

## PUZZLE ½ PAGE

Can you unuddle the names of these BB towns in the mainland District? Any spaces or hyphens are ignored.

- |    |             |    |                 |
|----|-------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | TABH        | 11 | SOURCEGELT      |
| 2  | UTHUBMOONER | 12 | YUPTHOLM        |
| 3  | YYTVCAROBEE | 13 | HURDTER         |
| 4  | WIGBARRTED  | 14 | TERETS          |
| 5  | TRILOBS     | 15 | WOSDINN         |
| 6  | MARXIBH     | 16 | UTTONNA         |
| 7  | URBANCOME   | 17 | YRUWETKESAB     |
| 8  | CRAHD       | 18 | OUTRAQY         |
| 9  | ZSIEVED     | 19 | UPMANWORSTEREES |
| 10 | REXETE      | 20 | VOILEY          |

*The deadline for the next issue will be 14<sup>th</sup> April 07.*

Copy can be sent to the usual e-mail address, [dave@bb-west.org.uk](mailto:dave@bb-west.org.uk) or to 21, Ashcott Drive, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1HS tel. (01278) 785884

### THE BOYS' BRIGADE WEST OF ENGLAND & CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT FRIENDS OF THE DISTRICT

\* I have pleasure in enclosing £ ... .. and wish to enrol as a "Friend of the District". Cheques should be made payable to "The Boys' Brigade West of England District".

\* Please send me a Bank Standing Order.

\* Please supply information re Gift Aid.

(Delete as necessary)

From Name .....

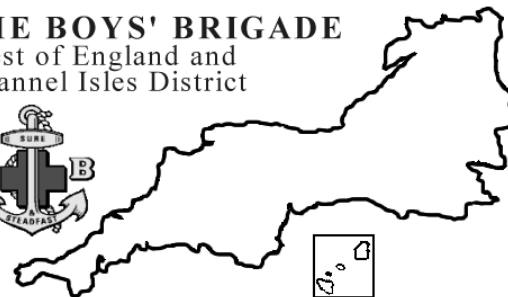
Address .....

Signed ..... Date .....

To Miss R. Westbury (District Treasurer)

10 Chapel Terrace, Illogan Highway, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 3LJ

## THE BOYS' BRIGADE West of England and Channel Isles District



<http://www.bb-west.org.uk>

Vol 4 No 5 Feb 2007



*District President, Gordon Dale, with Queens Badge holders Chris Lentle and Joseph Davies and Presidents Badge holder Daniel Davies from 10<sup>th</sup> Exeter*

OBJECT: The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

## Presidents Viewpoint

A Happy New Year to you all. I trust you are all back in the swing of things since the Christmas holidays.

In November my wife and I attended the enrolment service of 10<sup>th</sup> Exeter and during the service I was privileged to present a Presidents Award to Daniel Davies, two Queens Badges and a Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award to Christopher Lentle and Joseph Davies. Congratulations must go to them all.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January I attended the South West Christian Resources Exhibition held at West Point in Exeter. The opening of the Exhibition was carried out by Commissioner Elizabeth Matear, the President of the Women's Ministries of the Salvation Army. We had a stand to promote The Boys' Brigade and there were volunteers from the District to man it during Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This gave us an important presence at a high profile event and I understand that there were enquiries from members of the public for places for Boys within Companies of the District. Thanks must go to Brian Cheritt for his organisation of the stand and all those who gave up their time to man the stand throughout the three days.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February the Junior Section Funday takes place at Glastonbury but unfortunately only three companies have entered (1<sup>st</sup> Redruth, 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury and 1<sup>st</sup> Stoke). It is a shame that more companies throughout the District do not support this event, as last year it was a really good day and the Boys I spoke to really enjoyed themselves. These events are organised to give the Boys contact and camaraderie with Boys from other companies and I know from experience of my own company that the Boys get a great deal from this.

In April we look forward to attending the District Fellowship weekend at the Overmead Hotel Torquay with 20 people attending.

