart as Singapore and Canada. The representatives from the 4th Company were:-

- Sergeant A. Smith No.1 Platoon
- Corporal J. Halkerston No.2 Platoon
- Lance Corporal J Muirhead* No.3 Platoon
- Sergeant A. Bain No.4 Platoon

- Sergeant G. McKay No.5 Platoon
- Sergeant D. Thomson No.6 Platoon
- Sergeant A. Cook No.7 Platoon
- Sergeant D Whyte No 8 Platoon
- Private J. Shields Pipe Band



*Astonishing is hardly an adequate description, but a descendant of the above handed the team a souvenir supplement relating to the Jubilee, taken from the *Daily Record* of the 11st September . It featured the song sheet used at the previous day's service. I wonder how many more have survived the 91 years since? Absolutely extraordinary.

In 1935 The Boys' Brigade marked the Royal Silver Jubilee by sending a message to the King (George V)

KIRKCALDY ARRANGEMENTS.
Preparations are completed in Kirkcaldy for passing the message through to Kinghorn, when it arrives at Gallatown Bus Stance at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday. At this point the 4th Kirkcaldy Company's bearer, with escorts, takes over the message, and brings it to the Port Brae, arriving there at 4.35 p.m. An interesting ceremony will then take place. The message will be handed over to another bearer (with two escorts) of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company; the message will be read by Provost Wilson; the bearer (as well as the bearer who took over the message at Gallatown) will be presented with an engraved fountain pen as a memento of the occasion; and, after the National Anthem has been sung, and three cheers given, the bearer, with his escorts, will set off on the run to Kinghorn, being timed to arrive there at

from John o' Groats to Buckingham Palace. It was being carried by members of the Brigade running in relays. When the message reached Kirkcaldy – it was reported that 2,000 people were assembled at the Port Brae, including Lord Elgin, Provost James Wilson and other members of the Town Council to witness the spectacle. The *Fife Free Press* of Saturday 20th April gave the route and timings for Fife. Captain Carnegie, of the 1st Markinch Company, had been appointed Section Officer for Fife. We are certain he worked for the *Markinch Printing Company*. Anyway, the timetable was:-

- Leaving Kettlebridge at 2.30pm – arriving Markinch High Street 3.00pm.
- Leaving Markinch at 3.05pm and arrive at Thornton Town Hall at 3.35pm.
- Leave Thornton at 3.40pm and arrive at Gallatown bus stance at 4.15pm
- Leave Gallatown at 4.20pm and arrive at the Port Brae at 4.35pm *
- Leave the Port Brae at 4.40pm and arrive in Kinghorn at 5.00pm+

These were the anticipated timings but whether they were kept to is another question. *The runners from the 4th Kirkcaldy Company, for this leg, were

– Standard Carrier – Lance-Corporal E. Clark – No.7, with the escorts being Sergeant J Birrell of No.4 and Private D. McDermid of No.6.

+The second leg to Kinghorn saw the standard being carried by Sergeant Edward Speed of No.5 and his escorts were Corporal J. Barn of No.1 and Corporal T. Fleming of the Pipe Band.

The actual day of the Jubilee was the 6th May 1935, however, the King died on the 20th January the following year.



LIEUT. DAVID PEARSON
Bandmaster (1908-1937)

Two notable Brigade figures died in the 1930s decade. The man responsible more than any other for the formation of the three bands, David Pearson, died in 1937. He had been bandmaster from 1908 until 1937 and had established the bugle, brass and pipe bands. He died at his home at 8 William Street, aged only 60, and he had been a Letterpress Operator with the *Allan Lithographic Company*. Only 4 years earlier, his brother, Alexander K. Pearson, had died and was buried at sea. Alexander had assisted his brother with the band for many years and was an excellent musician in his own right. He lived at 19 Regents Terrace

in Balfour Street. Alexander had latterly worked abroad in a jute mill in Bengal. He was coming home on leave when he had a seizure onboard the ship, believed to have been brought about by the heat, and passed away in minutes. Three of his sisters presented the Company with a Silver Cup, in his memory, to be awarded annually to the winner of a billiards competition.

Before leaving the decade, the 1935 inspection was noteworthy as the Inspecting Officer was the Rev. J. N. Balfour - the founder of the Company 42 years earlier. As mentioned previously, his sister had married Harris L Stocks. It seems only right and proper to include a photograph of the inspection taken from – *The Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy*. The Reverend Balfour died in January 1946,



Rev. J. N. Balfour, M.A., (founder of the Company) inspecting the Company, 1935

53 years after he had formed the 4th Company!

The Second World War had begun when, in June 1940, three further King's Badges were awarded to members of the Company. The award ceremony took place at the Annual Church Parade to St. Brycedale and were awarded to:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| • Sergeant Andrew Kirk | The Pipe Band |
| • Corporal James McMahan | No.5 Platoon |
| • Lance-Corporal William Fisher | No.5 Platoon |

Not unnaturally, many former member and officers were absent on military duty during the years 1939-1945.

What is believed to be a unique record was established in 1942 when, three

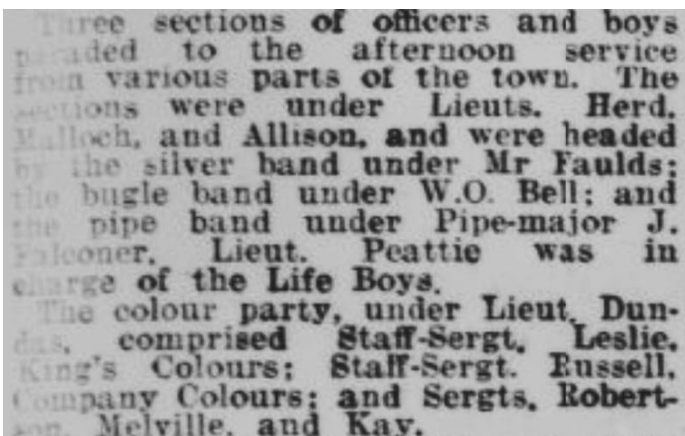


members of the same family became the proud possessors of the King's Badge. They were Andrew Foote (19) and his twin brothers Thomas and John (17). A photograph of the three boys, taken from Captain Livingstone's book, is reproduced here. Sadly, Andrew Foote lost his life in a flying accident on the 30th March 1944, when all the members of the aircrew perished. Andrew had been awarded his badge in July 1941 and was reported on by the *Fife Free Press* in their 5th July edition.

The award was made, by Captain Livingstone, during a Gallatown Boys' Brigade Parade. A little research, in the *Fife Free Press* of the 8th April 1944, gave us more details of the young man who had lived with his parents at 219 Overton Road. He had joined the Brigade, aged 13, and when he left the ranks he became an officer, holding the rank of Staff-Sergeant. When the *Air Training Corps* was formed he became an enthusiastic member for 18 months, at which point, he then joined the R.A.F. He carried out his training in Canada. He was buried in Abbotshall Cemetery and we learn that 80 boys and officers of the Brigade marched before the coffin and 10 members of the A.T.C. acted as pall-bearers. In civilian life, Andrew was employed by Michael Nairn & Co. We were pleased to note that, in March 1946, the *In Memoriam* pages of the *Fife Free Press* showed that Thomas and John had

survived the conflict. Thomas had also been serving with the R.A.F. at the time of his brother's death. The photograph was in fact published in the *Fife Free Press* on the 30th May 1942 but only making mention of the award of the King's Badge with no details of where and when the twins received their badges. However, it was noted that Tom Foote was still involved with No. 4 Gallatown Platoon in March 1953, serving as a Lieutenant, before securing the position of Officer-Commanding No.12 Platoon. The memorial in the Victoria Halls to those who had fallen in the Second World War was unveiled by the boy's mother – Mrs Foote.

The year 1943 saw the 60th anniversary of the movement and the jubilee of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company. Although the war had a dampening effect, the anniversary was still celebrated – even if in a more modest way. The event had the highlight of the Company Founder, the Rev. J.N. Balfour, being present and he was in the pulpit for part of the afternoon service. There were a number of services in St. Brycedale during the day to mark the event with the Company Chaplain, the Rev. E. Macdonald Ross, playing a major part. In fact, Ross played a major part in the Company from 1920 until 1953 - an astonishing effort. The Silver Band were in action at the services playing amongst other pieces– Nimrod, Andante and the Trumpet Voluntary.



