



# **CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE**

## **The Early Beginnings of Christian Service Brigade in Canada**

A TRIBUTE TO CAPT. THOMAS PEAKE, SR.

**Compiled and written by Beverley Wahl  
with thanks to Harold Smith who started me on the journey,  
Tom Peake, Jr., my two younger brothers, Don and Bob,  
for encouraging me on the way, and my husband, Bob,  
for his love and patience.**

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## **A TRIBUTE TO CAPT. THOMAS PEAKE**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The following account is a tribute to my father, Mr. Thomas Peake, Sr., who spent his short life fulfilling a vision of seeing young boys live “Bright and Keen for Christ.” I, as his daughter, was not involved at the core of this ministry, which involved working directly with boys and young men during the weekly Battalion meetings. My Dad did, however, take me with him one night to see how a meeting was run. One of the things that intrigued me was that the games they played during the meetings were always filled with much excitement and zest but when the whistle was blown to end the game and the command was given for the boys to take their seats in the “Council Ring,” even though they were still charged with excitement, all was quiet and serious. They were ready for the most important part of the evening – Capt. Tom telling bold adventure stories of young men of action, who demonstrated with their lives how to live for Christ. This was always concluded with an application from the Bible.

Our whole family was engaged in Brigade work. My oldest brother, Tom, Jr., attended the first year of the Stockade Program beginning of 1946 at the age of 10 and when he turned 12, February 17, 1948 he graduated to the Battalion. Tom has been steadily involved in Christian Service Brigade ever since. He moved up the ranks from Lance Corporal to Captain serving in that capacity at Winona Gospel Church from 1974 to 1990, except for a few years serving at other churches. During that time he served for one year as Chief Ranger in the Stockade group. He began serving as Brigade Committee Chairman in 1991 until the year 2002 and during that time he also served as Ranger in the Stockade group at Winona. For the last three years up to the present, he has served as Lieutenant at Brant Bible Church. This brings the total number of years to 48 and still going strong. Tom attended Brigade Camp starting in 1948 as a Brigadier and in 1952 he was a Corporal at the Fairhaven’s location. As a Sergeant he served as Canoe and Swimming Instructor in 1955 to 1956 and at Camp Kakeka until 1969 to 1988, for a total of 26 years in C.S.B. camping ministries.

My younger brother, Don, joined the Stockades when he turned 8 years old in 1950 and the Battalion when he turned 12 in 1954. Don says, “The big thing for me was to play on the hockey team with Harry Ramsden. Harry was a great model of a person who faced a disability and overcame it. He actually made a joke of his wooden leg and laughed when we hit his leg with the puck or stick.”

My youngest brother, Bob, attended Stockade in 1952 when he turned 8 years old, then the Battalion in 1956. He recalls some of the fun times at camp: “I remember shouting at the supper table; ‘Camper, camper strong and able, get those elbows off the table, this is not a horse’s stable but a first class dining table’ (name of the camper was used). Bob vividly remembers the last day of camp when the campers threw the counselors and Dad into the lake. He remembers campfires and can still build a fire perfectly. One time there was a pesky groundhog digging a hole near our campfire site; the riflery instructor took care of him. He

recalls a canoe trip through the locks in a war canoe with 14 other guys, Mr. Cassidy and 3 big canoes then swimming to a floating platform that had a diving board attached to it.

My mother did all the typing and bookkeeping for Dad until I was in my first year of high school in 1952. I excelled in typing so I was able to type my Dad's letters to churches who showed an interested in starting up Christian Service Brigade. I also typed a letter to Chicago Headquarters and to the founder of C.S.B. Joe Coughlin as well as camp reports.

Joseph Bubar, the General Director of C.S.B., asked me to come to Chicago when I was 18 and work in the Headquarters as his secretary. I stayed for one year and then returned home to be married to Bob Wahl. Bob spent six months of that time in a Y.M.C.A. school in Chicago, finishing his high school; he had previously graduated from Bible School. Shortly after we were married, my husband decided to attend Wheaton College so we returned to Chicago and again I worked at the C.S.B Headquarters.