**Gordon Dale**

## Broadleas Project update

From the last issue of BB West the fund stands at £14,350 with Further donations being thankfully received from the following sources:

The Plymouth Steadfast Association

Also the Broadleas Committee has set aside a project budget of £10,000

We have had the go ahead from the Gloucestershire Police to run the Relay. We have finalised the route and will now be looking to book our overnight accommodation enroute.

If you require any further details then please contact me on [diandgorddale@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:diandgorddale@blueyonder.co.uk).

**Gordon Dale**

## Webmaster Notes [www.bb-west.org.uk](http://www.bb-west.org.uk)

I am trying to put more information onto the BB-West website. In light of the recent discussions on the BB E-mail lists about publicity and press coverage, one set of information I would really like to provide is advice on how to get press coverage. This would include links to local publications which are likely to be interested and the best way to contact them. As I have no experience in this field I am appealing to officers of the District for help.

Other new items on the website include links to online games sites and links to holiday accommodation. I am always interested to add anything worth sharing, if you have any idea I can be contacted at: [dave@bb-west.org.uk](mailto:dave@bb-west.org.uk) or 01934 416496 or 104, Selworthy Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3XF

**Dave Malpas, District Webmaster**

Answers 1. Bath 2. Bournemouth 3. Bovey Tracey 4. Bridgwater 5. Bristol  
6. Brixham 7. Cambourne 8. Chard 9. Devizes 10. Exeter 11. Gloucester  
12. Plymouth 13. Redruth 14. Street 15. Swindon 16. Taunton 17. Tewkesbury  
18. Torquay 19. Weston-super-Mare 20. Yeovil

## TREASURER'S SLOT

As we have recently begun the New Year, I would like to remind everyone of the scheme which supports the work of the District – **FRIENDS OF THE DISTRICT**. **An annual gift of only £5** is all that is needed to become a Friend. For those who pay tax, you may wish to consider gift aiding your donation and I will be happy to supply any information you may require.

Please contact me by post (10 Chapel Terrace, Illogan Highway, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3LJ) or by phone (01209 214946)

The District is continually grateful to those friends who have subscribed to the scheme, some for many years, and enabled it to maintain the various events & competitions and also to help provide our magazine.

Contributions are also welcome from Companies and / or Battalions to support the provision of "BB West".

**Ruth Westbury**

## Obituaries

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### **Bruce Parker 1913 - 2006**

Bruce was born in Basle Switzerland in 1913 before coming to this country in 1918 to live in Torquay. Bruce was involved with Torquay Baptist Church joining the BB in 1926 as a founder member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Torquay BB Company. It was here he met and married his wife Dora who was from Plymouth. He served his time as an apprentice Jeweller and down the years carried on mending watches and clocks on a private basis.

In 1938 the family moved to Gloucester where Bruce worked for Dowty Rotol and during the Second World War he was involved with the production of Spitfires. At this time he joined Trinity Baptist Church on Finlay Road and eventually became involved with the BB again with the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucester Company.

Bruce's involvement with The Boys' Brigade in Gloucestershire started again in 1972 when he called in to see how 7<sup>th</sup> Gloucester were getting on and his involvement carried on with him being a Vice President of 1<sup>st</sup> Stonehouse Company, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucester and 1<sup>st</sup> Ebley Companies and a Warrant officer in the 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Company. Also Bruce was an Honorary Vice President of the Gloucestershire Battalion and throughout his time visited most companies in the Battalion helping by taking devotions etc.

As company captain of the 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucester I will always remember Bruce for one word "STICKABILITY" which I believe he used in all the companies he visited. His message was that it was important that you were able to stick at whatever you do in Life and this was something he did with his time at BB from his early days with 1<sup>st</sup> Torquay right up to the time he was unable to carry on with his visits to the companies of the Gloucestershire Battalion. When you mention Bruce's name to any of the boys he came into contact with they will all come out with the word.

