

Toc H

Extracts from Toc H journals seen by K&PN at Toc H HQ in Aylesbury, 19 August 2008

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Branches are established **Groups**, Groups are awaiting 'full status'.

P.B.C – Rev PB 'Tubby' Clayton

Number (32) refers to the Branch in the overall order of foundation. This changes from 32 to 34 in July 1925 for North Staffordshire.

1922	Journal N ^o 2	September	No reference
	Journals 3 & 4	missing	
	Journal N ^o 5	December	p114 – Coming Events: <i>P.B.C. at Toc H Branch, Stoke-on-Trent</i> p146/7 – Branch Report - below

NORTH STAFFS. We howled our first howl on September 8th last, at 7.30 p.m., and nine attended our Christening. S. B. Bennett, of Cambridge, was the Father, and "Bunny" Hare, our Padre, of Stoke, performed the necessary ablutions. Since then we have grown considerably, and already boast of nearly twenty enthusiasts. We shall make our presence felt in many ways in the Potteries, and our meetings are brimful of interest.

We await the coming of "Tubby" early in the New Year, and if this baby Branch does not open his eyes then we will take him to the best optician in the Potteries for treatment. As already pointed out we possess a Branch Padre—a very able and willing member—and also a Branch Lawyer, so taking things all round we can't go wrong, although one of us nearly got into trouble with his "better half" through singing "Rogerum" in his sleep after the first meeting. Apparently the wife took objection to the ending of the word. Matters were, however, settled amicably, and a happy reconciliation took place. Our meetings are held weekly on Thursday, and we live for the coming of that evening. You shall hear from us again in due course.

E. J. H.

BRANCH REPORTS

Dec. 1922 p 146/7

p179 Branches listing:
North Staffordshire (32)
SH FitzJohn, 197 Campbell Rd, Stoke-on-Trent

1923	Journal N ^o 16	December	p456 <i>... but we believe that the time will come when it is reckoned an honour for a Branch to be in the original forty of 1922 or in the first hundred.</i>
1924	Vol 2 N ^o 6	June	pp170/1 Pocket Guide to Toc H & Branches listing: <i>North Staffordshire (32)</i> <i>TC Maynard, 17 Clive St, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent</i>
	Vol 2 N ^o 7	July	p201 - Branch Report – below

NORTH STAFFS.—Here we are again—after long silence! Oogaf and his merry men from Mark VI came over on May 26 to rouse up our branch, and we had a very inspiring evening. June 13 saw an inspection of local Toc H members by the Prince of Wales, who was visiting Hanley. Eleven of us paraded and each had a handshake and a few words. GUNNER.

BRANCH REPORT

July 1924 p 201

NORTH STAFFS.—We commenced our Winter Session with an address on the I.C.F. by “Now’t,” the local I.C.F. agent, who is also a member of Mark II. On September 24 we had an address on the Workers’ Educational Association by Mr. Hobson, the local secretary. On October 22 we spent a very interesting evening listening to an able lecture on “Old Newcastle-under-Lyme,” by Mr. T. Pape. We also welcomed “Binks” amongst us for the first time. He will be a great help. October 4 found several of us at Endon at the C.E.M.S. Conference. One of our members, “Bonniface,” opened the discussion on “Christianity in Industry.” The Bishop of Lichfield was chairman. We were very distressed to hear of “Oogaf’s” illness, and particularly as he had arranged to be in the Potteries on October 26 at three services. “Binks” has willingly stepped into the breach for one of the services. “Gunner” is to read the Lesson at the local public service on Armistice Day. We are also helping at the League of Nations meeting in the evening.

BRANCH REPORTS
NOVEMBER 1924 p. 313/4

- 1925** Vol III N° 3 March p86 – report on 3 Lamps awaiting dedication (includes) North Staffordshire, for which the Branch is endeavouring to find a donor in the Potteries.
- Vol III N° 10 October p297
North Staffordshire (34) Secretaryship vacant
- 1926** Vol IV N° 1 January p44 Branches listing:
North Staffordshire (34)
TC Maynard, Mill Hayes, Brindley Ford, Stoke-on-Trent
- Vol IV N° 5 May p195 – Branch report – below

NORTH STAFFS.—We have been steadily plodding on. Work with the St. John’s Boys’ Club has been a great pleasure to us and to the boys. We are winding up the winter session with a concert and feed on May 1. Mr. W. E. Keppy has given us a very interesting talk on the work of the Sailors’ Society. On March 12 “Gunner” conducted a party of the Branch down a pit, where we got first-hand information on the coal question, and we have since been discussing the Coal Commission’s Report together. We are keenly looking forward to the visit of Gilbert Williams on May 7, and to Tubby’s second visit to the Branch on May 20.