A feature of the day was when the Company paraded in three sections from different parts of the town to St. Brycedale Church. The sections were under the command of Lieutenants Herd, Malloch and Allison. The first section were led by the Silver Band under John Faulds. The second was led by the Bugle Band under Warrant-

Officer G. Bell and Allison's section had the Pipe Band at their head under Pipe-Major John Falconer. The Life Boys were also in attendance under Lieutenant James Petrie. There was also a Colour Party present, under the command of Lieut. Dundas, which comprised of Staff-Sergeant Leslie carrying the King's Colours and Staff-Sergeant Russell carrying the Company Colours. The party was completed by Sergeants Robertson, Melville and Kay.

The numbers involved were 313 officers and boys, plus 278 Life Boys – a total of 591! A march past had been organised outside the church and the salute was taken by the Reverend Balfour. It was reported in the *Fife Free Press* of the 20th February that a large crowd had gathered to witness the spectacle of the parade and that the church itself was well filled.

A dinner was held later in the day at the Old Boy's Club, attended by the officers, trustees and friends. The speakers, who gave short addresses, were the Rev. E. Macdonald Ross, the Rev. J. N. Balfour and Captain Livingstone.

In that Jubilee Year of 1943, it was a former officer of the Company – Rev. James Cosh of St George's Church, Dundee, who carried out the inspection – this time at Stark's Park. It appears that the Rev. Cosh had joined the Company at the very same time as Captain Livingstone.

In 1946, another Platoon was formed at Hayfield becoming No. 9 with Tom Steedman in command. This was the first Platoon to be serving a new housing scheme.

Three years later, in 1949, thanks to the efforts of the Rev. T. M. Paterson, No. 10 Platoon came into existence, connected to Sinclairtown Church with Lieutenant William Mitchell in command.

After the end of the Second World War, summer camps were restored but, due to a shortage of camping material, they were housed in Crieff Secondary School from 1946 until 1949. It was not until 1950 that 'camping' returned, with Mossilee Farm near Galashiels being the site for three consecutive years. The logistics must once again have required detailed planning as:-

- In 1950 342 officers and boys attended
- In 1951 339 officers and boys attended
- In 1952 337 officers and boys attended

These are further evidence of just how important the Brigade was to the youth of the town.

In 1950, No.11 Platoon was established with a connection to West End Congregational Church. Lieutenant George Eric Greenaway, the Manager

of the Links Branch of the TSB, was in command. He had had a firm grounding with No.6 Platoon under J. D. Rose and was well equipped for his venture into command. He was also Convenor of the Finance Committee for many years.

The year 1951 saw the Festival of Britain being held in the summer. It was held on the centenary of the *Great Exhibition* of 1851 and was intended to create a post-war feeling of recovery and a 'tonic for the nation'. Repeating the 1935 run, the *Boys' Brigade Festival Message* was carried in a silver baton, once again, from John o' Groats to Buckingham Palace. This time the runners would be in action both day and night except for Sundays. The 4th Kirkcaldy Company took charge of the baton in Coaltown of Wemyss, with the first relay running until they arrived at Gallatown. Here, they were relieved by a second team who carried the message to the Victoria Halls. At 2.45am the message was then read out by Captain Livingstone. Despite the early hour a number of people were present including Provost Young. It was boys from the 1st Kinghorn Company who took over and carried it to its next stop at Kinghorn Town Hall, arriving at 3.20am. Interestingly, the *Fife Free Press* of the 5th May mentions that, highly unusually, the runners were allowed to run over the Forth Railway Bridge on their journey. The runners from Kirkcaldy who ran the first leg were:-

Private C. Baxter – No.3 Platoon
Private D. Mitchell – No.7 Platoon
Lance-Corporal T. Fisher - No.7 Platoon

The team who ran from Gallatown to the Victoria Halls were:-

Corporal S.T. Lawson – No. 6 Platoon
Sergeant W. Johnstone – No.7 Platoon
and Private D. Dingwall – No. 1 Platoon.

The *Fife Free Press* of the 24th November 1951 carried an interesting item. At the Victoria Halls, prior to the church parade, Captain Livingstone had

Boys' Brigade Festival Message Passes Through Kirkcaldy

THE Boys' Brigade Message being carried by B.B. runners from John O' Groats to Buckingham Palace reached Kirkcaldy at 2.45 a.m. on Thursday morning—fifteen minutes before schedule.

There was a good gathering at Victoria Halls which were floodlit for the occasion and Provost James Young, who presided, was accompanied by Councillors Mrs Seagar, W. McLean and Dr Swanston. Ex-Deputy Chief Constable W. Hunter, Kirkcaldy's Festival of Britain organiser, and Mr Lindsay Morgan were also present.

presented the King's Badge to Corporal Brown of No. 2 (Links) Platoon. The Company then marched to Inverteil North Church with 478 officers and boys in the column. The number was said to be near a record and, a little

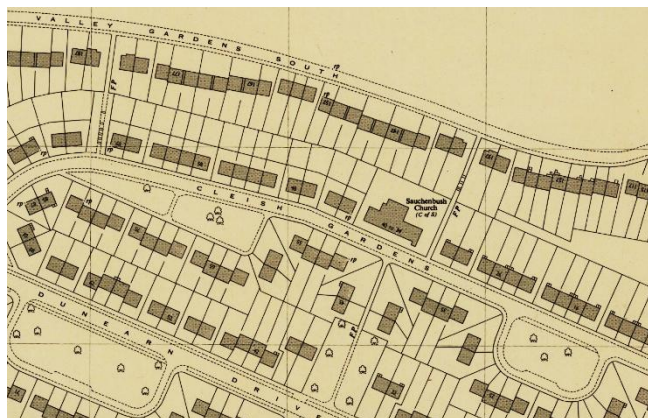
Those who witnessed the parade of 478 officers and boys marching to Inverteil North Church were very much impressed. It was one of the largest on record, and one noted that one of the boys had cycled in that morning from Auchtertool at 9.30.

The service in the church was conducted by the minister, Rev. J. A. Sim, and during the service there was dedicated a trumpet which had belonged to Private A. H. B. Douglas, 4th Royal Norfolk Regiment, who died, a prisoner of war in Japan, on 31st May, 1943. The relatives had desired that this trumpet should be dedicated and handed over to the 4th Kirkcaldy Company.

anecdote, added that one boy had cycled in from Auchtertool before taking part in what is a lengthy march. During the service a trumpet was dedicated and handed over to the company. It had been the possession of Private Alexander H. B. Douglas, 4th Royal Norfolk Regiment, who had died as a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands. His relatives had wished the trumpet to be gifted to the 4th Company. A little research showed that his father, also Alexander, had enlisted in the Great War aged 33. Young Alexander

was born on the 9th August 1911 and the family lived at 27 Sutherland Street. We could not however ascertain which company he had belonged to. In 1939, he was living in Norwich with his widowed mother, and was working as a butcher's roundsman.

In September of 1952, being aware of the extension of the burgh towards Sauchenbush, it was decided to form a Platoon for that area. So, No.12 came into being under the command of Lieutenant Neill Clark. Neill was the brother of the *Fife Free Press* editor of the day. Neill and his Lieutenants were much younger than many in command of other platoons. The more senior men did not have the inclination to start from scratch – thereby offering younger men the opportunity of a more rapid promotion. It made an excellent start and within a year had a membership of 58 officers and boys. The original hall, which served as a church, was in Cleish Gardens and was described as functional rather than beautiful. It had apparently been constructed from two former army buildings. With the rapid growth in the population of the area it soon became unfit for purpose and 1955/56 saw the building of Templehall Church, where the foundation stone was laid by Mrs Spencer-Nairn. When Neill Clark left to work in England he was succeeded by Tom Foote – yes, he of the King's Badge fame. Tom



took the Platoon on to greater success and larger numbers before he emigrated to Canada.

In November of that year, in numeric terms, the largest church parade of the Company took place to Pathhead East Church. The number involved were

PATHHEAD EAST CHURCH
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.
10.55 a.m.—Boys' Brigade Parade Service.
6 p.m.—Rev. T. G. SNODDY, M.A.
12.35 p.m.—Sunday School.
Please reserve area for Officers and Boys of the Brigade. A Retiring Collection is asked for the Earl Haig Fund.
Kindly note earlier hour of Morning Service.
Woman's Guild — Lantern lecture, Monday first at 7.30 p.m. "Continental and Colonial Work of the Church" by Mrs McArthur.

495 officers and boys. The advertisement giving notice of the service is included here. The minister, the Rev. T.G. Snoddy, is an interesting figure. He was inducted into Pathhead Parish Church in 1922 but he had an earlier connection with the town. A native of Greenock, he had been a much sought after full back with Vale of Clyde when he signed for Raith Rovers on the 27th January 1911. He played 12 games

in his first season and, in season 1911/12, a further 28 games. He left for St. Mirren on the 20th July 1912. His son, James, operated a chemist's shop for many years at 33 Whytescauseway. James was born in 1929 and was an enthusiastic member of Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society. He died in 1998 at the relatively young age of 68. Sadly, it is an urban myth that Raith Rovers had a minister who played for them. The good T.G. Snoddy was not ordained until 1921.