Bob (my husband) was also involved with my Dad in Brigade Camp and has many fond memories of learning how to build a fire and start it with one match. My mother used to say, "*we lived, breathed and ate Christian Service Brigade.*" My father, Thomas Peake, Sr. leaves a legacy of dedication to us as a family, and to the many others he influenced through C.S.B. to live –

*BRIGHT AND KEEN FOR CHRIST, BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM,  
BECAUSE WE WANT TO SERVE HIM UNTIL WE SEE HIM FACE TO FACE. .*

## **1. HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

### **1) The Founder.**

Christian Service Brigade was founded in October, 1937 by Joseph W. Coughlin while attending Wheaton College. His practical work assignment was to teach a Sunday School class of eleven-year-old boys at the Methodist Church in nearby Glen Ellyn. It didn't take long for young Joe Coughlin to realize that his sixth grade Sunday School class needed more than 20 minutes of teaching on Sunday mornings. Coughlin decided to start a Christian boy's club based on the reading and planning he had done, plus the training he had received at military school. This first group was called "Sixth Grade Brigade" and met in the church basement with 12 boys in attendance. The name was later changed to "Christian Service Squad" to accommodate groups that may come later. Their program was complete with handbooks and all the symbols: torch, sword, an open Bible as well as the motto still used today – "Bright and Keen for Christ." Soon after that Joe Coughlin composed the initial version of the Brigade Hymn. The sixth graders eagerly invited others and the group began to grow so the name was changed to "Christian Service Brigade" to reflect the fact that there was now more than one squad. At this point it became evident that the program could not be continued in the Methodist Church.

From there the organization grew rapidly. Joe Coughlin decided to move to Chicago to act as Captain to up to fifteen groups that had begun in the surrounding area. The movement was officially incorporated in December, 1940. Christian Service Brigade office was moved to Wheaton, a suburb of Chicago, and continues to have its Headquarters there to this day.

### **2) The First Canadian Contact.**

In October, 1942, Mr. George W. Smith of Niagara Falls, Ontario was attending the annual International Convention of the Christian Business Men's Committee in Detroit, Michigan. Joseph Coughlin, founder of the newly formed Christian Service Brigade work, was also there. George Smith, a former Boy Scouts leader, was immediately interested in the program Coughlin was presenting. They met again at George Smith's home in Niagara Falls and formed the first Canadian Battalion in November, 1942 at Grace Gospel Church, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Les Stout assisted George Smith and together they pioneered the work.

### **3) Introduction of Christian Service Brigade to Thomas Peake, Sr.**

Boy Scouts was a thriving movement and during the early years of Christian Service Brigade many Christian men were involved in Scouts due to the lack of an alternative. Like several others before him, Tom Peake was a Scout leader who had become increasingly dissatisfied with that movement and when he heard about Christian Service Brigade, he was pleased to see the emphasis that was placed on spiritual training as well

as striving to reach physical goals. In 1944 when Tom was introduced to the Christian Service Brigade program at Winona Gospel Church, he began attending the evening services there with his family.

#### **4) Harold Smith Appointed as Captain.**

Pastor Fred Thiessen had been eager to get the Brigade program started so he had organized the group in October 1943. After four meetings he asked Harold Smith to continue as Captain. The group had grown to 25 when Joseph Coughlin paid them a visit on his way to Toronto. He helped Harold Smith appoint Noncoms to serve as junior leaders. Among these was Morry Worozbyt who was only 13 years old at the time and went on to serve in the Brigade ministry in a significant way. Coughlin conducted a training session in the basement of Winona Gospel Church for these new leaders during that visit.