BRANCH REPORTS
MAY 1926 p. 195

T. C. M.

- Vol IV N° 10 October p366 – Branch report – below

BRANCH REPORTS West Midlands Area October 1926 p366

BIRMINGHAM.—On July 13 we welcomed Jessup and his American boys from Ridgefield and they replied with the College “yell.” On July 21 an intimate family gathering witnessed the unveiling of a beautiful stained glass window on the staircase of Mark VI: our jobmaster, whose parents were the donors, unveiled it and our padre dedi-

NORTH STAFFS.—We moved into our new headquarters on July 30—at Cross Street Boys’ Club, Hanley, where, at the Rector’s request, we have taken over the running of the club. About 60 boys came to the reopening of it on September 17, and Padre Spurway and Les Abdy blew in, to our delight.

GUNNER.

(Padre Frank Spurway was the West Midlands Padre)

- 1927** Vol 5 N° 1 January p42 – Branches list shows North Staffordshire now in the West Midlands Area based on Mark VI at 77 Clifford St, Lozells, Birmingham.
Area Secretary L Abdy, Area Padre Rev F Spurway.
Also a Stafford Branch now.
- Vol 5 N° 6 June p245 – Branch report:
North Staffs (Hanley) – We still survive after many setbacks, not least among them the loss of three members to other Branches. Our two corporate jobs keep us busy – help for the deaf and dumb, and the maintenance of a Boys’ Club.

BRANCH REPORTS

West Midlands Area

DECEMBER 1927 p490

The AREA RALLY on November 5 was a great show. George Collins (Northampton), Barkis, and Peter Monie talked on "Service," "Fellowship," and "Faith," in the afternoon. There was a largely attended service at St. Martin's at 6.30 p.m. when Tubby preached. Then in the evening members of the Birmingham Branch produced a concert in the approved concert party style.

BIRMINGHAM membership grows steadily, and definite recruiting is being done with a view to future Groups. ERDINGTON hope to be amongst the Rushlight holders very soon; an enthusiastic body of members and probationers are meeting there weekly. Members of the Branches and Groups in Greater Birmingham were inspected by H.R.H. the Patron when he visited the city on November 2: he promised a photograph to put up in Mark VI. The House is badly in need of more hostellers at the moment. A former Warden, Deaks, goes to Manchester, and will bid farewell to the House at a January supper. The Programme Committee has arranged six talks, among others, by Dr. Edwards of West Bromwich on "Sex" in January and February; these have already been given to WEST BROMWICH Group and were much appreciated.

NORTH STAFFS now has about 50 lads in its Boys' Club; the Winter programme

has begun, and two football teams are running. On October 28 half a dozen members braved the gale to hear Alec Paterson at Stafford: the party had to clear a big oak-tree off the road on the way home. On Armistice day the Branch gave its usual help to the League of Nations, and on November 13 attended officially at the Hanley Parish Church, together with the British Legion, and afterwards at the Cenotaph to lay a wreath. Work with the deaf and dumb is being resumed.

The Boys' Club which WOLVERHAMPTON are running in conjunction with Rotary was officially opened on October 26, by the Mayor of Wolverhampton who accepted it as one of the town's recognised social activities. The club is now running very smoothly and has about fifty or sixty members, who are able to indulge in gymnastics and physical training under an efficient instructor. The M.P. for West Wolverhampton presented a piano to the Club at the official opening and this will provide a useful means of entertainment for the boys. The Club is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday nights and anyone interested is cordially invited to drop in and see it in working order. Toc H meetings are held on the club premises, Munder Street, off Penn Road, on Monday nights: the last Monday in the month is a *Guest-night*.

1928

Vol VI N° 3

March p124/5 – Branch report – below

BRANCH REPORTS

West Midlands Area

MARCH 1928 p124/5

A summary of the progress of the Area in 1927, a year of rebuilding and consolidation rather than of wholesale expansion, may be of interest to the Family at large. Toc H is not much given to compiling statistics or believing them, but here are some interesting figures:—In January, 1927, the four Branches in the area (BIRMINGHAM, COVENTRY, NORTH STAFFS, and RUGBY) claimed 187 regular members and 14 general members attached. During the year, 34 regular members were transferred to the General Branch membership. Thirty regular and four general members were admitted during the year, and allowing for a number of members lapsed and gone to other parts, the present strength stands at 148 regular and 47 general members. The average age of membership in the Branches is 28 years. The Groups (CANNOCK, HANDSWORTH, HARBORNE, STAFFORD, WALSALL, WEDNESFIELD, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MALVERN and WOLVERHAMPTON) claimed 85 members all told in January, 1927. Forty-seven new members were received during the year, and after

allowance for members gone to other parts, the present strength stands at 117. The average age of membership in the Groups is 27 years. Taking the combined figures, results show that the percentage of new members made during the year is 3.85. Numbers may be misleading, but these cannot point to anything but very careful growth at a time when it is necessary to consolidate rather than to advance in numbers; and it realised also that the growth of Toc H must be in depth as well as breadth, with an increase in the numbers of families. It is good to know that in this respect Groups are well under way in King's Norton (Birmingham), Erdington (Birmingham), Solihull (Warwicks.), Kidderminster, Oakengates and Oswestry (Salop).