Gordon Dale

### **Mrs Win Wrightson, 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1919 – 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007**

Mrs Win Wrightson, a keen servant of The Boys' Brigade and widow of Jack, a former warden of Broadleas, passed away peacefully on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 07 aged 88. Originally involved in The Boys' Brigade as an Officer in 1<sup>st</sup> Trowbridge Company from the late '60s, she later moved with her husband Jack to become the wardens of the West of England Outdoor Centre at Broadleas, Haytor in the late '70s. Remaining at Haytor until the early '90s, she was actively involved in all activities run at the Centre whilst also playing a major part in local life. A keen "Letterboxer", she and Jack had a number of boxes positioned on the Moor, and also collected hundreds of stamps during their many miles of walking in their time at Haytor.

Widowed in 2002, she spent her final years in Bovey Tracey with steadily worsening health.

Bug Wrightson

## Secretary's Scene

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By now I'm sure that all Companies are working hard with their young people progressing into the spring session with fresh vigour. A new year presents us with new challenges and an opportunity to dedicate ourselves as servants to this great organisation to which we belong.

At present there are two partner projects running within the Brigade. "Engage a Generation", which is striving to improve the profile and reputation of the BB especially with prospective host churches. It is the aim of this scheme to start 125 new Companies by the time of the BB's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. The "Company Support Scheme" has trained officers that hold up to date resources that can help to build on and support the Companies we already have. Only recently piloted, it's early days for major change but it is encouraging to hear of new Companies being formed with one within our District in Somerset!

More good news is that the new Company Section programme called Discover is due to roll out this summer ready for use in the 2007/08 session.

Please endeavour to enter any of the excellent competitions that are held in our area. Details of these varied events are with your Battalion Secretaries or can be found in the outstanding, newly updated District website.

It is obvious with our continual service that our dedication to the BB cannot be questioned and it is apparent that efforts are being made at all levels for the continuance and growth of our movement. But at Company level we are the foot soldiers of the Brigade, at the sharp end, recruiting, retaining and rewarding our young people with a sound start in life. Let's take the challenge of the New Year with ambition and purpose pledging our time and devotion to our young people.

As officers in the BB we have a great privilege having the opportunity to assist our youth in their physical, intellectual and spiritual growth in formative years that could make all the difference in times to come.

With all this in mind, the Brigade's future looks long and bright.

With every best wish for a successful and fulfilling session.

Be Sure & Steadfast.

**Jason Frost. District Secretary.**

## Ten Pin Bowling

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Just a brief reminder that the deadline for entries to this years competition is the end of February.....Don't forget, if you're not in it you can't win it.

**Chris Semmens, Competition Convenor**

## Chaplain's Corner

We live in an ever changing world. The speed of life is increasing and the values we hold are being challenged. Fashions come and go at a rapid rate of knots. People tend to hold contradictory ideas with equal weight. Hobbies and interests are taken up and dropped almost immediately as soon as the interest runs out. Friendships come and quickly go. We are increasingly living in a privatised world where people hardly relate with each other and relations only last when you agree with each other all the time. It is hard to give advice to people and direct them in anyway for the prevailing view is that we only do what we like to do and we just want to be left to live our lives as we want them.

This is only part of the reality of the world we live in and we need to find ways of speaking to such a world. I am pleased to say not everything is changing so here is some good news.

We can rest in the confidence that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13.8). His nature never changes and His words still have the power to change lives. I also believe that the twin values of The Boys' Brigade are needed as much as they ever were. A faithless world is a sad and hopeless place. Faith in Christ is the only answer to people's needs. Our emphasis on a disciplined life also provides a good anchor for living. Whether folk want it or not when we have boundaries only then are we really free to be ourselves and reach the potential we all have. Our Boys really need faith and loving discipline if they have any hope of a bright future.