A little bit of history was made, locally at least, in 1952, when 18 year old Ian Fisher of No.7 (St. John's) was the first local member to win the Queen's Badge, which came into being on Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne in June. The *Fife Free Press*, as usual, could be relied upon in matters relating to the Boys' Brigade and the issue of the 27th December 1952 revealed that Ian lived at 64 Whyteman's Brae and had already collected three proficiency badges. His award was presented in St. John's Church Hall at the Brigade's Christmas Party by the wife of the Minister — Mrs F.A. Simpson. The article mentions that David Dow was in command of the Platoon at that point.

HIGHEST B.B. HONOUR
First Queen's Badge in Kirkcaldy

Ian Fisher, a sergeant in No. 7 (St John's) Platoon, 4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Boys' Brigade, has been awarded the Queen's Badge—the highest honour in the Boys' Brigade. This award, formerly known as the King's Badge, is the first to be presented to a member of the Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy since the accession of Her Majesty earlier this year.
The badge was presented to Ian, who lives at 64 Whyteman's Brae, by Mrs F. A. Simpson, wife of the minister of St John's Parish Church, at the annual Boys' Brigade Christmas party held in the church hall

In December of 1952, *The Boys' Brigade Diploma for Gallant Conduct* was awarded to Private William Elder. At the time of the award William Elder

was 12 years old and had saved a young man from drowning in the Harbour Basin on the 7th August the same year. He and a companion, who was aged 17, were swimming when the older boy was seized with cramp and began to sink. Elder, although younger and lighter, surface dived and managed to get hold of his companion and brought him to the surface. He was able to hold on to the youth until two yachtsmen, who had seen what was happening, came alongside, jumped fully clothed into the water, and

RESCUED FROM HARBOUR

12-Year-Old Friend and Boatmen Save Boy

A 17-year-old Kirkcaldy boy, John Elder, 5 Collier Street, was rescued from drowning in Kirkcaldy Harbour basin on Sunday. He was supported in the water by a 12-year-old friend, William Elder, 26 Collier Street, until two members of an East Wemyss yawl jumped into the water fully clothed and pulled the drowning boy to a waiting boat.

managed to get them into the boat. Some research was needed here and the lad who was saved was John.....?, who lived at 5 Collier Street. The name which was included in a report in the *Fife Free Press* of 27th July 1952 was illegible. William lived at 26 Collier Street and was a member of Kirkcaldy Amateur Swimming Club. The rescuers were brothers, Dan and Jim Gough, with the boat being the East Wemyss yawl – *Remembrance*. The Gough brothers just had time to change from their wet clothes before taking part in a race. Who can tell what might have resulted if the races had not been taking place? Reading the whole article, it might be that both boys had the surname Elder. We also suspect that William may well have died in 2023.

We have now reached as far as we wish to go with this story of the Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy. The principal reason being that it coincides with the plans to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Company and was the *raison d'etre* for the publication of Captain Livingstone's book. The closing chapter highlighted the other plans for the celebration of this Diamond Jubilee Year of 1953. There was to be a social gathering and dance for the Officers and Staff and an Inspection of the Company, on the 9th May, by Mr. G. Stanley Smith, O.B.E., M.C. - the son of the founder of the Boys' Brigade. A summer camp was to be held at Mossilee, Galashiels, a Reunion Dinner of old members was planned and a special church service.

The narrative can now return to the story of Pat Livingstone, although it very much remains linked to the Boys Brigade. The story can be picked up in the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the 15th January 1955. An advertisement has been placed asking that, in view of the Captain's impending 50 years of service, ex-members and friends were invited to donate to a presentation fund. The advertisement is reproduced here. The previous week the newspaper had carried an article advising that the presentation was scheduled for the 28th May. It further informed that the Company – the largest in the world – yes, the largest in the world,

4th KIRKCALDY COMPANY



EX-MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

TO honour the occasion of 50 years' service as an Officer of the above Company by Captain P. K. Livingstone, ex-members and friends are invited to subscribe to a Presentation Fund. Donations should be sent to the Chairman, Mr John A. Fair, 45 Pratt Street, Kirkcaldy

would parade that afternoon and would be inspected by no less a figure than Lord MacLay – the Boys' Brigade President. The presentation would take place in the evening in the Victoria Halls. The inspection was scheduled to take place in the Beveridge Park (West End) at 3.00pm, with the Company to muster at Victoria Halls at 2.00pm. In transpires that in the event on inclement weather it would be moved to the Ice Rink – if there was no transport that would be some march in inclement weather! The Company may well look a tad bedraggled by the time of the inspection.

JUBILEE HONOUR FOR KIRKCALDY B.B. CHIEF

ON Saturday, 28th May, Captain P. K. Livingstone of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Boys' Brigade, will celebrate 50 years' connection with the movement in Kirkcaldy.

To mark the event the entire Company, the largest in the world, will parade for inspection by Lord MacLay, B.B. President, in the afternoon. In the evening there will be a presentation ceremony in the Boys' Brigade Hall, Victoria Road.

On Saturday, the 5th March 1955, the *Fife Free Press* carried an advertisement for a demonstration which was to be held in the Adam Smith Halls on the 11th and 12th March. The advert indicated that 300 boys would portray the highlights from the Captain's 50 years of service with a title of *50 Glorious Years*. The advertisement for the event is shown above.

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE
4TH KIRKCALDY COMPANY**



PRESENT

"50 GLORIOUS YEARS"

...OVER 300 BOYS PORTRAYING THE HIGHLIGHTS
OF 50 YEARS' SERVICE GIVEN BY
CAPTAIN P. K. LIVINGSTONE
TO THE 4TH KIRKCALDY COMPANY

IN

THE ADAM SMITH HALLS

On FRIDAY 11th & SATURDAY, 12th MARCH, 1955

At 7.30 p.m. Doors open 7 p.m.

TICKETS PRICE 1/- and 2/- (Children Half-Price)
May be obtained from Members of the Company or at the Hall
on the Evenings of Demonstration.

By the 25th April the *Fife Free Press* was able to advise that the presentation would take the form of a painting of the Captain in oils.

The *Fife Free Press* of the 28th May gave some further details and included a photograph of Captain Livingstone which is reproduced here. We are advised that an illuminated scroll would be presented on behalf of the

" Fifty Glorious Years "
Boys' Brigade Tribute to
Captain P. K. Livingstone

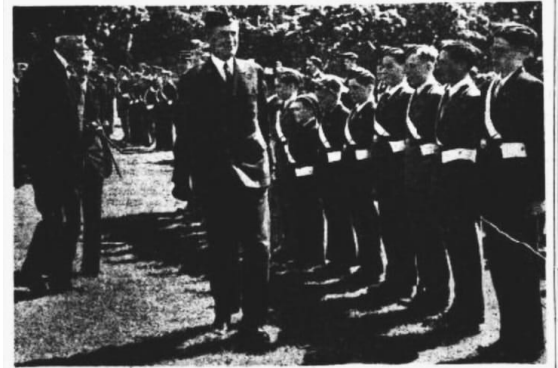
Fifty Glorious Years. That is both a title and a tribute— a title given to the annual entertainment of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Boys' Brigade and, at the same time, a tribute to Captain P. K. Livingstone for his 50 years' service with the company he has commanded since the death of his predecessor, Major H. L. Stocks, in 1916.

Over 300 boys, representative of the twelve platoons now comprising the 4th Kirkcaldy Company, took part in the show which was presented in the Adam Smith Hall last night and which will be repeated to-night. By then, it is estimated that close on 2,000 parents and friends will have seen it.

officers by Wallace Malloch, the Company Secretary. The portrait itself was the work of Sir William O. Hutchison who was the President of the Royal Academy at the time. It was reported that Sir William, who was born in Kirkcaldy, had himself made the offer to carry out the work. The painting would be presented on behalf of *The Old Boys and Friends* by George Robertson, who had been the first president of the Ex-Member's Club. Mrs Livingstone was the recipient of a basket of flowers to mark the occasion.