The formation of a "*Birmingham District*" is under consideration, and once established this will help in many ways to consolidate and extend the movement in Greater Birmingham. The "district" committee, partly elected by the families concerned, and partly appointed by Headquarters, will become

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sub-committee of the Central Executive, and be charged with special responsibilities of such a nature as to emphasise the duty of the individual member in building Toc H, as against the danger that development and extension may come to be regarded as the special tasks of the few. The future may see the formation of similar "districts" in other parts of the Area.

In the matter of *Service*, old and new jobs are being tackled, there being greater attention on the part of Jobmasters to the seeking of

permanent jobs for individuals—jobs which are going to last and which demand an intellectual contribution as well as the gift of spare time and physical energy. The co-operation of Rotary in several places is very real and a matter for mutual thanksgiving. Reports to hand from the *Pilots* of the various families show that this office in Toc H is well worth while, and those who have persevered at the job are hard put to it to realise how ever they managed before without this very necessary officer.

BRANCH REPORTS East and West Midlands Areas *Aug/Sept 1928 p377*

HINCKLEY counts June 23 as a red-letter day, for then their "cellar Chapel" was dedicated by Padre Siderfin (Area Padre) and a Birthday Festival was afterwards held on the Vicarage lawn, with the General Secretary as chief guest.

In the *West Midlands* the new Group at OAKENGATES received its Rushlight on May 10, when eighteen members were initiated. They have fortunately got the old Shedhill Forge offices as H.Q. Activity at CANNOCK has much increased lately, for the early difficulty of getting jobs has been overcome. The Group is doing corporate work for the Staffordshire Blind Society, installing wireless in the homes of the blind, etc. A Scout troop in a poor quarter is their latest undertaking. WALSALL is very occupied with boys' work. They are running three Clubs, with a total membership of nearly 200 boys, and a troop of Rovers. On May 25 the Bishop of Stafford confirmed twenty boys, all members of the Bath Street Club, many of whom had scarcely been inside a church before linking up, with Toc H.

The two blind members of the Group help greatly by their cheerfulness and usefulness. WEST BROMWICH also does boys' work, by running a series of week-end camps for boys who would otherwise have no real holiday: they take about 17 boys every week-end. STAFFORD run two Boys' Clubs, give concerts at the Workhouse and Cottage Hospital, make and maintain wireless sets for the blind, etc. They have recently lost five good members to other places, but have secured better quarters lately and carry on cheerfully. NORTH STAFFS. had their Lamp dedicated at Newcastle-under-Lyme on June 20, to 65 Old Medians (Orme Boys' School) who fell in the War. Ted Davidson (Manchester) preached and spoke again at the supper. Members are doing useful work for the deaf and dumb. BIRMINGHAM helped again to run a camp at Stratford-on-Avon for about twenty blind St. Dunstan's men. They ran side-shows and refreshments at a recent Fete for deaf and dumb people. The first *District Guest-night* was held at MARK VI. on June 16,