#### **5) Chartered Battalions.**

In September 1943, Ken Hansen, General Secretary of C.S.B. introduced a plan that would require each Battalion to apply for a charter number. This would allow the group to use the Brigade name and materials. As an incentive to get the lowest number possible, the numbers were assigned in the order the applications were received Winona received #17. All leaders were required to take the Leadership Training and register with the headquarters in Chicago.

#### **6) Tom Peake, Sr. as Captain.**

Tom Peake transferred his membership to Winona Gospel Church in 1945, and after taking the Leadership Training Course, he took over as Captain of the Battalion. He held this position until 1954 when he resigned to devote more time to developing C.S.B. in other Ontario churches; he had been appointed Area Representative in 1952. Harold Smith took on the position of Brigade Committee Chairman. Reginald Pierre took over as Battalion Captain after Tom Peake resigned, however, Capt. Tom continued to train and work with the leaders at Winona Gospel Church. When asked what some of the things were that contributed to the growth of C.S.B. at Winona, his oldest son, Tom Peake, Jr. replied, "...trained leadership - we ran it by the book, and Dad was a very good leader." God had His hand upon him to fulfill his calling to reach boys for Christ.

#### **7) Beginnings of Pioneer Girls and Stockade for younger boys.**

Pioneer Girls began not long after the first boys' groups were started in the Glen Ellyn church. The girls were eager to have their own group and Joe Coughlin found women gifted in leadership who were just as eager to get it started. The Pioneer Girls group was introduced to Winona Church soon after Tom Peake became Captain of the Battalion. With Marge Peake (Tom's wife) as Guide and daughter, Beverley, as one of the first

members, it didn't take very long to have a good number of girls aged 8 – 11. This was the first Pioneer Girls group started in Canada.

The Stockade program was started in Chicago in 1945 for boys aged 8 – 11. This was not a 'junior Brigade' meeting; the C.S.B. leaders believed it should have an entirely different approach for the younger boys. The following year, the C.S.B. leaders at Winona Gospel church introduced the Stockade program with Ronald Smith and William Boettger as leaders. Tom Peake, Jr. was among the first to sign up as a Stockader at the age of 10. This Stockade group was the first one to be organized in Canada.

### **The Camping Program**

Tom Peake had a love for camping. Early pictures of my Dad and Mom show them on their honeymoon – in a tent! He was introduced to camping when he worked with Boy Scouts before he was married. The first Christian Service Brigade camp was held in the summer of 1946 at Red Hill Creek on farm land that is now part of Hamilton at Lawrence Road. I believe this was a trial run, unstructured to see what the response would be. The wives of the leaders offered to do the cooking but the men were determined this was to be a "man's thing" and they would be fine on their own. There were about six boys there between the ages of 12 and 18 plus some of the older newly appointed leaders. Capt. Tom took some along old pots and pans, with a few utensils and the various work duties were assigned to each camper. He instructed the boys how gather and chop firewood and build a fire using only one match.



He taught them how to cook bacon and eggs over an open wood fire, scrub the pots and pans with sand as well as many other jobs that were necessary for comfort and survival. At the close of each day the campers gathered in a circle around a large fire to sing and listen to Capt. Tom give one of his challenging stories.

The second camp was a weekend camp, June 28 to July 1, 1947. It was held at Grimsby Mountain with a group of ten Brigade boys and three Noncoms, Mel Cuthbert Morry Worozbyt, and George Leng (known as the three 'bugs') and Director, Capt. Tom Peake. Don McAlpine had the misfortune of injuring the top of his foot with an axe while chopping wood. He was taken to a doctor, the cut required four stitches. Plans for future camps were discussed and a flag was designed that would be specifically for the camp. Later in the evening there was some lively singing led by George; Mel gave a talk on the text "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."



This was followed by Capt. Tom who spoke on the campfire liar (Peter). He also gave a strong appeal for boys to make a decision for Christ and to remain faithful to Him. Total expenses for the week-end camp were \$20.32 and the total receipts were \$22.00.



