

THE LAYING UP OF OLD COLOURS AND THE PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF NEW COLOUR

It is recommended that when new Colours are presented to a Company, Battalion or District there should be a Service of Dedication, during which the Colours may be handed over in a manner worthy of the occasion. The same should apply to the laying up of old Colours.

These details may have to be varied as circumstances and accommodation dictate, but every effort must be made to ensure that the ceremony is impressive.

All procedure should be approved beforehand by the appropriate Church Authorities.

The following guide to procedure provides for a full ceremony therefore where Colours are being presented for the first time please ignore references to surrendering.

Before the service.

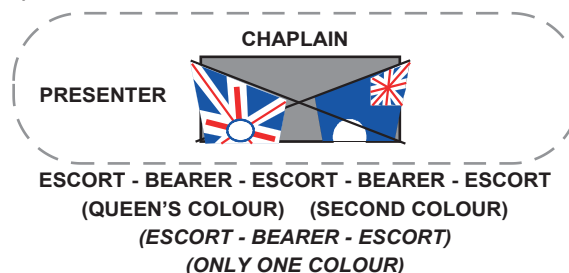
The Parade will assemble and, carrying the old Colours, march to Church and conform with the usual procedure on arrival. The new Colours (cased) will be taken to the Church prior to the service or carried in the rear of the last column.

Within the Church.

When the Chaplain enters the Church all will stand and the new colours (cased) will be carried by Staff-Sergeants (who will not wear carriers or have escorts) at the slope, in quick time, from the rear to the front of the Church.

[If there is a centre aisle it will be used, the Staff-Sergeant carrying the cased Queen's Colour being on the right of the Staff-Sergeant carrying the cased Second Colour. If there are two aisles the cased Queen's Colour should be carried down the aisle on the right and the cased Company Colour carried down the aisle on the left as viewed from the rear of the Church.]

On arrival at a table in the chancel the Staff-Sergeants will uncased the Colours. An Officer will take the Second Colour and lay it diagonally across the table. He will then take the Queen's (or only) Colour and lay it on top of and across the Second Colour. The congregation will then be seated and the Officer and Staff-Sergeants will move to their seats. The service will then proceed.



Surrender of Old Colours

At a suitable time during the service, the congregation standing, the old colours will be carried to the front of the Church in slow time.

[If there is a centre aisle it will be used, the Bearer carrying the Queen's Colour being on the right of the Staff-Sergeant carrying the Second Colour. The Escorts will take their normal posts. If there are two aisles the Queen's Colour should be carried down the aisle on the right with two Escorts and the Second Colour carried down the aisle on the left with one Escort as viewed from the rear of the Church.]

The person surrendering the Colours will have moved to the chancel and take up position in the centre facing the congregation. At the conclusion of the slow march the Chaplain will face the congregation and say:

“We are gathered together in this church to lay-up these Colours of the Company / Battalion / District of The Boys’ Brigade. No more fitting place could be found wherein to deposit these emblems of Duty and Service than the House of God, where praise and prayer are wont to be made.”

The person surrendering the colours takes the Second Colour in their LEFT hand and the Queen's (or only) Colour in their RIGHT and presents them to the Chaplain saying:

“These consecrated Colours, formerly carried by the Company / Battalion / District of The Boys’ Brigade as a sign of their duty to towards our Queen, our Country, and the Brigade in the sight of God, I deliver into your hands for safe custody within these walls.”

The Chaplain takes them with the words: ***“I receive these Colours for safe custody within this church.”***

The Colours are then placed in some suitable position on display for the remainder of the service. The Queen's on the right and the Second Colour on the left. The Colour Party and the person who handed over the Colours will retire to their places.

The Chaplain will then say:

“Let us pray : Almighty God and Lord of Hosts, we now lay-up within this House of Prayer these emblems of Thy Grace and Blessing ; may all who look upon them be reminded of their duty to their God, their Queen, their Country, and The Boys’ Brigade for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.”

“The Lord’s Prayer : Our Father . . .”

The Dedication and Presentation of new Colours can follow immediately or the surrender of the old Colours could precede the address and the Dedication and Presentation of new Colours follow it.

Dedication and Presentation of New Colours

During the singing of a hymn the Bearers [who will be wearing carriers] who are to carry the new Colours along with their Escorts, and will move to a table in the chancel and stand facing it. The person presenting the Colours will move to the chancel and take up position on a flank. The Chaplain will place himself behind the table and face the congregation.

At the conclusion of the hymn the congregation will remain standing and the Chaplain will explain this part of the service. Then he will say:

“Forasmuch as men at all times have made for themselves signs and emblems of their allegiance to their rulers, and of their duty to uphold those laws and institutions which God’s providence has called them to obey; we, following this natural and pious custom and remembering that God Himself led His people Israel by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day, are met together before God to ask His blessing on these new Colours which are to represent to us our duty towards our Sovereign and our Country. Let us, therefore, pray Almighty God of His mercy to grant that they may never be unfurled save in the cause of justice and righteousness: and that He may make them to be to those who follow them a sign of His presence with them, and may increase their faith and hope in Him Who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

The Chaplain will then lay his hands upon the Colours and say:-

“In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate and set apart these Colours, that they may be a sign of our duty towards our Queen, our Country, and The Boys’ Brigade in the sight of God. Amen.”

The Chaplain will then lead in a prayer of dedication:-

“O God, the help and shield of all who trust in Thee, accept our service at this time and grant that the Company / Battalion / District Colours now dedicated may never be unfurled except for the glory and the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom. May Thy blessing descend upon those to whom has been committed this new token of Thy love and this new trust in their work. May Officers and Boys be ever conscious of their high calling and obedient to the heavenly vision. May they fight only the good fight of faith that they may lay hold upon eternal life. May they be faithful unto death and receive a crown of life through Him Who died for us and rose again; unto Whom with Thee, the Father, and the Holy Ghost be Glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

At the conclusion of the prayer both Colour Bearers will drop on the right knee; the Chaplain will take up the Queen’s Colour and hand it to the person presenting the Colours, who will place it in the carrier of the Bearer who is to carry it. The Bearer will rise immediately and stand with the Colour at the Carry. The Second Colour will then be handed over in similar manner and the party immediately turned about. The Colours will remain at the Carry during the **National Anthem** and will be brought to the Order for the **Benediction**. The Chaplain and congregation will remain standing while the Colours are marched out at the carry in slow time to the vestry or other suitable place.

Following the service.

The Colour Party will replace head-dress (if worn) and remain in their appointed place until the parade is re-formed outside the Church and ready to receive the Colours. After a March Past and/or Inspection the donor (or another suitable person) may wish to address the parade following which the Captain / President would reply. The Colours should then be marched off, the officers fallen out and the parade dismissed in the normal way.

[The old Colours should be removed to their place of final resting without any further ceremony.]