1929

Vol VII N° 5

May

p184 – North Staffordshire - Change of Secretary

AE Bowyer, "Gawsworth", Stone Rd, Trentham, S-O-T

Vol VII N° 6

June

p232 – Branch report – below

BRANCH REPORTS West Midland Area *JUNE 1929 p232*

The *Birmingham District* held its first Birthday in March, when there was a Conference in the afternoon, followed by a service in Birmingham Parish Church (St. Martin's), and a Guest-night in the evening, in all of which Toc H and L.W.H. joined. At the Conference, W. S. Hardacre (WIGAN) led a discussion on the "Ideal Guest-night," and G. H. Yerrington (WEDNESFIELD) on the "Man Hunt." There was a brisk discussion on both topics. At the service Padre Gilbert Williams preached to a large crowd of members and friends, and the whole service, which closed with "Light," was a great inspiration. The Guest-night which followed was entirely given over to song (and refreshments), and was a very "squashed" affair, the room being absolutely crowded. Representatives of families all over the Area were present. On the Friday night previously, Padre Williams had spoken to MARK VI on "Toc H Leaders." The Lamp of HARBORNE Branch was received from the Prince on April 27, and was carried by the father of the boys (John and Lawrence Dabs) to whom it was dedicated, and the Banner by a brother. The first public lighting was on May 11, the father again carrying the Lamp, which was received by W. A. Hawkins. The dedication prayer was taken by C. Darke, District Pilot, a Guest-night following the ceremony. HANDSWORTH Group Birthday on May 4 began with a service in Handsworth Parish Church, when Padre Fry, of Moseley, preached. At the Guest-night, S. W. Collischoon gave an interesting and provocative talk on some different aspects of service. All Branches and Groups in the District took part in the "World Circle of Light," most of them having an additional Guest-night, when they gave special consideration to Toc H in Australia and Overseas. KIDDERMINSTER celebrated its first Birthday on May 14 and at the same time "Followed the Gleam." They have "roped in" a Free Church Padre. NORTH STAFFS organised an open meeting at Longton and interested several keen people who should later form the nucleus of a Group. The Branch has had Alec Paterson to speak on "The Life of a Prisoner," when members from Birmingham, Stafford and Uttoxeter were present, and provided stewards on Industrial Sunday at I.C.F. meetings. Help was also given to local day school teachers in a pageant to augment the funds of the local "Playing Fields Association." "Tomko," formerly of Simla-Delhi Group, has found a home with the Branch. RUGBY held the dedication service of its little chapel on April 23, the date being selected to coincide with the anniversary of the death of Rupert Brooke. The ceremony was performed by the Ven. J. W. Hunkin, O.B.E., M.C., Branch President. Following the singing of "The Supreme Sacrifice," a service of thanksgiving and remembrance was conducted by the Branch Padre, who then lit the Lamp, which is dedicated to the poet's memory. The altar in the Rugby Chapel is of carved oak and is about 150 years old. The altar hangings are of damask and the candlesticks are from designs by Sir Edward Lutyens. The table lectern is of oak, with a carved double cross. Small oak benches form seating accommodation.

Vol VII N° 8/9

August

p297

John Cooper (North Staffordshire) who was fatally injured on July 8th in a motor-cycle accident and died next day.

BRANCH REPORTS AUGUST 1929 p310

be going strong. On June 20, **NORTH STAFFS** Branch celebrated their Birthday by a thanksgiving service in the Stoke Parish Church at which Padre F. J. Pratt, vicar of Stockingford, Nuncaton (well known to Nottingham members as their former Padre) preached. A crowded Guest-night, at which members from seven other Branches and Groups were present, followed. Van Someron of Mark VI spoke on "what Toc H is not". The Area Padre was also compelled to speak—which he did for nearly half an hour. RUGBY reports some busy week-ends with children's treats, etc. All hands are getting busy for the Boys' Camp in August. Members spent an afternoon lately with BEDFORD Branch.

They welcome the formation of the Warwickshire District Committee. COVENTRY have redecorated their headquarters, the old Bishop's Mansion. The Sports Committee have been busy with sports for the local Cadets, Scouts and C.L.B., and the Concert Party is preparing to meet the demands of the winter. The Boys' Club, which grows stronger, is now affiliated to the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and the Committee hopes for civic co-operation in the formation of a large club in the city, which is much needed. Bertie Holland (Sub-Dean of Coventry Cathedral and one of the Branch Padres) is leaving to become Archdeacon of Warwick. The Branch is grateful to him and wishes him well.

- Vol VII N° 10 October p339
North Staffordshire now meets in their new HQ: Victoria Place, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent (Wednesdays)
- Vol VII N° 12 December p407 – Change of name
North Staffordshire Branch has changed its name to Stoke-on-Trent
- 1930** Vol VIII N° 5 May p183
Any Toc H members visiting Stoke-on-Trent in connection with the Wedgwood Bicentenary on May 18-24th, will be welcome at the Stoke Guest-night on Wednesday May 21st at 8pm at the Deaf Institute, Victoria Square, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent
- Vol VIII N° 8/9 Aug/Sept p323 – Branch report:
Stoke-on-Trent's Birthday Celebrations were held on Thursday June 19th with a Thanksgiving Service at Bourne Primitive Methodist Church, Longton, conducted by Free Church Padre Cook. Herbert Leggett preached and also spoke at the Guest-night in the Lecture Hall, ably supported by Reevo.
(assumed to be the West Midlands Padre FG Reeves)
- 1931** Vol IX N° 6 June/July p235 – West Midlands Area – Newcastle-under-Lyme
CS Phillips, 148 Dimsdale Parade, Wolstanton (may be Schools Representative)
- Vol IX N° 7 August p321 – West Midlands Area – staff increase
New district formed: Derby District from East Midlands and with North Staffordshire District forms a semi-detached Division of the Area
P323 – Branch report – below

North Staffs District BRANCH REPORTS AUGUST 1931 p323

On Saturday, April 18, Pat Leonard held forth in great style to a Guest-night crowd of blokes from all over the Area, and on the Sunday morning conducted the Service of Holy Communion in the Parish Church at Stoke. Before he departed for Manchester a cheery breakfast party was gathered at the Stoke City Boys' Club premises.