In 1948 a third weekend camp was held at Community Beach on Lake Ontario August 20, 21 & 22. The campsite was located between Millen and Gray side roads on the lake front property of Mr. Stuart. Capt. Tom picked up the campers' bedding, etc. and all the fellows rode their bikes. The beds were made by stuffing hay into a sack – a total of three bails.

The group was divided into three squads: In Corp. Rowland Cuthbert's squad were Tom Peake Jr. and Ian Hamilton; in Corp. Jim Smoke's squad, Don McAlpine and Phillip Worozbyt. The leaders with Capt. Tom, were 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Mel Cuthbert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Morry Worozbyt, Serg. and Chef, George Leng. Although the leaders slept outside, they were pampered with feather ticks. A total of ten were in attendance. There was only one tent available and it was shared by Corp. Roland's squad and Corp. Jim's squad. Capt. Tom went home to sleep while the other leaders slept outdoors. In the morning the boys went through their regular Brigade routine of flag raising and devotions. After breakfast it was time for fatigue and inspection. Lieut. Mel Cuthbert led a Bible study from the book of Mark. Notes were taken and the boys studied for a short test. After craft time, dinner (lunch) consisted of potatoes and pork & beans, coffee, cocoa and a basket of peaches. The afternoon was spent swimming, playing rugby, reading and an apple fight between the officers and Brigadiers. George was "chef" at supper time, after which the campfire was lit by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Morry (using only one match).

Sunday morning began with more teaching by Lieut. Mel Cuthbert on the book of Mark. Capt. Tom held a church service. Bob Hurst led the singing after which Capt. Tom gave a little sermon. After supper the entire camp was cleaned up, the tent was pulled down and the hay was burned. In the evening Harold Smith came with a group of people from the church who were interested in the Brigade camp. Around the campfire there was more singing, testimonies were given and Capt. Tom closed with the devotion. Everyone agreed that this year was better than last year's camp.

There are no records of any camps in 1949 and 1950. In 1951, camp was held at the Norton Farm in Bronte Creek and three cars were needed to transport the growing number of campers. There is also no written report on this camp. There were no kitchen facilities there so again all the cooking was done on an open fire pit. Each leader and camper brought his own tent and blankets, etc.

In 1952 Brigade groups from other Ontario churches were invited to participate in the camping program. Fairhaven's Jr. Campgrounds in Beaverton, Ontario was rented from

the A.G.C. and camp was extended to a full week. This was a fully equipped camp with complete kitchen facilities, dining room, cabins. A sports field and swimming and boating was available.



This first area camp boasted 23 campers and 4 counselors: Morry Worozbyt, Mel Cuthbert, Rowland Cuthbert and Harold Murphy, plus Director, Capt Tom Peake, Sr.; George Leng, Assistant Director. The cooks were Mrs. Matts with two young ladies as helpers. Mr. Matts took movies of the camp. At this camp awards were given out: best camper award was

given to Peter Worozbyt and second best camper to Hugh McAulay. Best Bible student award went to Philip Skewes (Alias Pogo) and the second best was George Fleming.

In his report on the 1952 camp Capt. Tom he writes "...The Lord was abundantly present and our hearts were thrilled as 6 out of 8 unsaved teenagers accepted Christ as Saviour. We shall never forget the joy of fellowship as senior leaders as we met daily for prayer and praise and to talk over the problems and victories."

Instruction was given in the following crafts: Bible Craft – Mel Cuthbert, Swimming; Lifeguard - Morry Worozbyt; Archery - Harold Murphy; Rowing – Rowland Cuthbert; Athletics – George Leng; Woodsmanship – Tom Peake, Sr. Other special activities included a seven mile hike, a trip to the Trent Canal locks, a baseball game with the men of the Fairhaven's' Conference, a Jr. Leaders' fishing trip, an overnight hike by about 10 woodsman enthusiasts who built three outdoor shelters and in which they slept one night, and a visit to the conference tabernacle. Awards were won and boys finished their Explorer's Rank and were presented with the Explorer's badge and Tom Peake Jr. attained the rank of Corporal.

