

As far as Bedford North District is concerned the Area described as N.W.1 (i.e. that bounded by the river, the railway, High Street - west side and Bromham Road - south side) is entirely devoid of Scout Groups. Only six have ever 'operated' in the area - never more than three at one time - but when they did they were usually the very large Groups and often, in the early days of the 'Group System' supplied the biggest percentage of the Census figures. The 'Inhabitants' have been :-

11th.Beds: (St.Paul's Church of England) Sponsored Group

Troop registered (Reg:No. ~~XXXXXX~~ 13734) 4/5/25 as 'Open' (S.M. G. G. Johnson) meeting in St. Paul's Mission Hall, St.Loyes. A Wolf Cub Pack, likewise 'Open' was registered in June of the same year (C.M. Miss Christine Anderson) (Reg:7830)

Re-registered as a 'Group' (Controlled) in 1928-29 (reg: 4958) and a Rover Scout Crew was started. Mr. M.F.C.Willson became the Group Scoutmaster.

The Group (and Section/s) were continually changing hands. Rev: W. Musgrave took over as G.S.M. 10/10/29 and Mr. Willson again 15/11/30. Mr. 'Ted' Fairey was S.M. for part of the time - also Mr. G.G.Johnson. The Pack was handed over via Miss Jelley, Miss Kath Francis and Miss D.Mathews to Miss M.C.Robins.

A Sea Scout section was registered in 1938 (S.M. MR. Shipton) and they shared the premises with the 94th. in Duck Mill Lane.

The Group continued very strongly until the War when, through lack of Scouters all Sections excepting the Pack disbanded. The Pack continued until 1948 before eventually disbanding.

A Troop was re-registered in 1950 (Regn: 27929) S.M. Mr. Farr. H.Q. Duckmill Lane. A Wolf Cub Pack was soon to follow and a fairly steady membership was maintained until demolitions were started in the area now occupied by the Police Headquarters and the Bus Station. The Group disbanded in 1960.

18th.Beds: (Bedford Modern School) Sponsored Group and

94th.Beds: (St.Paul's Wesleyan) Sponsored Groups Two very large Groups originally had their 'homes' in the area but were eventually transferred to South District

91st.Beds: (Harpur Central School) Sponsored (Air Scout) Troop operated fairly strongly during the latter part of the War (S.M. Mr. Carnell) <sup>Reg:</sup> 23746. but apparently disbanded during 1946.

95th.Beds: (Owen's School) Sponsored Group. Another very large Group evacuated during the War and given a Bedfordshire Registration No.(temporarily) They, of course, left the Mid-Beds: District on returning to London at the close of the war.



87th.Beds: (Salvation Army) Sponsored Wolf Cub Pack. (Regn: 33216) Reg: 16/5/57.

Headquarters - Congress Hall, River Street.  
(C.M. Miss Eunice Kathleen Scott). This Pack  
operated quite strongly over a very difficult  
period but eventually had to disband during  
1962-63.



A previous Salvation Army Troop (Life Saving Scouts) and Pack  
(Chums) existed for several years prior to the second World War.  
They were not, however, under the 'B.P.' Scout Association, being en-  
tirely under the control of the Salvation Army. Their Headquarters  
was originally at the Congress Hall, River Street, But shortly before  
the war transferred to the Hut in Miller Road (or Kennedy Road).  
(At that time their Scoutmaster was Mr. L. F. Watts - assisted by a  
Rover from the 15th.Beds:) On several occasions they co-operated  
with the B.P.Scouts and in 1949 joined the B.P.Scout Association, be-  
coming registered as -

21st.Beds:(Elsow Salvation Army) Reg: No.26917. They had a very short career,  
however, disbanding in ~~1949~~ 1950.

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In the original carve-up of the Bedford Division into four Districts  
the Queen's Park - Biddenham area was included in North West but for some reason  
when it was modified to two Districts became part of South, where it remains.



Troops in the VILLAGES and OUTLYING DISTRICTS have possibly had a more chequered career than their 'Town brothers', being more reliant upon individual leadership. There is, of course, no such thing (officially) as an 'Open-Sponsored' Group but that is in fact what many were. (i.e. registered as Sponsored (or Controlled) but taking in anyone; and those registered as Open but were actually 'sponsored' - usually by the Church, School or maybe the local Squire or other personality) While that 'authority' remained the Troop continued - even if it did not always exactly flourish. When that 'personality' departed the Troop often disappeared also - unless another like-person came on the scene. This was somewhat alleviated if a Rover Crew was attached or was in a nearby district. Groups in the villages and outlying districts North-west of Bedford were ( and in some cases still are) :-

23rd.Beds: (Bromham) Open Group I.H.Q.Reg: 22330. Registered during World War II. Mr. John Dew was the Scoutmaster and the Troop Leader - Noel Lister Binns (at that time a member of the Civil Defence Troop and of 5th.Beds: Bedford School. The Scouts were mostly seniors and many of their activities were carried out with the District Rovers.

The Troop was disbanded (temporarily) in 1949. (about which time a Troop was started at Bromham House).

The Group was not re-Registered for some years, actually not until after the dis-solution of the Bedford Division. Apparently, however, there is now a thriving Troop and Pack.

An earlier (pre World War I) registration was :-

34th.Beds: (Bromham) who did not 'survive' the war period.

69th.Beds: (Bromham House) Sponsored - "Handicapped" - Troop.

Registered 19/8/48 (I.H.Q.Reg: 26523)  
G.S.M. J.W.F.Dew. S.M. S.R.Kendall.

Members of this Troop were mostly of Rover age and taking all things into consideration were very good Scouts, taking part in many County Camps and Local Association Sports.  
Disbanded during 1962-63.

39th. Beds: (Stevington) Troop functioned in the days prior to the first World War. The Troop was present at the first major County Rally and Display held in Bedford in 1913. Not much, however, is known of them locally for the Troop was transferred to the North Bedford-shire District.



139th. Beds: (Clapham) Open Group. Registered 31st. May 1963 (H.Q. Reg: 36560) as a School Sponsored Group (Pack).  
(Headquarters - Ursula Taylor School)  
G.S.M. Edw: Wilkinson; C.M. Miss Ann W. Dale.

Registration apparently changed to 'Open' during 1966. Ceded to Bedford North District on the dis-solution of the Division. A thriving Pack.

Previous (known) Clapham registrations have been :-

53rd. Beds: (Clapham) Registered in 1921 (I.H.Q. Regn: 9168) but there is evidence of an earlier Troop in operation about 1914 - 15. But apparently they did not survive the first world war.

41st. Beds: (Clapham) Registered during the second world war (I.H.Q. Reg: 24152) when they had quite a strong Troop. They were present at the 1942 District Rally where they gave a very good gymnastic display as well as taking part in the Tent Pitching Demonstration. They did not, however, survive the war, the Troop disbanding on the departure of the S.M. (Mr. Wilson) from the district.

32nd. Beds: (Oakley) Open: Troop. Registered at I.H.Q. 1924 (Reg: No. 12440) Headquarters - The Reading Room, Oakley.  
(A.S.M. T. W. Parkinson) This Troop does not seem to have had a very long 'life' for it did not appear on the 1928 Census.

There appears, however, to have been an earlier Registration :-

67th. Beds: (Oakley) which was in being until 1924 (S.M. A. Massen). This could possibly mean that one Troop started on the foundation of a previous one - and given a new County number, or that it was merely a change of County number. (Other such cases have been known).

Mention is also made of a 67th. Beds: (Oakley) Group in the Second World War period (1939 - 46) but no records are to hand. It was probably a temporary War-Time local registration - and it does not appear to have had a very long existence.