The aforesaid Boys' Club was officially opened on April 21 by Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, supported by Lord and Lady Harrowby. This was followed by a public meeting in the King's Hall, Stoke, when, under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor, Lord Allenby spoke on Boys' Clubs. Lord Harrowby appealed for support for Toc H and Boys' Clubs throughout the district, and Paul Slessor spoke on the origin and aims of Toc H.

Newcastle have been promoted and are doing well. Their Rushlight was dedicated on July 20 and a District Guest-night staged. The District Committee is functioning well and is getting the team spirit felt.

- Vol IX N° 10 November Supplement piii confirms:
Stoke-on-Trent (1922) within North Staffordshire District Hon District Sec.: WJ Middleton, 44 Copeland St, S-O-T

BRANCH REPORTS

From the West Midlands Area

MAY 1932 p217/8

An Area stretching from *Holyhead* to *Banbury* and from *Presteigne* to *Alfreton* will take some time to shake together, but much has already been done to develop an Area Sense and great things are expected of the Festival next December, when it is hoped that our Patron, The Prince, will light the Lamps of many new Branches. Surely no Area can boast a greater mixture than ours. In the works and offices of Birmingham, in the villages and hunting fields of Warwickshire, in the mines of the Black Country, in the glass works of Stourbridge, in the china works of *Stoke*, in the gardens of Evesham, in the motor works of Coventry, in the railway works of Derby, in the schools and health resorts of Wales and the market towns of Shropshire, we find our members. Since the last despatch the Area has been given a greater measure of self-government. An Area Executive Committee has been set up. “Tubby” visited Warwick Castle in November, when the purses raised by Lady Warwick’s Appeal for Birmingham and Warwickshire were received by Lord Carisbrooke, and five weeks later he spoke to a number of prominent citizens in Birmingham on the “Aims and Needs of Toc H.” A friend provided luncheon before the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce. Some regroupings have taken place in the period under review. *Stourbridge* has been taken from its district to be the nucleus of the Stourbridge District. Together with *Lye*, it is proving a useful centre for activity, and already several Groves are crystallising out, as it were. *Oswestry* has left the category of the unattached, and now functions in the Shropshire District, and the Yorkshire Area have released *Alfreton*, which now joins the Derby District. This Area is mainly industrial, and Birmingham, with its one thousand industries, is the Emporium of Europe. Work, therefore, is for us a dire necessity. As Henry Ford says: “Work does more than get us our living; it gets us our life.” The past year has been anything but bright and prosperous. Clemenceau says of England: “Something seems to have gone out of her.” But the Prince’s speech is a sign that England is not so easily beaten or dismayed. There are already signs of improvement. A new day is dawning.

p323/4 – West Midlands Area report - below

DESPATCHES OF THE MONTH

Despatches from the Western, South Western, South Wales, and Northern Areas will be published in the October issue.

AUGUST 1932

From the West Midlands Area

p323/4

THIS Area is mainly industrial and Birmingham, with its thousand industries, is the Emporium of Europe. Work, therefore, is for us a dire necessity.” So ran the report from this Area in its last appearance in the JOURNAL. Since then the fundamental necessities of the Area have not changed, but Toc H seems to be triumphing over economic stress and in every district new contacts are being made, new regions of the country being opened up, and in the existing units new jobs tackled and experiments made. Let us briefly review the new contacts about the Districts. *Acocks Green* in the South Birmingham District are busy planning a Boys’ Club to begin in the autumn, by which time they will have received their Rushlight. King’s Heath hived off with about twelve men from *Moseley* in April, beginning their first corporate job in the early days of May by sending man-power to the Yardley Wood Schools Play Centre. In the North Birmingham District, *Perry Bar* has been doing a job for the Perry Standing Community Council at Kingstanding, with the result that several useful contacts have been made. Results may be looked for there shortly. Warwickshire District owns the responsibility of beginnings at Atherstone, where the circle, before applying to be recognised as a Group, staged a revolution and changed what officers had been appointed. However, there is possibly a boys’ club in the autumn wind, and youth must have its fling even though it affects officers. Hampton Lucy, perhaps the quaintest named place in the District, is receiving attention from *Stratford*, so the leadership of Archdeacon Holland should soon have some results to show. The catalogue of heroes that Homer included in his Area Despatch from Troy may not be one of the brightest efforts of journalism, but the cumulative effect is very powerful. So in the West Midlands Area, we will conclude, the “Story” has been told, and the gleam perceived in such far-flung places as Kineton, Gaydon, Claydon (a trap for the stiff-tongued, these two), Woolstanton, Coalbrookdale, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth, and Astwood Bank.