The report goes on to say: "The morale and enthusiasm of the boys were very high. No one wanted to leave for home and we are all looking forward to next summer when once again the smell of burning pine and the lure of God's great outdoors will call us once more into a fellowship found only when boys and men and God meet in Brigade Camp." Camp Director, Capt Tom Peake, Sr. ends his report with these words, "The work of the Holy Spirit was manifested in every life and as the days went by in that little spot set apart from the turmoil of this world, Jesus Christ was more real to us than ever before. We thank God for the opportunity of presenting Christ as Saviour and Lord to fellows who are at the most crucial age of their lives."

This type of inter-church camp was the dream of Capt. Tom Peake, Sr. He had visited Stoney Glen Camp in Ohio to learn how this was accomplished and returned with the determination under God to bring this to pass. He was in contact with Carl Gunn, the C.S.B Representative for the state of Michigan. Gunn led a camp there as did many others in the U.S., which Capt. Tom was aware of and he was constantly in contact with the leaders there.

The number of campers had grown to 27 plus 6 counselors and the Director, Capt. Tom in 1953. This was a significant increase and so impressed Capt. Tom that he wrote a letter to the founder, Joe Coughlin, who was now working with C.S.B. in Costa Rico.

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### *Christian Service Brigade*

National Office: 542 S. Dearborn St., Chicago Ill.

Canadian Office: 14 Margaret St., Fruitland, Ont.

Dated: After the summer of 1953.

Att. Senor Jose Coughlin  
Latin American Mission  
Apartado 1307  
San Jose, Costa Rico

Dear Joe,

Under the heading "Frontier Camps" [a] term [that] was used by you in your February 3 form letter, includes a camp - you probably don't recall. It was about 1944 when you organized a camp at Winona, Ont. Included in the camp was a group from the Winona Gospel Church, Batt. 17, which was started by you at the invitation of Rev. Fred Thiessen, now a missionary in India.

I was asked to take over the group in 1945 and have been captain since that time. The Lord has really blessed down through the years. One fellow is even now on his way as a missionary to Sao Paulo, Brazil because of the challenge and training received in our Battalion. Another is at Bible School because of what Brigade has done for him. Fellows have been saved and trained for leadership through the weekly activities and summer camp at Lake Simcoe, Ont.

Last week we had a record attendance - 34. The torch of Winona which was lit by you has recently touched off a half dozen other fires in the district. Pray for us, as we do for you, that we will be used effectively in reaching more boys for the Saviour. Two Catholic fellows heard the gospel for the first time. Pray for them!

Thank you, Joe, for being willing to be used of God in establishing such a solid, complete, soul saving boys' club - it has done more for me personally than any other agent.

God bless you, Joe, as you carry a great burden, which I'm sure, is shared by our wonderful Lord.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Tom Peake,  
Ontario Area C.S.B. Rep.

Copied from a handwritten letter.

The next year, 1954, there were 48 campers, 8 counselors and Capt. Tom, and 45 campers, 8 counselors and Capt. Tom in 1955. These camps were all held at the Fairhaven's site and remained one week camps. There are no written reports available. However, there were sufficient applications coming in for the 1956 camp to warrant extending the camping period to 2 weeks doubling the number of campers to a total of 94 campers in that year. In 1955 Tom Peake, Jr. became Sergeant and was then able to utilize his training (see next paragraph) to teach canoeing, and life guarding. We do know that Capt. Tom Peake, Sr. directed these camps but no other information is available.

Through a gift from Rev. Allan King, Director of the Bible Club Camp where Tom and his sister, Bev went every summer, Tom Peake, Jr. was sent to Bark Lake Training Centre south of Lake Koshlong, Haliburton, Ontario that same year. He learned life guarding and how to teach canoeing.