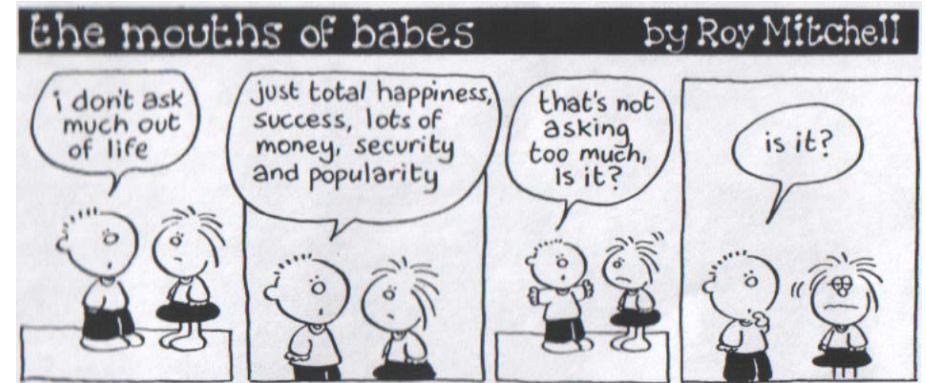
I am greatly encouraged by the younger officers of my church (1<sup>st</sup> Plymouth). We have four younger officers under 26 in our company who are showing great promise. They know how to speak the language of our culture and teach me a lot about it. The really wonderful thing is that they are all sold out for Jesus. Serving him is their top priority which gives me tremendous hope for the future.

As we equip our Boys and show them Christ's love anything is possible as they go and live Christ's way in this ever changing world.  
Yours in Christ

**Rev. Glen Graham, 1<sup>st</sup> Plymouth**  
Salisbury Road Baptist Church, Plymouth, Devon

## Editors Notes

Thanks again to all of you who have sent me articles for this issue, even if they were late (hence supplementary pages). Especial thanks to those who sent the copy in early, as it enabled me to plan the layout early. Also special thanks to Glen for producing this article at such short notice.  
**Hilary Malpas**



### THE MAN IN THE GLASS (anon)

Submitted by Chris Semmens.

When you get what you want in your struggle for life  
And the world makes you king for a day  
Just go to the mirror and look back at yourself  
And see what that man has to say

For it isn't your father or mother or wife  
Whose judgement upon you must pass  
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life  
Is the one staring back from the glass

You may be like Jack Horner and pull out a plum  
And think you're a wonderful guy  
But the man on the glass says you're only a bum  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please – never mind all the rest  
For he's with you clear to the end  
And you've passed your most dangerous difficult test  
If the man in the glass is your friend

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years  
And get pats on the back as you pass  
But your final reward will be heartache and tears  
If you've cheated the man in the glass



The national Boys' Brigade site acts as host for around 350 Company websites but at least half, if not more, are years out of date, only have a holding page or can't be accessed anymore.

Take a look at the following sites and see what can be achieved: 1<sup>st</sup> Acomb, 11<sup>th</sup> Northampton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bath, Leicestershire and Northampton Battalions (and my own Company's new site of course). A website can be advertised to young people very easily, Boys are frequently on the internet and it's a great advertising tool.

So the next time I get asked "does The Boys' Brigade exist anymore?" - I can say yes with more confidence. A little bit of effort to promote your Company goes a long way, so let's all make that effort and be proud of our movement - we can't complain about falling numbers if we don't bother to advertise our existence.

I'm off now to get a new poster done for my Company and give it to the vicar to put on the notice board!

**Andrew Baldwin, Captain 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury Company**

### Participation Training Course

Avon Battalion

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007 10.30am to 4.30pm

at The Brigade Centre, Garnet Street,  
Bedminster, Bristol BS3 3JS

**Closing date for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Please return booking form to

Contact: Peter Shears - Tel: 0117 960 9837 - E-mail: [peteshears@msn.com](mailto:peteshears@msn.com)

43 New Cheltenham Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1TN

This training course is designed to enable leaders working with the over 11's to share good ideas and to develop awareness and knowledge of how to use participation effectively in their companies. It will be run by Phil Lund (BBUK Participation Worker) and by attending this event you will:

- Understand **what** is really meant by "participation" at Company, Battalion and national levels
- Become a champion of participative working by understanding **why** it is the key to good youth work, and
- Become confident in **how** to use participation techniques and methods in your BB work

Further details and a course programme will be sent out after you have booked a place. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. **There is no fee for this course, as it is supported by our funding from the DfES.**

I wish to register the following leaders for the above Training Course:-

PLEASE PRINT THE INFORMATION BELOW

NAME	LEADER REGISTRATION NUMBER	RANK

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Regional Round Up

I was pleased to learn at the recent England Regional Committee meeting that Avon Battalion, have approached headquarters with a view to participating in "Engage A Generation". Other Battalions who feel that they would like to get involved should contact the Regional Headquarters for more details over and above those that appear in the current Gazette.