In case the fear should arise that this material expansion is the only care of the controlling powers, it must be emphasised what an increase in camps and conferences, training week-ends, and sweet sessions of silent thought this summer has seen, and how all activities culminated in two pilgrimages from the Area, during May and June. Children have been very much in the corporate mind these hot days. *Mark VI* began to discuss the proposition of Play Centres for children in May, and on the 24th of that month began with a centre at Summer Lane School. So far the venture is progressing favourably. With L.W.H.’s assistance, there are now four such experiments in practice. One problem arose that should easily be solved, and that is the clothes question. It was found that the activities of the centres were being seriously handicapped by the fact that many of the children came from homes that were unable to provide shoes, so that the children were hampered in their games. An appeal has been made for shoes and clothing to all the membership. The result is awaited with confidence. Then, again, here are some instances to show that the members are by no means foolish bachelors. Everyone knows that leaders are wanted in every aspect of life. So *Moseley* has provided for the winter by putting eight of their men into training in different boys’ clubs, ready for the dark days when a club of their own will be started. Then, again, to give jobmasters an insight into jobs, tours have been arranged to hospitals, infirmaries, reformatory schools, Blind institutes, and Boys’ Clubs, so that a knowledge of conditions prevailing in such places will lead to increased understanding in handling the job. Way for a bright idea! It was decided that a First Aid course should be run at *Mark VI* next winter for members. A really first-class doctor will deliver lectures and be in charge of the course, that will take about three months. The examination for the St. John Ambulance Certificate will then be taken by all. At least one man from each unit of the family will be expected to take the course, so that next year no unit should run children’s parties or outings unless at least one of the promoters has a sound knowledge of how to deal with all the hurts and bruises that so often occur unbidden. One unit makes itself responsible for seven cripples being taken to hospital for massage two or three times a week, and now the appeal has gone out for fellows with cars to stand by to take children home who have come into the hospital for one day to have tonsils and adenoids removed. To send them home by bus or tram causes them much pain and distress. So now the hope is that the toe of compassion shall gently press the accelerator of thoughtfulness.

Some railway companies display large maps of England, on which quaint activities are depicted, such as an apoplectic golfer in full swing here, a couple courting under an incredible moon there; in another place the new Sisyphus pushes his cycle uphill, and in yet another a cow munches grass that never was on land, and down south, riding on curly breakers, a sly dolphin winks roguishly to the bathing belles. It is the intention in these despatches to convey almost a similar impression of the activities of the Area, but the works of the Black Country jostle the glass industry of Stourbridge, while *Stoke* and its china encroach it seems on the market towns of Shropshire, so here there is a view of one family, one unit without geographical divisions, but showing that one attribute that is vital in art, in life, and in Toc H: variety in unity.

1933

Vol XI N° 5 May p233/4
North Staffordshire to leave the West Midlands Area to join the North Western Area on 1st May (WM too big)

Supplement December pxix – North West Area
*North Staffordshire District – Hon District Secretary
 CS Phillips, 168 Dimsdale Parade, Wolstanton, Staffs*

1944

Article in (Stoke) *Evening Sentinel*, Friday 7th July 1944:

Toc H Club opened

General Sir Colin Jardine, Bart DSO MC, Director of Welfare, British Army, today opened the new Toc H Services Club in High Street, Stoke.

The Club – described in the *Sentinel* on Monday – is for Service men and women members of the Allied nations and for members of the Women’s Land Army. Toc H have sponsored it, contributed £3000 towards the initial cost, and handed it over to a local Management Committee of which the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent is the President, and Mr AE Gray is Chairman.

The club is run by 250 voluntary workers, with Mrs LH Cooper in charge as Honorary Quartermaster. It has been in full use since last Saturday.

The Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Mr A Austin) presided at the official opening ceremony today.

(Photograph of official party in the following day’s edition).