More registrations than ever before were coming in for the 1957 camp so the leadership sought to obtain a 3<sup>rd</sup> week of camping at Fairhaven's Camp. This was not available due to a prior booking so it was decided to move the camp to a site where this was possible. A suitable site was located at Echo Bay on Soyers Lake near Haliburton. It was fully equipped with a kitchen, dining room, cabins, tent areas and outhouses. There were many other changes made possible by having three weeks of camping such as: both Stockade and Battalion boys as well as one week of family camp. The Echo Bay site was rented from 1957 to 1960 with campers from various Ontario churches each week. The number of campers attending in 1959 climbed to 269 with 40 counselors. The leaders were: Capt. Tom Peake Sr., Bill Friesen Sr., Harold Smith, Morry Worozbyt and Len Cassidy.

During the latter part of 1956 Capt. Tom had experienced a heart attack and subsequently two more during the following year. This left him weak and he found it difficult to maintain his regular job and be involved with the boys work as well. He directed his last camp the summer of 1957 and during that camping season, those around him were concerned about his health.

Capt. Tom was sorely missed at the 1958 camp. That year, Bill Friesen, a Brigade Captain from St. Catharines, became the Camp Director and served in that capacity for many years.

The next year there were 353 campers and 65 counselors, plus the directors and kitchen staff. The Echo Bay camp site had become too small to accommodate another increase and it was obvious something had to be done. It was during the 1959 camping season that the decision was made to purchase a campsite for C.S.B. Canada.

After the close of the 1959 camp, Captain Bill Friesen took a team of leaders including Bob Wahl, Capt. Tom's son-in-law, and pushed into the brush for two & one half miles. When they came to a place that was no longer passable, they left the truck and hiked the

rest of the way carrying their equipment. What a glorious reward at the end of this difficult trip. They were greeted by a beautiful lake surrounded by unspoiled nature. After they had walked the property, they cooked supper over an open pit. Bob Wahl, a Bible School grad preparing to go to the mission field with his wife, Bev, led a devotional that most of those who were there still remember to this day. They were mesmerized by their surroundings and with the presence of God but finally it was time to crawl into the tents.

There was no doubt that this was the place God had chosen. Between the last half of 1959 and 1960, funds were raised from the participating C.S.B. churches and the site at Basshaunt Lake was purchased. The camp was named Camp Kakeka, an Indian word meaning "everlasting." The purchase was finalized in August of 1960 and work on the new 200 acre site began immediately after the close of the Echo Bay Camp.

Capt. Tom's son, Thomas E. Peake, Jr., was determined to follow in his father's footsteps helping to complete the work he had begun. Tom, Jr. became involved in setting up Camp Kakeka for the coming year. The first project was to build a lodge, which held the kitchen facility, dining room and games room. There was a second floor that served to accommodate staff. Tom, Jr. also helped with many of the odd jobs that needed to be done to prepare it for the number of campers that were expected. The only thing that was missing was the presence of Capt. Tom, Sr. the one who had begun this ministry to boys. The first camp in the new Camp Kakeka Campground was held in 1961. This was four weeks of camping with a total of 353 campers attending and 65 counselors and directors.

In 1964 the number of weeks of camping was increased to 6 and the total number of campers during that year was 524 with 93 counselors and directors. The attendance grew steadily: 611 campers in 1965 and in 1966 attendance increased to 668 campers, 94 counselors, the Director, and Assistant Director at Camp Kakeka. In addition there was a full-service kitchen with a head cook and several helpers. A nurse was brought in and Keith McCrory was there as waterfront director. The counselors usually had secondary roles such as: teaching canoeing, archery, swimming, etc. as well as Bible Study leaders. Our records of the number of campers ends with 1967 and we have no more records for subsequent years.

The tradition of having the Council Ring around the campfire continued every night as it had begun after the first camp. Many took the opportunity to pray and receive Christ as Saviour. The fruit that was produced through the dedication of Capt. Tom, Sr. and those who followed after him is immeasurable. Leaders were trained and boys were drawn to a closer relationship with the Lord.