An active and vibrant Youth Forum has come up with some really excellent ideas for The Brigade to help celebrate 125. They are planning to hold youth weekends during the year and are looking at sites across the region. A pilot is to be run near Northampton over the weekend of October 26 to 28, 2007. Other ideas include activities around "125" base; e.g.: wash 125 cars, or the whole company to get involved in 125 hours of community service. There is the possibility that a badge could be made to mark any such achievement. Packs are to be produced with the ideas and publicity materials for companies to use, possibly as downloads from the website to cut down on expenditure.

The article in the Gazette regarding the Company Support Scheme highlights the benefits of the scheme and with feed back from the pilot schemes is being fine-tuned for future use. Again if you feel that your Battalion would benefit please contact the regional headquarters.

The Director for England, Eric Hudson, reminds us that the Millennium Volunteer Scheme will cease on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 and says that they are looking at getting all those candidates with hours logged a satisfactory closure.

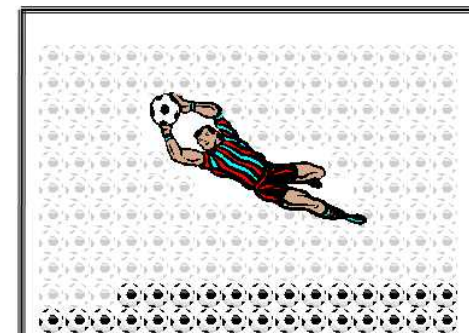
David Martin was on hand to explain and direct our thoughts over the Constitutional Review. Copies have been sent to all Battalion secretaries and copies may be downloaded from The Brigade website. Many points were raised and clarified during the long but interesting discussion.

**John Goodbody,**

West of England and Channel Islands rep. on the England Regional Committee

## All Weather Pitch Project

Buy a Football for £50.00 each. For every 10 balls we are able to sell we will colour in a football in the goal. Help us to fill it!



## Anniversary Parties for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury

Anchor Boys had great fun at their party with an indoor bouncy castle being the main centre of activity.

The evening was extended by an extra half hour and also included a party tea. By the end of the night there were more than a few people feeling the pace - apart from the staff!! All those who came along agreed it was a great evening and a good fun way to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The year ended the following week, with a games evening and yet more food!! The Company and Junior Sections had their own party at Link Road YC, with two inflatables - a bouncy castle and slide, plus a Spiderman Wall for the older lads. The Velcro suits which had to be worn for the wall looked a bit strange but that didn't seem to worry anyone as they hung upside down or just tried to see how high up the wall they could get (including certain staff members!).

Company boys Jake, Luke and Nathan provided the disco and each boy brought along a plate of party food. Despite encouragement to finish off the food, by the end of the night everyone had eaten as much as they could and the Captain was left with a few (hundred) sausage rolls to finish off over the Christmas break.

A fantastic night was had by all and it was a struggle to get some to go home.



**Andrew Baldwin, Captain 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury Company**

## Does The Boys' Brigade exist anymore?!

A strange question to ask you might think, but actually it's quite a serious one and something I get asked quite often in conversation when people ask me what I do outside of work.

As the Scout movement celebrates its first 100 years (I actually think it's only 99 as there were no Scouts at the Brownsea Island Camp in 1907, just 10 lads from 1<sup>st</sup> Bournemouth and 1<sup>st</sup> Poole Boys' Brigade Companies, and 10 Boys who were from public schools and the sons of some of those helping on the Camp - but as it's our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year then perhaps you can see why they chose that particular year!)

I spend much of my week travelling around the middle of England and have for many years now slowed down when passing churches in towns and cities to read their notice boards and see if there is a BB Company based there. Quite often, even if I know there is a BB Company based at a particular church, it is very difficult to see any outward sign of it, either on the notice board or in the windows. There may be good reason that no sign of BB work is on show, some churches are a bit reluctant to have their notice boards used for anything other than advertising times of services and contact details for the vicar. Perhaps a subtle reminder that young people are the future of the Church and their activities should be fully advertised to all who pass by may do the trick. If you can't get full details of meeting times and activities then maybe you can get a Boys' Brigade Anchor badge affixed to some part of the exterior - at least that would be a start.