Newsheet N° 9 October A War Service issue

WAR SERVICE NEWS SHEET OCTOBER 1944 N°9

TOC H AT HOME.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Toc H Services Club, 35 High Street, Stoke-on-Trent.—This Services Club, opened on July 7th, is one of the latest and best equipped Clubs in the Midlands. For some time it had been obvious that a Club was a vital necessity in the Potteries, and as a result of “combined operations” between Civic Authorities, Local Welfare Authorities and Toc H, the Club came into being. The City Council granted the use of a large three-storied block of premises at a ‘peppercorn’ rent and Toc H altered, re-decorated, and equipped it in splendid style. Its accommodation comprises a large canteen to seat 120, a fine range of kitchens, general lounge, men’s library and writing room, Service women’s lounge, etc., warden’s quarters, quiet room, and sleeping accommodation for 50 men, with excellent baths and showers. This Club is unusual in its decorative effects. Mr. A. E. Gray, one of the leading Potters, is Chairman of the Committee, and advised on all questions of colour and design, whilst the local Girls High School decorated the lounge and canteen with murals representing all the Ballets, transforming an ordinary Club into one of beauty. At the opening, the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Alderman Arthur Austin, J.P.) presided, and the ceremony was performed by the Director General of Welfare of the British Army, Major General Sir Colin Jardine, Bart., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., who spoke in the highest terms of what such Clubs meant to the Forces, and of his personal appreciation of the brightness and spirit of friendliness at Stoke. It was a brilliant opening, with some excellent speeches, one of the best being made by Mrs. L. J. Cooper, who spoke for the lady voluntary helpers, and called for personal service as well as gifts to make the “Club into a Home.” The work has already drawn appreciation from both the public and the troops. An American soldier said he had been in many Clubs, British and American, but none had made him as happy and welcome as Stoke!

Areas, Districts, Branches and Groups	
BRANCHES are printed in capitals, Groups in italics. (Telephone numbers in brackets.)	
ENGLAND	
Northern Area	
Area Secretary: J. W. Maddock, Toc H, Mark XVIII, Grainger Park Road, Newcastle/Tyne, 4. (33465).	
CLEVELAND DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: J. Sizer, 20, Victoria Ave., Redcar, Yorks. REDCAR. SALTBURN.	CREWE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: J. B. Williams, 21, Nelson Street, Crewe, Cheshire. CONGLTON. CREWE. NANTWICH. Tarporley. WILLASTON.
DARLINGTON DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: P. L. Cubitt, 35, Dale Road, Darlington, Co. Durham. (2973). BISHOP AUCKLAND. Catterick Village. DARLINGTON. RICHMOND.	EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: N. Kingston, 16, Walden Road, Blackburn, Lancs. ACCRINGTON. BLACKBURN. CLITHERO.
DURHAM COAST DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: J. Smith, 18, James Street, Easington Colliery. EASINGTON COLLIERY. SEAHAM HARBOUR. WEST HARTLEPOOL.	MANCHESTER AND SALFORD NORTH: Hon. Dist. Sec.: S. Bailey, 25, Sutton Flats, Pendleton, Salford. MOSTON. PRESTWICH. SALFORD. SOUTH SALFORD. Swinton. Worsley.
NORTH DURHAM DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: R. Tweddle, 27, Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain. BLACKHILL. CONSETT. STANLEY.	MANCHESTER AND SALFORD SOUTH AND EAST: Correspondence to: E. B. Wilkinson, Toc H Mark IV, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester, 14. Ardwick. Hulme. LEVENSHULME. MANCHESTER. WITHINGTON.
TEES-SIDE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: W. Youngs, 11, Tunstall Street, Nth. Ormesby, Middlesbrough. (Baglescliffe 3301). ESTON. GRANGE TOWN. MIDDLESBROUGH. Norton. Ormesby. STOCKTON AND THORNABY.	MERSEY DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: F. Laughton, Rosedale, Clarendon Road, Sale, Cheshire. BURNLEY. Brierfield. PADHAM. Rossendale.
TYNE-SIDE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: J. T. Dawson, 60, Moorhead, Nth. Fenham, Newcastle/Tyne, 4. ASHINGTON. Gosforth. GATESHEAD. NEWCASTLE. SOUTH SHIELDS.	ALTRINCHAM. CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY. Sale. URMSTON.
	NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: J. Hickman, 16, Paradise Street, Tunstall, Staffs.
	Ipstones. LEEK. Sloke. Tunstall.
	West Yorkshire Area
	Area Secretary: Colin Stevenson. Area Padre: Rev. Shaun Herron.
	Hon. Area Correspondent: A. M. Davison, (Mirfield 3362 and 3282).
	Area Office: Brotherton House, Toc H, North Grange Road, Headingley, Leeds, 6. (52650).
	CENTRAL YORKSHIRE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: J. Marriott, 27, Woodhill View, Wetherby. (306). BOROUGHBRIDGE. East Keswick. Epphalha (Harrogate). HARROGATE. Hookstones.
	KNARESBOROUGH. KIPON. WITHERBY.
	HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: D. E. Vickers, Oakwood Lodge, Upper Batley, Batley, Yorks. (6). Batley. MORLEY. OSSETT. SPEN VALLEY.
	HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: A. J. Oxley, 60, Carr Green Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield. Halifax. HUDDERSFIELD. KIRKURTON. MARSH. PADDOCK. Rawthorpe.
	LEEDS DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: A. Dixon, 15, Darfield Street, Leeds, 8. Bramley. Burley. HAREHILLS. Holbeck. Kirkestall. LEEDS.
	NORTH CRAVEN DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: N. G. Vaulkhard, Woodville, Harewood Rd., Skipton. (74). Austwick. SETTLE. SKIPTON.
	SOUTH CRAVEN DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: E. Pickles, 4, Duckworth Terrace, Duckworth Lane, Bradford. (7431). Bradford West. ILKLEY. Ingrow. KEIGHLEY. Olley. Shipley.
	SWALE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: R. V. Granger, 3, St. Mary's Mount, Leyburn. Aysgarth. BEDALE. Crakehall. LEYBURN. Middleham. Thirsk.
	WAKEFIELD DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: L. Batty, Church Lane, Hemsworth, nr. Pontefract. BARNSLY. HEMSWORTH. KNOTTINGLEY. PONTEFRACT. Royston. South Elmsall. WAKEFIELD.
	South Yorkshire Division
	Hon. Correspondent: W. H. Goddard, 21, Penistone Road, Grenoside, nr. Sheffield.
	DON VALLEY DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: R. A. Burns, "Airmyn," Church Lane, Bramley, nr. Rotherham. (224). DONCASTER. KIMBERWORTH. Maltby. Rotherham.
	SHEFFIELD DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: R. A. Burns, "Airmyn," Church Lane, Bramley, nr. Rotherham. (224). ham. (224). GRENOSIDE. HILLSBOROUGH. Mosborough. SHEFFIELD WEST. Southey.
	East Yorkshire Area
	Area Secretary: Colin Stevenson. Area Padre: Rev. Shaun Herron.
	Brotherton House, Toc H, North Grange Road, Headingley, Leeds, 6. (52650).
	Hon. Area Correspondent: A. E. Riley, Wharfe Bank House, Tadcaster. (3137).
	HULL DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: W. Seaman, 7, Dundee Street, Chantrelands Avenue, Hull. HULL. WILLEBY.
	OUSSE DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: S. J. Cochrane, 59, Doncaster Road, Selby. (36). Caswood. Monk Fryson. SELBY. YORK.
	WHITBY DISTRICT: Hinderswell. WHITBY.
	WOLDS DISTRICT: Hon. Dist. Sec.: G. E. Moore, 15, Whin Bank, Scarborough. BRIDLINGTON. MALTON. PICKERING. SCARBOROUGH.