## **2. Ontario Representative.**

### **1. Capt. Thomas Peake as Ontario Regional Representative**

George Smith from Niagara Falls was the C.S.B. Regional Representative but resigned when he could no longer carry on. Tom Peake was so excited about the possibilities offered in Christian Service Brigade that he began in the same year, 1946, to travel in his spare time to other churches to spread the word.

Thomas Peake was officially appointed as Ontario Representative in 1952. Under Capt. Tom's leadership, many more Battalions started throughout Ontario. The camping ministry became a regional effort, which was a real incentive for boys to join the Battalions. (See section on 'The Camping Program' pg. 5)

In 1950, although he had not yet been appointed as the Ontario Representative, he felt the need for Brigade uniforms. They were already in use in the U. S. so rather than ship them across the border; Tom Peake obtained a contract with Eaton's of Canada to produce a standard green shirt with "Christian Service Brigade" sewn on the left pocket using red lettering and the logo.

During his time as Ontario Representative, a total of 19 Battalions and 11 Stockade groups were begun with a total of 90 trained registered leaders. Many times when a Battalion was started in a church nearby, Capt. Tom was there for the first meeting, participating in the opening ceremony.

These 5 years were a special time for the entire family. Capt. Tom still worked full time as a retail store manager to support the family. His work as a Representative was voluntary; he had a heart for boys and strongly believed that Christian Service Brigade was the key to winning boys for Christ and his family supported him wholeheartedly.

Letters of introduction were sent out to the Evangelical Churches in the surrounding area.



## *Christian Service Brigade*

National Office: 542 S. Dearborn St., Chicago Ill.

Canadian Office: 14 Margaret St., Fruitland, Ont.

Dear Pastor or Leaders:

I trust you have received a copy of a letter from Carl Gunn of Christian Service Brigade, Chicago, introducing me as Ontario Representative of Christian Service Brigade.

The C. S. B. differs from all other type of boys' Organizations in that it is necessary for a church to comply with the Articles of Faith which are much like those of our own Associated Gospel Churches and has a Christ-Centred program which contains physical attractions to satisfy any boy.

We know that with competent leadership and church sponsorship, C. S. B. will do much for the teenage group, which is hardest to reach with the gospel.

We at Winona Gospel Church have sponsored C.S.B. for 8 years and are very well pleased with the results. Several teenagers have found Christ as Saviour and others have been strengthened in the faith. We try to help boys Mentally, Physically, Socially and Spiritually.

If you are interested in starting or finding out about this and the "Stockade" (age 8-12 years old) please write to us and we would be glad to answer your questions by letter or if possible in person.

Yours for boys in Christ

(Signed by Thomas Peake)

TP/bjp

ONTARIO AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Probably written sometime in 1952

His daughter, Beverley, typed the letters and responded to the various churches who expressed an interest in starting a Battalion. Invitations for a Brigade presentation came in from many of these churches. The family went with their Dad while he presented the Brigade program, showed slides of Brigade Camp, and met with potential leaders. It was during this time that solid foundations were being laid by a small number of dedicated men who joined Capt. Tom, eager to get the program going to fulfill the mandate of reaching boys for Christ.

## **2. Morry Worozbyt as Ontario Regional Representative**

In 1952 Morry Worozbyt attended London Bible Institute and while he was there he established Battalion 522 in Manor Park Bible Church in London, Ont. By early 1957, Tom Peake's health was failing due to several heart attacks so there was a need for someone to take over as Ontario Representative. Recognizing this need, the General Director, Joseph Bubar felt it necessary to search for a replacement. After Morry graduated in 1956 from London Bible Institute, he felt the Lord leading him to offer himself as a candidate for the position of Ontario Representative. In the fall of that same year, he and his wife, Margaret, went to the C.S.B. Headquarters in Chicago where they worked part time in the office, giving them first hand training and opportunity to become familiar with the workings of a Brigade office. After six months, Morry was given the job of evaluating the Brigade units in the Chicago area. Morry also attended Trinity College for a further year of study during this time.