So that's the Church sorted, what else can we do? We all have cars and most of us have a sticker in the back window telling everyone where we bought it from - as my late grandfather used to say to the car salesman when he picked up each new car "how much are you paying me to advertise your garage?" The reply was always nothing of course and so the salesman was made to remove the sticker. So why don't you remove the sticker and replace it with a Boys' Brigade one, after all we should be proud to be a member and advertise that fact. Only one problem I hear you say - there aren't any car stickers in existence. That fact is unfortunately true but, we have a good new logo and the new strap line of "where the adventure begins" is the best one we've had for a long time. I will personally arrange to have some car stickers made over the next couple of months and make them available via my Company web site for anyone who wants to help in raising the profile of The Boys' Brigade.

In this era of modern technology, where our young people frequently show us up when it comes to both using and understanding computers and the internet, we should be using this fantastic medium to our advantage. Websites can be a great tool to show what your Company is up to or just to advertise details of your meeting times but all too few of us use it.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Exeter Company

At our enrolment service at Heavitree United Reformed Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006, the 10<sup>th</sup> Exeter Company were pleased to welcome District President Gordon Dale, and his wife Diane, who came along to present various special awards for us. (See photo on cover)

Chris Lentle and Joseph Davies have been in the Company since the Anchor Boys and have shown loyalty and commitment in all sections throughout the past thirteen years. We were therefore very proud to see them awarded with the Queen's Badge, along with the Duke of Edinburgh Silver award. The occasion was a historical one for us as records show that they are the first boys to gain these awards in our Company.

Daniel Davies has also been in the Company since the Anchor Boys and has also been a loyal and committed member. We were again very proud to see him awarded with the President's Badge. He is now working to follow in the footsteps of Chris and Joseph.

All the Boys and Officers of our Company were enrolled for another year at this service and we are very grateful to Gordon and Diane for giving up their time to share this special occasion with us.

**Roger Lentle, Captain 10th Exeter Boys' Brigade**

### National Competition Comes To Bath (Press release)

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, The Boys' Brigade's National Masterteam Competition came to Bath, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bath Company playing host to round two. Teams from Bath, Llantwit Major, Paignton, Torquay and Wolverhampton competed over ten rounds for the prize of a place in the third round.

Subjects included Geography, Football, World History and General Knowledge. It was a close match, with the lead changing several times. Torquay was in first place at the end, leading Wolverhampton by 2 points, with the three runners up a few points behind them.

Quizmaster Ian Brailey from 21<sup>st</sup> Bristol Company said "I congratulate all the teams on a fun and good-natured contest and wish Torquay and Wolverhampton good luck in round three".

For more information see <http://bathbb.globalredirect.com/>

A photo can be downloaded from <http://2ndbathbb.fotopic.net/c1196817.html>

**Rob Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bath**

## Around the Battalions

### 1st. Redruth Stay Awake all Night

It started in the millennium year when the Cornwall Battalion invited companies throughout the District to complete 100 challenges. We issued the challenge to our boys and girls to 'stay awake all night' and when doing so complete various other tasks and games which were part of the series of challenges. Since that night in December 2000 we as a company have repeated this activity every year, which is something our boys and girls enjoy participating in. This year, when asking who was likely to be attending, 75% of those present during our parade evening in December stated that they would like to take part; we restrict the event to junior and company section only.

On the night of 28<sup>th</sup> December we met at 9.00pm; we had our full compliment plus four officers and all chose their board game to be involved with, these being Risk and Cornish Monopoly. We all had a pasta feast and many other goodies at midnight followed by killer darts, beetle-drive, treasure hunt, balloon football, musical chairs, another food stop at 4.00 am and then into football, uni-hoc, netball and lots of individual games which saw us through until breakfast at 8.00 am after which some games until the 9.00 am deadline when parents arrived to collect their tired children.