Appendix: Toc H Services Clubs and Wardens	
AT HOME	
I. CLUBS	
The maximum number of Toc H War Services Clubs open at any one time in the British Isles during the war was 297. The following were still open in January, 1946. Service Women's Clubs are marked (w):—	
BAKEWELL, BATH, BEACONSFIELD, BEDFORD (w), BEESTON, BELFAST, BELFAST (w), BIRKENHEAD, BIRMINGHAM, BLACKPOOL, CARDIFF (w), CARLISLE (w), CHICHESTER, COLWYN BAY, CORSHAM, CROMER, DALTON-IN-FURNESS, DERBY (2), DEVONPORT, DORKING, DROITWICH, DUNFERMLINE, EALING, EASTLEIGH, EMSWORTH, EXETER (2), FALKIRK, FARNBOROUGH, FARNBOROUGH (w), GARSTANG, GOSPORT, GRANTHAM (w), GRAVESEND, GREAT YARMOUTH, GREENFORD, GREENOCK, GRIMSBY (w), HAVERFORDWEST, HOLYWOOD, HORNCASTLE, HORNCURCH, HULL, HULLAVINGTON, INVERNESS, KENDAL, KESTON, LARGS, LARNE, LEBURY, LEEDS, LEICESTER, LINCOLN, LIVERPOOL, LOUGHBOROUGH, LOUGHBOROUGH (w), MALMESBURY,	NEWPORT (MON.), NEWPORT (SALOP), NOTTINGHAM, OKEHAMPTON, OTLEY, PERRANPORTH, PERTH, PLYMOUTH (2), POYNTON, PRESTON, READING, REDBRIDGE, REDCAR, RICHMOND (w), ROCHEDALE, ROCHESTER, SAFFRON WALDEN, ST. ANNES, SALFORD, SALFORD (w), SALISBURY, SCUNTHORPE, SETTLE, SEVENOAKS, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHSEA, SOUTHSEA (w), SOUTH SHIELDS, STAFFORD (2), STOCKTON-ON-TEES, STOKE-ON-TRENT , STREET, STROUD, TAUNTON, TONBRIDGE, TROWBRIDGE, WAKEFIELD, WALSALL, WATFORD, WEDNESFIELD, WELLINGBOROUGH, WELLINGTON (SALOP.), WELLINGTON (SOM.), WESTMINSTER, WIMBORNE, WOLVERHAMPTON, WORKSOP, WORTHING, WROTHAM.