Not surprisingly, the *Fife Free Press* devoted many column inches to the presentation in its edition of the 4th June. It certainly appears to have been a huge occasion with a large number of local dignitaries present. A photograph taken the previous Saturday is reproduced here and shows Lord MacLay together with Captain Livingstone carrying out the inspection. The paper carried a photograph

KIRKCALDY B.B. INSPECTED BY BRIGADE PRESIDENT



Our picture shows Lord MacLay inspecting some of the boys on parade. He is accompanied by Captain P. K. Livingstone, the O.C. of the Company.



of the portrait and, while it is not of great quality, it is included here. The newspaper article recorded that "the portrait depicts Captain Livingstone in Boys' Brigade Officers Uniform against an outdoor background, in which Arthur's Seat is plainly visible and the likeness to the Captain is remarkable." Unfortunately, Sir William is another who has been lost under the town's radar. He was born in Dysart Parish (Sinclairtown) in 1889 to Henry W. Hutchison and Sarah Key. The house, Ingleside, still stands. We have mentioned this previously, as it was a case of two brothers marrying two sisters. The brides were daughters of John Key – he of The Abden Shipbuilding Company fame.

William was educated at Kirkcaldy High School before attending Rugby School. He was a pupil at *Edinburgh College of Art* between 1909 and 1912. During the First World War he served with the *Royal Garrison of Artillery* and was badly wounded in France. He became the Head of the *National Portrait Gallery of Scotland* and, between 1933 and 1943, was the Director of the *Glasgow School of Art*. Possibly his most prestigious commission was, in 1955, when he was asked to paint the portrait of H.R.H. Prince Philip for the Royal College of Surgeons. He died in 1970 in London and was

buried in Collessie. His parents had at some point moved to Kinloch which is in Collessie Parish.

During his speech, prior to the presentation, George Robertson, alluded briefly to the many other activities which Pat Livingstone was involved in. Besides his outstanding service to youth, he had served as Chairman of the *St. Andrew's Ambulance Association*. In 1941, he had penned a booklet titled *The St. Andrew's Ambulance Association in Fife*. He had served as a Kirkcaldy Town Councillor for 19 years and for 18 consecutive years had been the Chairman of the *Libraries Sub-committee*. For the Library centenary celebrations in 1950, he researched and published *Kirkcaldy and its Libraries*. Livingstone was a keen Rotarian and served as both Chairman and Secretary of the Kirkcaldy Club. In 1947 he penned pamphlets on both the Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy clubs tracing their history from their beginnings to the present day. In 1951 he researched and released a book on the linen trade in Fife carrying the title *Flax and Linen in Fife through the Centuries*. He also took on the colossal work of preparing the submission on Kirkcaldy and Dysart for the *Third Statistical Account* tracing the history of both burghs from 1843-1949 which was published in 1953. By 1955, he had turned that work into a book with the title of *Kirkcaldy and Dysart 1843-1949*. It is a superb piece of research and writing covering the period which many class as the town's golden age. Deeply interested in church affairs, he was the Session Clerk of St. Brycedale for many years. As a hobby he was a keen and proficient organist and often deputised for organists throughout the town. Although not included above, in 1957, he wrote another excellent publication on *The History of St. Brycedale Church*. This was published in 1957.

The 1955 Summer Camp is well worth a mention as it was referred to as "The Captain's Jubilee Camp". Once again, the interest in and the logistics required, show just how important the Boys' Brigade was to the town. The main body left Kirkcaldy Station on the 15th July and travelled to Forfar via Collessie and Glamis. The *Fife Free Press* of the 23rd July advised that a party, numbering 35, had left Kirkcaldy on the 13th. Their task was to erect 60 bell tents – a large dining marquee and several smaller ones! On the Friday, an advance party of 38 arrived to "help get everything in order for the next day". Lieutenant R. Grimshaw (now there is a name many will recognise) led the advance party. On the Friday the main group arrived in Forfar at 8.45pm – having been seen off at the Station by Provost Young.

The camp was held in glorious weather and the report was very full in covering the myriad of activities. On the Tuesday – visitor's day was held and a special train plus 13 buses brought 1,200 parents and friends to visit the 380 individuals enjoying the camp – almost unbelievable!

SCENES FROM LOCAL BB. CAMP AT FORFAIR



"Come to the cookhouse door, boys" is still the call at the Boys' Brigade, 4th Kirkcaldy Company's, Captain's Jubilee Camp" at Forfair this week, even although in the sweltering heat the food is dished out in semi-alfresco conditions with the traditional cookhouse door conspicuous by its absence. However, heat wave and all, the boys are always anxious to appease young and healthy appetites.

What comparable event is there in Kirkcaldy today? Another reason that this camp was featured is the fact that the article contained two newspaper photographs and both are reproduced here. The names are not given but perhaps some readers can spot relatives.



A jovial group taken at the same camp, which show that the way to a boy's heart is through his stomach. This "Captain's Jubilee Camp" is shared in the glorious weather experienced during the week, and it must be many years since the campers were so fortunate. Conditions have been ideal for various sports, with the possible exception of football, which was rather too strenuous for the scorching sun, but those who liked to relax found the South Sea Island approach to this kind of

A touching moment took place on the morning of Wednesday, the 19th July. James Allison, who had been *Convenor of the Finance Committee* for many years and had 32 years service with the Brigade had died, He had been closely associated with the No.3 (Pathhead) Platoon. His body was being cremated that morning at Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh at 10.30am. At that time, the full complement formed up, under Captain Livingstone, around the flagpole and observed a minute's silence. The Pipe Band then played "The Flowers of the Forrest" followed by the buglers playing "The Last Post." It was said to be a most impressive sight.



Lieut. JAMES ALLISON

Capt. P. K. Livingstone Retires



This is an illustration of the oil painting of Captain Livingstone which was presented to him on his completion of 50 years' service with the Boys' Brigade.

By the end of 1955, Pat had reached the age of 70 and possibly, not unsurprisingly, decided it was time to relinquish the post he had held since 1917. The announcement of his retiral was made in the *Fife Free Press* of the 17th December. It was a rather low key article as, understandably, a huge amount of column inches covering every aspect of his Boys' Brigade life had been covered in the June. However, he was honoured by being granted the position of *Honorary Captain* - "a unique honour for a unique service". The Kirk Session of St. Brycedale

appointed their Session Clerk as the successor. Tom Lumsden was a well known local solicitor and also the part-time Town Clerk of Kinghorn. He had been a Captain in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and had been involved in the Dunkirk Evacuation. He went on to serve in North West Europe and was demobbed in 1946. In what was very clear George Robertson had done his homework prior to making his speech at the June presentation. The only item he seems to have overlooked, which was mentioned in the article, was that Pat Livingstone was the Chairman of the local branch of the *S.S.P.C.C.*

1956 was the first year Livingstone had faced since 1917 without direct involvement in the 4th Company. The year started with the *Fife Free Press* reporting on the 7th January, under the headline Brisk Business, that Sheriff-Substitute Livingstone had dealt with 41 cases in 65 minutes – imposing fines totalling £86.10/- with one individual being placed on probation. The same newspaper reported on the 14th April that Bailie Livingstone would not be standing for re-election to the Town Council. He was back in more familiar territory when the annual inspection of the Brigade took place in the May. The inspection was carried out by Bailie Young, who was accompanied by Tom Lumsden (his first inspection as officer-commanding), Lieutenant Wallace Malloch, with Honorary Captain Livingstone also in the inspection party. A photograph, taken on the day, shows No.5 (Abbotshall) Platoon being inspected by Bailie Young accompanied by their officer Lieutenant R. Grimshaw. Once again, the *Fife Free Press* revealed in its edition of the 30th June that Pat had given up the Chairmanship of the *St. Andrew's Ambulance Association*. It seems clear that he was divesting himself of many of his responsibilities. However, chancing on the *Scotsman* of the 31st March 1961, it seems clear that he was maintaining his interest in children's welfare. At the A.G.M. of the Kirkcaldy branch of the *S.S.S.P.C.C.* He retained his position as Vice-Chairman. Lady Victoria Wemyss remained President and Thomas Lumsden was appointed Secretary.

B.B. INSPECTION AT BEVERIDGE PARK



Our picture shows Bailie Young inspecting the No. 5 (Abbotshall) Platoon. Accompanying him is Lt. R. Grimshaw.

However, this was not the case with the Annual Camp which was covered by the *Fife Free Press* on the 21st July. The camp was being held at Ducklage Farm at Crieff. This site had been used previously in both 1938 and 1939. This was the first camp with Tom Lumsden in charge, but the article reported that Honorary Captain Livingstone was also in attendance. Old habits die hard!

Most of the items identified in the press after 1956 tended to relate to Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Livingstone and less and less frequently to the Brigade. Pat Livingstone's obituary mentioned that he had not been in the best of health in the two years leading up to his death in 1963. He died in the days when you could be buried/cremated within days of your death. This was certainly the case in this instance. The *Fife Free Press* only reported the death in their issue of the 19th January and yet were able to carry details of both the funeral and the burial in the same edition.