On September 19, 1957 Morry Worozbyt became the Ontario Regional Representative, and was the first trained full time staff worker for Christian Service Brigade in Canada. His responsibility was to continue to establish new Brigade groups in churches throughout Ontario and to further expand the work of the C.S.B. camping ministry. He also opened up the first Canadian office for C.S.B. The Ontario Regional Committee was formed to assist in obtaining government permission to issue receipts and to advise on other pertinent matters of business.

Tom Peake was very humbled by what the Lord had done throughout the years of training that Morry and others had received in the local C.S.B. Battalion at Winona Gospel Church. He was very proud of Morry and worked with him, giving him any help he needed.

## **3. Mission accomplished.**

During the early years, a solid foundation was formed on which to build. Many decisions for Christ were made at the weekly Brigade meetings and summer camps during these years. What a bountiful harvest. Lives of boys and leaders were changed.

George Leng continued to be a leader in the local Battalion as well as at the Brigade camps. He served in leadership roles in Winona Gospel Church, as a Sunday School teacher and S.S. Superintendent, Board of Elders as chairman, and Finance committee.

Mel Cuthbert went to South America as a missionary with his wife and family. In a recent e-mail to Beverley, Tom Peake's daughter, Mel writes: *"I point to C.S.B. as the instrument that led me into full time service. Your father was the human instrument that was to start me off into a precious 58 years of service for the Lord."*

Morry Worozbyt, who was in his early teens when he was appointed as one of the first Noncoms, worked under Harold Smith and then Capt. Tom Peake. As mentioned, Morry went on to become Ontario Regional Representative.

Tom Peake resigned April, 1958 due to his heart condition. In his letter of resignation to the Canadian Headquarters, he wrote: *“It has been a real joy to serve the Lord in the work of Brigade during its formative years, to see the Lord touch lives and challenge them for service. The times of fellowship with you men have been especially precious. I should like to thank you for your co-operation and loyalty especially during these past three months.*

*So, some shall plant and some shall water, but God giveth the increase. May the same spirit of “oneness,” which has been so marked in the past, continue. May you continually look unto JESUS, the Author and Finisher of our faith.”*

While driving to Winona Gospel Church to speak to the young people’s group on May 30, 1958, Capt. Tom suffered his fourth and final heart attack and went to be with the Lord thus ending the labours of one who had done much to establish Brigade in Ontario. He died in his car on the way to do the thing he loved best. His son, Don, (16 years old) was driving his own car to attend the same meeting. He noticed his Dad’s car on the side of the road so he pulled over but there was nothing he could do. Thomas Peake also had a younger son, Bob, who was 13 at the time.

Capt. Tom was buried with “Brigade Honours;” a large Brigade Flag was draped over his coffin and the Motto “Bright and Keen for Christ” was the theme of the funeral service. The Brigade Hymn, written by the founder of C.S.B., Joseph Coughlin, was sung:

*Brigadiers all join together;  
Rise as men be strong.  
By the grace of God go forward,  
Shout the triumph song:*

*Refrain:  
Bright and Keen for Christ, our Saviour,  
Glory to His name.  
Brigadiers to serve the King,  
His wondrous love proclaim:*

*Trusting in the blood of Calvary,  
All our sins are gone.  
Cleansed for service, ever forward,  
Press the battle on:*

*Forward to the far horizon,*

*Though the road be long.  
'Till from ev'ry tribe and nation  
Echoes back the song:*

If you are reading this and you have a story to tell about your experience at Christian Service Brigade meetings or Camp, whether it be in the beginning years or the latter, we would be interested in hearing from you. You can communicate by e-mail at [bjwahl@shaw.ca](mailto:bjwahl@shaw.ca), telephone us at 604-597-0616 or write to:

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