

HEMPSTEAD HALL REMAND HOME

NUMBER OF BOYS ADMITTED BETWEEN 1941 - 1950

1941 -	65	
1942 -	131	
1943 -	153	
1944 -	141	
1945 -	172	
1946 -	239	TOTAL 1,887
1947 -	189	
1948 -	377	
1949 -	273	
1950 -	147	

SHORT REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 1st OCTOBER 1947 - 27th JULY 1950

Number of boys in residence on 1.10.47.....	10
Number of boys admitted 1.10.47 - 27.7.50.....	817
	<u>827</u>

DISPOSAL OF BOYS

To Approved Schools.....	676
Returned to Court.....	66
Transferred to other Remand Homes.....	35
Returned Home (nearly all Section 54 cases).....	21
Admitted to Residential Schools etc.	14
Absconded and subsequently sent elsewhere.....	13
Sent to Hospital.....	2
	<u>827</u>

Notes

- (1) The figure for boys returned to other Remand Homes includes 10 transferred to Stamford House when this Remand Home closed on July 27th 1950
- (2) The 2 boys sent to hospital went straight to their approved schools on their discharge.

During the whole of the period from 1st October 1947 to July 27th 1950 I was Superintendent of the Remand Home, and I look back upon it as one of the happiest and most satisfying periods of my life. Hempstead Hall is in ideal surroundings and has facilities for teaching and recreation which can hardly be equalled in any other Remand Home, and I feel that a very valuable work was done amongst the large number of boys who came to us. Every boy improved physically, and during the whole of the period we had only one outbreak of sickness, due to Chicken Pox, and this was confined to three boys. This was the only time that we were in quarantine. Many boys who were here for two months or more improved tremendously, and the general standard of fitness was a frequent cause of comment from parents and visitors.

It was always our aim to improve the boys spiritually as well as physically. Very few boys coming here had any religious background and it was gratifying to note the genuine interest shown by many of them in our spiritual teaching, and morning prayers in the Chapel and evening prayers in the dormitory were accepted quite naturally without any sign of embarrassment or shyness. A large number of the boys were very backward in school, but by the provision of a special class for them many helped themselves to reach more normal standards with the guidance of a teacher who was able to give them the individual attention they needed.

We have never claimed to have the answer to every boy's problem nor do we feel that every boy who was admitted was a better when he

left, but we do feel that a large number of boys have gone away from here with a different outlook and with a greater determination to live differently from the way they have done in the past. We can only hope that they kept the good resolutions that they made.

One of the problems in a Remand Home is the ever-changing population and this, coupled with the fact that the average length of stay is not very long, does create difficulties but, in spite of the difficulties, much very valuable work can be done among the young boys who find themselves in a Remand Home.

STAFF We have had mixed fortunes with regard to Staff. Some have been very willing and very hard working but have lacked that vital spark of personality that enables a man to always have the boys under control. Others have not had any difficulty in maintaining control but have been inclined to be too strict, and lacking in friendliness, which often creates as many difficulties as being too slack and easy-going. We have always been fortunate in having a nucleus who were keen, energetic and anxious to help the boys. Our staff troubles have come mostly from the others, who made up the balance, and who had to leave, usually because they were unable to stand the strain which the work undoubtedly involves.

OLD BOYS It has always been a pleasure to hear from so many of our 'Old Boys', and to know that they have done so well. We have been very proud of the fact that so many have done well at games after leaving here, and we have felt that this was in some measure due to the opportunities provided here for games and the encouragement we have always tried to give a boy who showed promise.

DISCIPLINE This has never created any great difficulty here and there have never been any 'ugly' incidents. There were, of course, always breaches of discipline but these were of a minor nature and unauthorised smoking probably caused us most trouble.

ABSCONDING We have always been proud of the fact that, although it was very easy to abscond from here, there have been comparatively few offences of this nature. We have taken the line that the boys should have as much freedom as was reasonably possible and let them understand that this freedom would continue so long as they did not take advantage of it. It is to their great credit that most of them respected this trust. Absconding incidents averaged about one per month, we refused to take back only one boy (who had a record of 18 abscondings from various places), and only one boy was not recovered. He was the last one to abscond before we closed.

VISITORS It has always been surprising that so many of the lads had visitors to see them. It is a long and expensive journey from London but there was always a good number of parents down on Sunday afternoon. We have encouraged them to come, and to write if they were unable to come, and this has had a great effect on the boys general happiness. Boys who had neither visitors nor letters from home often felt it very keenly, and we made it a practice to write to parents who were not even writing to their son, pointing out that they could do much good if they would keep in touch with him. Often, but not always, this had the desired effect and resulted in a more contented boy. We have had numerous visits from all sorts of people not connected with the boys, and we like to feel that Hempstead Hall acquired something of a reputation for doing this sought of work and made people anxious to see something of it.

AUTHORITIES During the period under review we admitted boys from London County Council, Middlesex County Council, Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council, West Ham Borough Council, East Ham Borough Council. Our relationships with these bodies has always been of a most cordial nature and they have at all times been ready to co-operate in any way. Regular visits have been received from the Home Office, Children's Dept. Inspectorate, and the officers have been ever ready to help us and to discuss any problems which might be troubling us. Because of their friendliness their visits, although without warning, have always been welcomed.

Many boys, and men, will look back upon the time they

spent at Hempstead Hall as one of very happy memories and, we hope,
as a turning point in their lives.

No longer is heard the shouting and laughter of noisy boys.
The cricket field is deserted, the swimming pool empty, the school
and the clubroom are stripped bare. Silence reigns at Hempstead Hall
and one can only regret that circumstances have made it necessary for
this valuable work among difficult boys to come to an end

John R. Bulshaw
Superintendent

August 10th 1950