The funeral service took place on Tuesday, the 15th January, and both the church and graveside services were performed by the Rev. John E. Brown. No prizes for guessing the name of the political figure who was the son of the Reverend! The day started badly in the sense that the St. Brycedale organist Andrew Dall, a lifelong friend of the deceased, was indisposed and Peter Dryburgh, the organist from Bethelfield, deputised.

The congregation included; John A. Lillie Q.C., Sheriff Principal of Fife, Harry P.M. Gourlay M.P., along with members and officers of Kirkcaldy Town Council led by Provost James W.M. Gourlay. Provost Gourlay and his Town Clerk, Charles D. Chapman, were there in a dual capacity as both were Hon. Sheriffs-Substitute. The other three local men holding that position were also in attendance:- J.M. Lumsden, Ian W. Dawson and H.A. Nicholson. There was a significant representation of members of the Boys' Brigade under Captain Lumsden along with his officers and former members. Representatives were present from many walks of life including; the clergy, the legal profession, the business community, the police and the various movements with which Mr Livingstone had been associated.

At the conclusion of the service, the coffin was carried from the church by eight officers who had served under Captain Livingstone. For Kirkcaldy men, of a certain age, many of the following names will be instantly recognisable:-

- Lieutenant Rankin G. Grimshaw
- “ John Halkerston
- “ John Urquhart
- “ John Methven
- “ John L. Brown
- “ Edward Speed
- “ Ian Kilgour
- “ Thomas S. Galloway

Proceeded by members of the brigade, the cortège slowly made its way to Bennochly Cemetery, where many mourners were waiting to pay their last respects. The carriageway to the grave was lined by the officers and boys of the Company. The pallbearers were also well known men in the Lang Toun:-

- Sheriff John A. Lillie Q.C.
- George C. Allen
- Mr William Sinclair
- Captain T. Lumsden
- Lieutenant Wallace Malloch
- Lieutenant James Clark
- Lieutenant A.W. Thomson
- Ex-Lieutenant Peter Herd.

The *Last Post* and *Reveille* were played by John Mackie – officer in charge of the Bugle band and two pipers (unidentified) played *The Floo'ers o' the Forest*. There was one photograph included in the article and it is reproduced here. It shows many of the mourners at the graveside, with Captain Lumsden and Peter Herd in the foreground. It would almost seem that the spire of St. Brycedale church, around which much of Peter K. Livingstone's life revolved, was watching over the proceedings.



A section of the large concourse of mourners at the graveside. In the left foreground are Captain Thomas Lumsden (in dark coat), who in 1953, succeeded Mr Livingstone as commanding officer of the 4th Kirkcaldy Company of the Boys' Brigade, and (in light coat), Mr Peter Herd, who until recently, was a lieutenant in the Regiment.



Although not directly connected with the funeral, space must be given to the above mentioned Lieutenant John Methven. It must be nigh on impossible for people not to have known, or at least heard of – Jock Methven M.B.E. It was in 1935, that John Methven joined the Boys' Brigade and remained a member for 80 years until his retirement in 2015. He had

been the Commanding Officer for 29 years taking the reins from Tom Lumsden. In his youth, John, had been a very promising footballer but a head injury put paid to that. He immersed himself in the Brigade and, in particular, coaching the football teams of the St. John's Platoon. Their success contributed to many lads wishing to join that particular platoon. Jock ran a coach-building business in Leven. Just prior to his death, in 2021, he completed his memories of his life in the Brigade. We must try and establish if copies are still available. It is an amazing statistic that, in the 122 years from 1893 – 2015, only 5 men held the position of Officer-Commanding: - Balfour, Stocks, Livingstone, Lumsden and Methven!

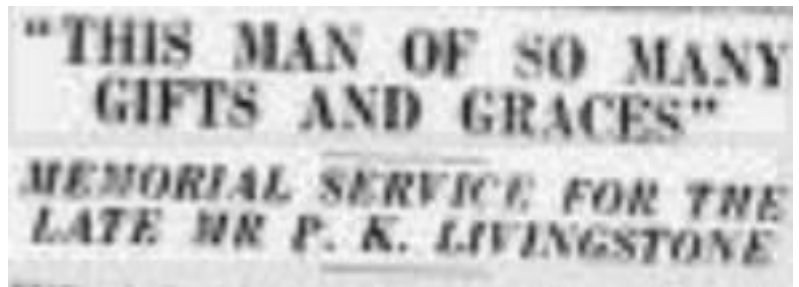
Returning to the funeral and its aftermath, The *Fife Free Press*, in that edition of the 19th January, was able to capture some of the thoughts, quotes and memories of Peter's life. They began with the Town Council meeting on Monday the 21st where Provost Gourlay paid a full and handsome tribute. The leader of the Labour group, John Kay, who himself went on to serve as Provost, remarked that Pat Livingstone was “without guile or rancour – a man all of us learned to respect when he was here”. It was agreed that the Council would send a message of sympathy to his widow.

Prior to the sitting of the Court on the Wednesday, it was said by Sheriff Sinclair Shaw Q.C., that “no man ever discharged the duties of that office with more zeal, with more enthusiasm and with more care for the doing of justice, so far as we on earth can ever achieve to that end”.

Captain Tom Lumsden, amongst other remarks, said that “all profited not only from his experience but also from his quality of kindness, strong devotion to duty and thoroughness”.

On Sunday, the 20th January, a memorial service was held in St. Brycedale for Mr Livingstone. The *Fife Free Press* carried a report on the 26th January.

The scripture lesson was read by Captain Lumsden and the service itself was taken by the Reverend Brown. The following was one highlight of the content and seems to sum the man up



exceptionally well - “While some captains may be remembered for their discipline and even severity, Peter K. Livingstone, will be remembered for his friendliness, his personal interest in the boys, his visits to them when they were in hospital, his desire to guide them in the right way - by counsel and example. If he had a fault it was, one might say, on the side of gentleness. Sensitive himself, he was not given to criticism or condemnation of others. Few men have tried harder than he to live up to the principle – “If possible, as far as it lies with you, live at peace with all men”. A great deal of the service was rightly devoted to his relationship with St. Brycedale with particular emphasis on his publication of its history, his period as session clerk and the fact that, at the time of his death, he was the senior elder.

Peter K. Livingstone left an estate of £55,292 in 1963 - today that equates to £1,206,000.

It would be wrong to leave the narrative here without touching on a number of important landmarks and the starting point has to be the *Fife Free Press* of the 7th October 1983. The newspaper covered the Kirkcaldy celebrations of the Boys' Brigade centenary which had fallen on Tuesday the 4th. On that evening a special parade and service was held attended by 300 members in St. Brycedale Church. A cheque for £1,000 was handed over to Robert King, the Convenor of Kirkcaldy District Council, by the 4th Company. Its purpose, in that centenary year, had been to raise money to provide wooden seating in Kirkcaldy. The seating was to be provided by local youngsters working



BB centenary celebrations

A selection of the large congregation... which gathered for the centenary service in St. Brycedale Church to mark the centenary of the Boys' Brigade.

on a Government sponsored scheme with A.H. Macintosh, the local furniture manufacturers. The firm was providing the seating for the cost of the wood only. The service was taken by the Rev. Kenneth Froude and the salute at the parade was taken by Councillor King. The *Fife Free Press* had come good again and a photograph taken of a selection of the

congregation is shown here.

Former officer, Sandy Thomson, who had attended the 1933 Glasgow Jubilee celebrations was in the congregation. Also, there was Wallace Malloch, now 76, who had served with the Brigade for over 60 years and had been the Company Secretary from 1943-1974. Another veteran of 60 years service, James Clark, also attended. James had been the Officer-Commanding No.1 (H.Q) Platoon for over 30 years. These three men; Thomson, Malloch and Clark, had been pallbearers at Captain Livingstone's burial 20 years previously. Unfortunately, 88 years old James Michie of 29 Balfour Street, believed to be the oldest surviving member, was unable to attend. A Centenary re-union dinner was to be held in the Ambassador Hotel on the 29th of October when it was hoped 200 guests would attend. An exhibition was currently underway in the Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery of photographs, trophies and memorabilia collected over the years by local boys.

Returning to the centenary project, a photograph was unearthed from the pages of the *Fife Free Press* of the 30th September which shows some of the boys taking part in a fund raising run. The team hopes that some readers can perhaps recognise their younger selves!



This just, even deep into the story, needed investigated and the answer, as always, was found in the *Fife Free Press* on the 9th September. The run was to be on the 24th September and would be boys running in relays round every Church in the town which had a platoon. The boys were selling tokens at 50p to friends and relatives. The money raised would be handed over, symbolically at least, by the minister of each church and a parchment would be signed to say his boys took part. Where could the parchment be?

