

SCHOOL GIRL GUIDE TROOP WITH TOP PRIZE FOR RESOURCEFULNESS

By Dan Shaw

WE have another photograph of the popular girl guide leader Dorothy Tweedie, courtesy of Gemma Walker of Stourbridge.

Miss Tweedie was a gym teacher at Oldbury County High School, which became Oldbury Grammar School, for more than 40 years and she organised the school's guides troop as well as the 16th Wolverhampton (St Barnabas) troop. Previously, pictures of Miss Tweedie have appeared in our October 2 and 16 editions.

This photograph originally belonged to Gemma Walker's grandmother who was in Miss Tweedie's Oldbury County High School Girl Guide company in the 1920s.

Gemma writes, "On the back my grandmother has written: '1st Oldbury County High School Guide Company, Captain F.D. Tweedie, Lieutenant J.L. Davies. Shield given to the Company in Worcestershire who gained most marks in examinations of first aid, Morse signalling, folk dancing, resourcefulness, knot-tying, singing, drill and neatness. Won in 1927 by 1st OCHGG.'

"My grandmother, C. Edna Pennington, is second row up, furthest on the right."

Gemma has also supplied us with an article from the 1929 edition of *The Oldburian*, the newsletter of the Oldbury County High School.

It is a report on that year's guiding activities and was written by a B. Adams. It lists the troops officials as, "Captain, Miss F.D. Tweedie, Lieutenant, Miss J. Davies, Company Leader, D. Rudd, Patrol Leaders, E. Pennington, K. Goodwin, E. MacAlister, M. Green, B. Adams."

The report reads: "The past term has been a particularly interesting one for the Guides. For the first few meetings all expected the Commissioner who was to inspect us for the shield we won last year. If we were the best company she saw, then we kept it, if not some one else had it. For several weeks we were kept waiting and then on June 21st she arrived, stayed for about half an hour and departed. Later we learnt that we had lost the shield but we hope to regain it next year.

"On Empire Day we, with many other com-



1st Oldbury County High School Guide Company in 1927

pany's Church, Wolverhampton. The most enjoyable meeting of the year was conducted on entirely new lines for us. Each patrol had its own fire in the field and about five o'clock savoury odours of baked potatoes, sausage, cheese dreams and salmon and green peas proceeded from various quarters! The meeting finished with songs around a real camp fire.

mer term is camp. This year it was held at Cromer, there being sixty Guides and Guiders altogether, including members of several Wolverhampton companies.

"The advance party arrived at Cromer on July 26th, and by the time the rest arrived on July 29th all the tents were pitched. After spending a happy week, on Sunday we attended a service at

the Norfolk Broads and all thoroughly enjoyed this outing. The rest of the week sped only too quickly and on Thursday, after striking camp, we left for home. It was a jolly camp!"

Were you a member of the brownies, girl guides, cubs or scouts? Please share your old pictures and stories. Contact us at our Cradley Heath office or email dshaw@blackcountry

The Bugle, Thur. Oct. 23, 2014