The route was 11½ miles and it was estimated that it would take 2½ hours. The route commenced at the Victoria Halls, then Old Kirk - Pathhead – Dysart – Templehall – Torbain – St. John's - Abbotshall – West End and finishing at St. Brycedale.



The Fife Free Press of the 4th November carried a photograph, taken at the Centenary Dinner, and it is reproduced here. The photograph shows the principal guests and they are:-

Back row (left to right)
Mr Lawrie – Dr. John

Simpson – Sir John Gilmour – Chief Constable R.F. Murison – Mr William Mackintosh (4th Company Drill Officer) and Councillor Robert King.

Front row (left to right) Mrs Simpson – Mrs Lawrie – Captain Lumsden – Mrs Lumsden and Mrs King.

Mrs Lawrie was the daughter of the Reverend Balfour – the founder of the 4th Company.

The final stop will be 1993, when the 4th Company celebrated its centenary. One of the earliest events undertaken was based on the television series – *The Crystal Maze* – where teams carried out tasks to build up time to allow the best opportunity of completing a final task. Richard O'Brien was the first and probably best known host of the series. *The Fife Free Press* of the 19th February gave the first indication of the event and mentioned that two floors of Balwearie High School would be taken over in March. It was reported that around 40 boys would take part and that there would be 12 puzzles to unravel. The time taken to solve a task determined how many marbles were secured. Each marble was worth a minute. The idea was to attract other youngsters to join the Company.

The edition of the 26th March contained a report on the event although it did not mention the date of the event. It transpires that 9 teams had taken part in

what was described as a “fun filled event and a manic and exhausting experience”. The tasks included trick questions, arithmetic puzzles, complicated mazes and problems with radio controlled card – all designed to lose time/marbles which would otherwise have been available for the final task. That task was collecting coloured polystyrene balls from the school swimming pool and the *Fife Free Press* carried a photograph of that final task.



BBs master the maze

The centenary of the Company in the October seems to have been a very low key affair. Three paragraphs were devoted to the centenary in the *Fife Free Press* of Friday the 8th October. A re-union was taking place in the Victoria Halls the following evening to which all past and present officers, Life-Boy leaders and staff members were invited. If individuals had not received an invitation – three telephone numbers were available to secure their place. Past and present members, plus any other interested parties, were invited to go along to the halls on the Sunday from 2.30pm or Monday from 7.30pm to view a collection of photographs and a display of old camping equipment. Try as we might we could find no mention of a special service or a parade and that included searching the St. Brycedale Church notices around the period.

Nothing relating to the centenary could be found in the paper's edition of the 15th but, on the 22nd, the *Fife Free Press* came good with a photograph of the reunion which is reproduced here. It seems that over 120 individuals



attended with some coming from as far away as Newcastle and Manchester. “Tom Lumsden, who had been captain of the company for nearly 40 years,

said that everyone who attended was very happy to be

there. Some of them had not seen each other for years and there was lots of catching up and reminiscing to be done”.

This object has had a twofold purpose. Firstly, it is the first object to be completed since the death of our colleague, Tom Reid, and the story is dedicated to his memory. Secondly, it is also dedicated to the individuals who selflessly devoted their hours and energies to making generations of Kirkcaldy laddies into good men and citizens. Theirs and the Brigade's values of truthfulness, self-discipline, self-improvement, duty, camaraderie and respect have perhaps faded through recent years but possibly society is all the poorer for the apparent demise of such values.

Acknowledgements

This story has been produced almost exclusively through researching newspapers. Most of the individual newspapers used for articles, sketches, advertisements and photographs are credited in the text. All the newspaper information was obtained from *Find my past Newspaper Archive* in partnership with the *British Library*. That said, the snippets which appear on pages 43,44 and 47 were from the *Fife Free Press* but do not seem to have been credited in the text.

The bookend photographs on page 1 of Peter K Livingstone and the Victoria Road Halls are taken from P.K. Livingstone's *History of the Boys' Brigade in Kirkcaldy*. The Victoria Halls photograph also appears on Page 14. The bulk of the photographs taken from the book are credited in the text with four exceptions - Page 22 – the Illuminated address presented to Harris L Stocks – Page 30 – Lieutenant John Blyth – Page 41 – Bandmaster David Pearson and on Page 53 – James Allison.

The photograph of Colonel Johnston on Page 22 was sourced from *The Boys' Brigade - The 4th Kirkcaldy Company – Officer's Handbook* (published in 1910).

The newspaper front page featured on page 40 was provided by our friend, Bill Fiet, whose relative attended the 1933 gathering.

Peter K. Livingstone's *History of the Boy's Brigade in Kirkcaldy* was the catalyst for this story and was referred to on many occasions with use being made of many the photographs. However, it was used as a skeleton and was greatly fleshed out and added to by the copious reports carried by local newspapers – especially the *Fife Free Press*.

Mapping – The maps on pages 14 and 47 are reproduced with the kind permission of the *National Library of Scotland*.

As with every object, valuable assistance and support was provided by the staff of the Local Studies Department within Kirkcaldy Central Library.

Appendices

Kirkcaldy Boys' Brigade Roll of Honour.

We have pleasure in publishing a list of former members of the 4th (Kirkcaldy) Coy. Boys' Brigade who are now serving their King and country in the different branches of the service. The rank prefixed to their names shows the position they held while members of the Boys' Brigade. It is proposed to publish the list in a permanent form for presentation to those included, and as it may be incomplete, Lieut. D. Pearson or any of the staff officers of the Brigade will be glad to receive any additional names.

CAPTAIN H. L. STOCKS.

Lieut. Peter Alison, Territorial Office; Pte. D. Arnott, Royal Scots.
Pte. George Bogie, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. Andrew Blyth, Royal Engineers; Pte. W. Bell; Sergt. D. Balfour, Black Watch; Pte. J. Bryce; Pte. T. Burns, Royal Engineers; Pte. J. Barn, Royal Marine Artillery; Sergt. J. Braid, Black Watch; Corpl. Jas. Blackwood, R.A.M.C.; Pte. T. Burns, Royal Engineers; Staff John Bogie, F. and F. Yeomanry; Bugler Butchart, National Reserves.
Pte. Cargill, R.A.M.C.; Staff-Sergt. Wm. Collier, Canadian Contingent; Sergt. James Cummings, Canadian Contingent; Staff P. Carson, Royal Engineers; Pte. J. Cargill, R.G.A.; Pte. J. Connell, (Terr.) Black Watch; Pte. James Connell, Bugler, H.C.B.; Pte. W. Clark, Army Medical Corps, Canadian Expeditionary Force; Pte. D. Colville, Black Watch (Terr.); Corpl. A. Cargill, F. and W. Yeomanry.

Pte. D. Denholm, R.G.A.; Pte. Dow, Black Watch; Corpl. J. Davidson, R.G.A.; Lieut. W. Deas, A. and S. Highlanders; Pte. H. M'Dowall, Black Watch; Pte. Dempster, Navy; Pte. John Douglas, 1st Life Guards; Pte. George Dippie, Royal Engineers.

Pte. A. English, R.G.A.; Pte. J. English, H.C.B.; Pte. J. English, Indian Expeditionary Force.

Corpl. W. Fergusson, Camerons; Pte. W. Fergusson, Black Watch; Pte. T. Fergusson, H.C.B.; Pte. Fisher, Navy; Pte. B. Foote, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. J. Foreman, Scots Greys; Corpl. D. Farmer, Camerons; Pte. J. Fisher, F. and F. Yeomanry.

Staff-Sergt. G. Gourlay, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. W. Goodsir, H.C.B.; L.-Corpl. W. Gibson, Camerons; L.-Corpl. W. Gourlay, Royal Engineers; L.-Corpl. D. Grant, A.S.C.; Sergt. G. Grant, Black Watch; Pte. G. M. Grant, Royal Highlanders; Corpl. D. Grant, Royal Scots; Pte. M. Galloway, Forth R.G.A.; Pte. D. Grant, A.S.C.

Pte. Frank Hislop, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. E. Harper, Black Watch; Pte. Alex. Harper, Black Watch; Pte. Jas. Howieson, Camerons; Pte. A. Hamilton, A. and S. Highlanders; Pte. A. Hepburn, Gordon Highlanders; Pte. J. Hewson, R.F.A.; Corpl. T. Hewson, Royal Engineers; Pte. T. Haig, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. A. Hamilton, R.F.A.

Pte. J. Ingram, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. D. Ingram, Black Watch; Pte. A. Inglis, Scots Greys; Staff A. Ingram, F. and F. Yeomanry.

Pte. A. Jack, 7th Black Watch.
Pte. John Kennedy, H.C.B.
Pte. William Lamb, Bantams; Pte. Chas. Lamb, Camerons; Pte. J. Laing, Camerons; Pte. A. Langslow, A.S.C.; Pte. Thos. Low, Transvaal Scottish.

Staff-Sergt. J. Michie, Royal Scots; Sergt. Stuart M'Donald; Staff-Sergt. Norman M'Leod, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. J. Mitchell, R.G.A.; Staff-Sergt. W. Millar, R.G.A.; Sergt. Wm. Millar, H.L.I.; Pte. H. Moodie, Black Watch (Terr.); Staff-Sergt. A. Morris, H.C.B.; Pte. G. Marshall, R.F.A.; Pte. G. M'Naughton, Cycle Battn.; Sergt. W. M'Graw, Royal Scots; Staff-Sergt. A. Morris, H.C.B.; Corpl. J. Morris, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. M'Mahon, National Res.

Pte. G. Neish, H.C.B.; Pte. P. Napier, Scots Guards; Pte. T. Neish, R.F.A.
Pte. J. Oliphant, R.F.A.

Pte. John Park, F. and F. Yeomanry; Corpl. Chas. Pow, Camerons; Bugler John Pearson, Recruiting Office; Pte. W. Page, Black Watch; Pte. W. Page, Black Watch; Pte. M. Page, H.C.B.; Pte. D. Page, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. R. Pirnie, F. and F. Yeomanry; Bugler J. Pearson, Black Watch.

Staff-Sergt. John Ritchie, R.G.A.; Sergt. Harry Ritchie, R.G.A.; Pte. Robert Ritchie, R.G.A.; Col. Sergt. Ernie Rodger, R.G.A.; Pte. Jas. Rodger, Cavalry Field Ambulance Corps (Canadian); Pte. J. Ritchie, Royal Engineers; Pte. J. Reid, R.F.A.; Pte. P. Reid; Pte. R. Reid; Pte. J. Robertson, 7th Black Watch; Pte. D. Robertson, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. A. Robertson, Recruiting Drummer.

L.-Cpl. G. B. Sang, Royal Engineers; Pte. George Sang, Royal Engineers; Pte. George Swinton, R.G.A.; Sergt. Leslie Simpson, R.G.A.; Staff William Smith, Royal Scots; Captain H. L. Stocks, Royal Scots; Bandsman William Smith, Lowland Heavy Battery; Sergt. A. Scott, Camerons; Pte. T. Smith, R.G.A.; Pte. P. Smith, R.F.A.; Pte. R. Strachan, R.G.A.; Pte. J. Saunders, Black Watch (Terr.); Pte. G. Speed, F. and F. Yeomanry; L.-Corpl. P. Saunders, 2nd Camerons; Pte. T. B. Saunders, A.S.C.; Pte. George Scott, H.C.B.; Sergt. A. B. Saunders, H.C.B.

Sergt. David Taylor, Navy; Pte. W. B. Taylor, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. M. Tyrie, R.F.A.; Pte. G. Taylor, Royal Engineers; Pte. D. Thompson, H.C.B.; Sergt. D. Thomson, F. and F. Yeomanry; Pte. A. D. Tucker, Black Watch; Pte. R. Taylor, Scots Greys; Pte. J. Taylor, H.C.B.; Pte. A. Taylor, Forth R.G.A.

Corpl. Chas. Wright, F. and F. Yeomanry; Staff-Sergt. John Walton, Royal Fusiliers; Staff-Sergt. D. Williamson, Transvaal Scottish; Sergt. Bertie Williamson, H.L.I.; Corpl. Charles Wright, Royal Scots; Lieut. J. Welsh, Navy; Pte. J. Wishart, R.A.M.C.; Pte. James Wishart, F. and F. Yeomanry.
Pte. George Yule, F. and F. Yeomanry.

ADDITIONS.

Col. Sergt. J. M'Farlane, Black Watch.
Pte. D. M'Farlane, Black Watch.
Pte. D. Sinclair, Royal Scots.
Pte. W. Whyte, Black Watch.
Corpl. D. Husband, R.A.M.C.
Sergt. A. Hughes, F. and F. Yeomanry.
Sergt. W. Wallace, Army Pay Corps.
L.-Corpl. D. Graham, F. and F. Yeomanry.
Sergt. James Graham, Seaforth's.
Pte. John M'Laren, Black Watch.
Pte. Donald M'Donald, Black Watch.
Pte. Tom Paton, Canadian Contingent.
L.-Corpl. W. Patterson, H.C.B.

SILVER BAND



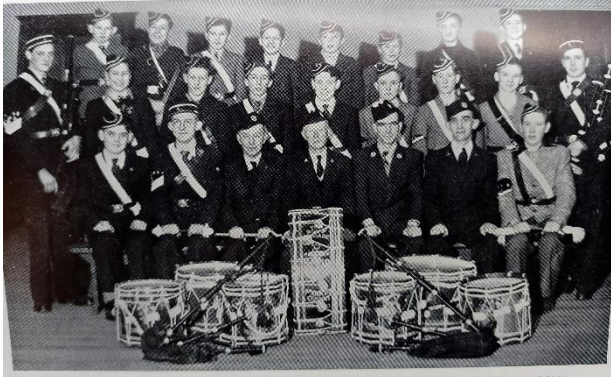
Back Row—David Hay, Andrew Gilles, Robert Gould, Robert Kilpatrick, Robert Anderson, Eric Dick, Iain James Peattie (Band Officer).
Middle Row—John Macintosh, John David Colman, Tom Anderson, David Hill, Ian Phillips, William Macintosh, Mr. A. Kirk, John Fagan.
Front Row—Mr. J. George, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. David Bruce (Band Master), Tom Wright, Mr. Andrew Briggs.
Members not on photograph—David Matthews, Eric Morrison, John W. Page, Robert Pharty.

BUGLE BAND

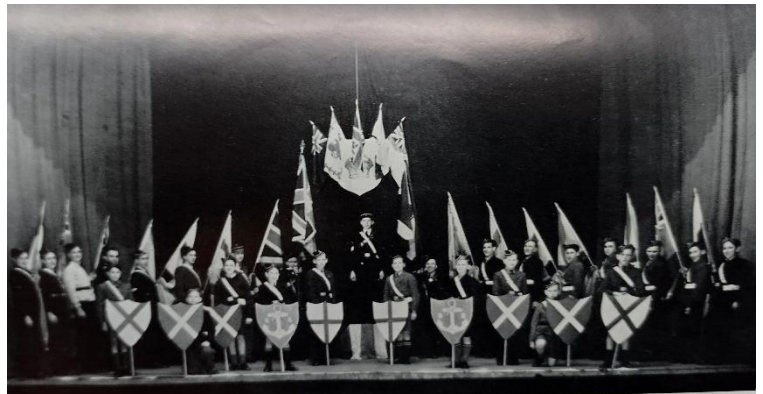


Back Row—Pte. J. Macintosh, P. Ritchie, W. Hamilton, A. Robertson, A. Mac, G. Ross, J. McRae.
Middle Row—Pte. J. Macintosh, J. Macintosh, Pte. G. Ross, W. Hamilton, W. Scott, H. Cunningham, L. G. W. Gordon.
Front Row—Mr. J. George, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. David Bruce (Band Master), Mr. A. Kirk, John Fagan.
Members not on photograph—John Fagan, Ian Phillips, William Macintosh, Mr. A. Kirk, John Fagan.
The Bugle Band, 1914. Commanded by Mr. David Bruce. Photo by Mr. J. Macintosh.

PIPE BAND



Back Row—Piper B. Rankin, Dr. Ian Walsh, Piper M. Cameron, Piper G. Yachler, Piper B. Chis, Dr. G. Kilgour, Dr. J. Thomson, Dr. J. McIver, 2nd Lt. G. Wilson, Sgt. Piper G. Leith, Piper A. Haythorn, Dr. T. Dun, Dr. D. Doss, Piper T. Steinhilber, Lt. Cpl. Piper A. Clark, Lt. Cpl. Dr. B. Cochran, Dr. R. Cameron, Sgt. Piper D. Hordman.
 Front Row—Piper J. Maxwell, Sgt. Dr. B. Phillips, Mr. Robert Wallace, (Drum Instructor), Pipe Major J. Falconer, Lieut. Piper I. Fraser, Lieut. J. Hunter, Lt. Dr. J. Adams.
 Members not on photograph—Lieut. Piper A. Fulton, Lieut. Drummer William Rege and Sgt. Pipe Graham Ross.



A Tableau in the Adam Smith Hall

Platoons

No. 1 HEADQUARTERS PLATOON



Back Row—H. Cruickshank, R. Ramsay, T. Quinn, D. Taylor, D. Wallace, J. McGown, G. Dryburgh, J. McBain, G. Wilson, P. Mitchell, Lt. Cpl. A. Walsh, J. Williams.
 Third Row—L. Black, G. Wilson, J. Pittard, D. Deas, W. Grogg, S. Pothies, G. Dick, J. Dallas, C. Johnson, E. Wilkie, Cpl. R. Hutchison.
 Second Row—Lt. Cpl. G. Hunter, Cpl. P. Duff, J. Johnston, W. Horne, Cpl. J. Simpson, Lt. Cpl. I. Alexander, Cpl. D. Watson, Lt. Cpl. J. Ness, Lt. Cochrane, Cpl. W. Reid, R. Cunningham.
 Front Row—Sgt. J. Tannah, Lieut. A. Lawson, Lieut. G. Bell, Lieut. G. Hay, Lieut. R. Patterson, Lieut. J. Clark, O.C., Lieut. P. Brown, Lieut. J. Mackie, Lieut. W. Gutter, Sgt. J. Swinton.
 Seated—T. Aird, W. Young, J. Alderson, R. Kilpatrick, J. Ferguson.
 Members not on photograph—Cpl. J. Saunders, Cpl. R. Colville.

No. 2 (LINKS) PLATOON



Back Row—R. Henderson, J. Gallwey, D. Gair, J. Macintosh, J. Colclough, R. Colman, W. Dunbar, D. Nelson, F. Connolly, M. Linton, G. McInnes.
 Fourth Row—A. Williams, Lt. Cpl. Ian MacIntyre, H. Kirkville, J. Colville, J. Murray, A. Forrest, J. Simpson, R. Dickson, Lt. Cpl. R. Colman, W. Henderson.
 Third Row—Lt. Cpl. W. Bell, T. Cunningham, J. Beveridge, Cpl. Ian McPhail, Cpl. J. Fraser, F. Connolly, R. Young, S. Cunningham, G. Nicol, J. Davidson.
 Second Row—Sgt. A. Glen, Cpl. G. Mackay, J. Beveridge, Lt. Cpl. D. Taylor, G. McWilliams, Lt. Cpl. J. Kinross, Lt. Cpl. W. Miles, Cpl. J. Grant, Cpl. A. Douglas, Lt. Cpl. J. Fraser, Sgt. G. Laid.
 Front Row—Sgt. D. Nichol, Sgt. J. Mackay, Lt. J. Fraser, Lt. R. Ross, Lt. J. Halliwell, O.C., Lt. R. Edgar, Lt. J. Young, S. Sgt. J. Simpson, Sgt. G. Ross.
 Members not on photograph—Lt. Cpl. V. Martin, Pte. J. Dickson, G. Alford, J. Morris, Cpl. R. Gunn, Pte. T. Moodie, D. Gamin, T. Stark, T. Dwyer, D. Robertson.

No. 3 (PATHHEAD) PLATOON



Back Row—W. Gibson, G. Kilgour, J. Ireland, G. Campbell, H. Greig, Ian Gibson.
 Third Row—A. Bell, J. Baird, R. Livingston, A. Kirkwood, James Harby, I. Morris, D. Thomson, F. Connolly, D. Hay.
 Second Row—G. Cairns, G. Tait, John Harvey, D. Beveridge, J. Gray, J. Davidson, R. Morrison, D. Michie, A. Simpson, S. Morrison.
 Front Row—Sgt. A. Hale, Sgt. D. Eray, Lieut. E. Brown, Lieut. W. Howe, Rev. A. E. D. MacRobert, Lieut. A. O'Brien, O.C., Lieut. J. Duncan.
 Seated—R. Simpson, A. Gill.
 Members not on photograph—Lieut. John Simpson, James Sharp, Charles Simpson, George Henderson, John Kay.

No. 4 (GALLATOWN) PLATOON



Back Row—A. Gair, G. McCallum, R. Cameron, J. Dunn, T. Platt, W. Eggle, A. Green, D. Nicholson, R. Dryburgh, D. Fenton, D. White, R. Bell.
 Third Row—E. Gair, J. Taylor, G. Auld, J. Anderson, J. Paine, J. Scott, J. Smith, J. Morrison, D. Berry, R. Colville.
 Second Row—A. Morrison, R. Auld, Lieut. J. Fraser, J. Taylor, D. MacIntyre, Rev. George Irving, M.A., Lieut. Andrew Williams, O.C.
 Front Row—Sgt. A. Campbell, J. Shaw, D. Rankin, W. Auld, R. Baxter.
 Members not on photograph—Sgt. R. Gentry, Pte. Gordon James.

No. 8 (ARROTHALL) PLATOON



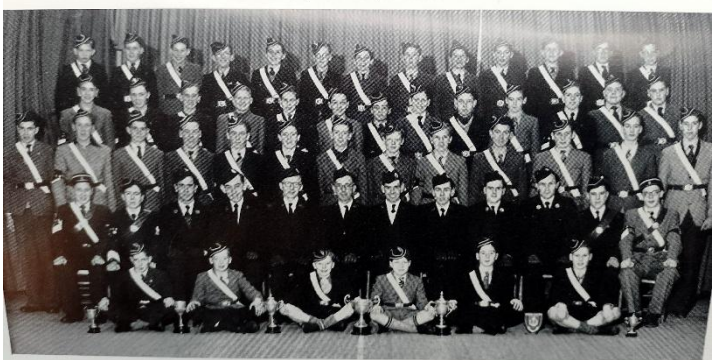
Back Row—R. Dawson, I. Strach, R. Hamilton, Cpl. I. Mitchell, Cpl. J. Thomson, L.Cpl. I. Dickson, Cpl. W. Sutherland, Cpl. G. Hannell, Cpl. T. Ford, Cpl. W. G. ...

No. 6 (DUNNIEK) PLATOON



Back Row—L.Cpl. Geo. Paul, Pte. Harry Dunlop, Jan. Mackie, Harry Adamson, Robert Conell, Robert Lawler, Jan. Crawford, Ian Conell, ...

No. 7 (ST. JOHN'S) PLATOON



Back Row—B. Kenyon, R. Stewart, A. Harrow, J. Bain, W. Hill, A. Westwater, R. Campbell, F. Walker, J. Cain, A. Forester, J. Kay, B. Blair, ...

No. 8 (KIRKCALDY OLD) PLATOON



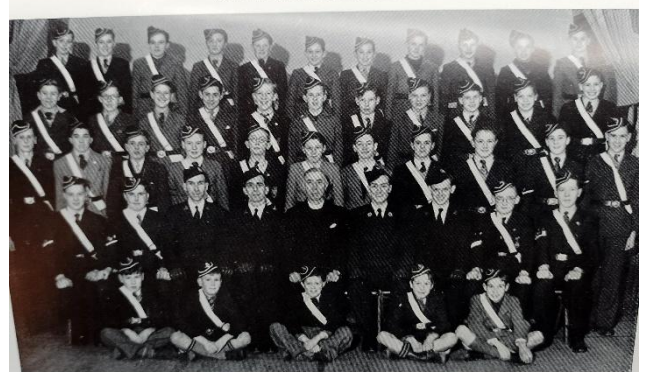
Back Row—Pte. D. Ingram, I. Maxwell, G. Bruce, D. Shaw, J. Dunnett, A. Page, B. Goullax, D. Hay, ...

No. 9 (HAYFIELD) PLATOON



Back Row—Pte. T. McArthur, T. Stevenson, J. Gordon, W. McDonald, R. Sinclair, A. Goodwin, W. Weir, J. Greens, J. Burnett, T. Muir, D. Donaldson, ...

No. 10 (SINCLAIRTOWN) PLATOON



Back Row—J. Hughes, J. Morrison, T. Patterson, J. Thomson, I. Anderson, D. Robertson, L. Douglas, D. Bissingham, J. Eagerston, W. Bruce, ...

No. 11 (WEST END CONGREGATIONAL) PLATOON



Back Row—W. Oswald, W. Neil, M. Keenan, W. Leslie, G. Fisher, J. McMillan, G. Pearson, T. Anderson, W. Sully, A. Spence, G. Leary, ...

No. 12 (SAUCHENSH) PLATOON



Back Row—Pte. J. Brown, T. Adams, B. Smith, J. Campbell, H. Kerr, F. Varney, A. Wishart, A. Page, J. Black, A. Robertson, J. Bell, ...

Victoria Road Headquarters