We had a very successful event, no one had the time to consider sleep, but all had an enjoyable night.



This photograph was taken just after breakfast, hence the look of tiredness, and that's the officers.

**Mike Semmens, Captain**

### Report from 1<sup>st</sup> Malvern (the most northerly company)

The present session (2006/7) is proceeding very well with numbers steady overall at about 45 on the roll with 19 Officers and helpers active. We have now been joined by Kok Siong Lim from Malaysia, who started and ran a BB Company out there. We have retained the services of 6 Junior Officers promoted from the Company Section and they are currently employed on an occasional basis.

We are well supported in prayer and material needs. In particular there are 30 young men in the Company Section from private up to Staff Sergeant (i.e. the 11 to 17 age group). Currently the Junior Section has 15 Boys on the roll. We do not have an Anchor Boy Section as towards the end of the last session we were down to only 2 members with no reinforcements on the horizon. In order to economise on staff therefore the 2 survivors were elevated and staff absorbed into the Junior Section. We now take rising 7's into the Junior Section.

We continue to have 4 squads in Company Section, each with a Sergeant in charge. We have tried now for the last few years to better employ the NCO's to encourage the older Boy and to permit better supervision of all activities by Officer. Several NCO's courses have been held and this does seem to have improved their input.

Junior Section meets at the same time as the Company Section although they leave at 20.30 hours. There are 3 Squads and an active games and badge programme is run. NCO's from the Company Section assist as part of their awards requirements.

Canteen talks from the officers form part of the Friday Bible Class programme along with opening and closing payers. It is true to say that a number of the Boys in the Company come from a Christian home and several have made commitments within their own traditions. However the continuing outreach to the Company Section Boys is a continuing area for prayer. Battalion camp, which provides a real challenge to the Boy's faith, is to be held at Newquay this year from 21 to 28 July.

#### Notable Happenings

- 10 Boys and 3 Officers represented the Brigade at the Lord Mayors Show in November – 10 in the London Massed Bands and 3 in the London Stedfast Band – an exhilarating experience.
- Company Section Beat 11<sup>th</sup> Northampton at Football by 7 goals to 2 in October. Return match is away on the 27 January.
- Company Section won Battalion Master Team & Bible Quiz, Outdoor sports trophy and Chess.
- Company Band won the Potters Trophy for best novice band in the National Championships.
- Company Band participated in 1<sup>st</sup> Tewkesbury's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Parade.

- Company Band led the RBL Remembrance Parade in Malvern and the Bugle Corps sounded Last Post and Reveille.
- Company section chess team has reached the quarter finals of the National Competition.
- 25 Company members attended Battalion summer camp at Exmouth from 22 to 29 July.
- This session saw 5 Presidents Badges and 5 Queens Badges awarded also 6 DEAS Bronze, 9 Silver Award and 6 Gold DEAS awards.
- Night Exercise on the Malvern Hills was enjoyed and we were joined by members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Charlton Kings.
- Three band members went on the NW of England tour with the London Massed Bands in October.
- Gold Expedition DEAS Boys cycled 183 Miles over 4 days with a total climb of 15,000 feet or 12 times the height of the Malvern's.
- 4 NCO's completed their KGVI Course and 3 have remained signed on as Warrant Officers.

The BB is going well. Thanks to everyone for their continued support, this is very much appreciated.

**Paul Hern, Captain**

### 7<sup>th</sup> Bristol Company celebrations

Congratulations on the 7<sup>th</sup> Bristol's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and on the imaginative events organised to mark the occasion. Having been a member of the original 7<sup>th</sup> Bristol Company between 1941 and 1962 it is great to know that the 7<sup>th</sup> is still going strong.

The company was formed in 1891 at Wesley Chapel, Baptist Mills – George 'Boss' Parsons was the Captain for 38 years. He was followed by W. C. 'Bill' Stenner until Bill was called up for war service in the RAF. Ernest W. Byrt was the war time Captain. Bill resumed the captaincy on his return until I became Captain from 1952 until 1962 when I moved to Exeter.

During my time in the 7<sup>th</sup> we always claimed to be the oldest company in the Bristol Battalion, the original 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> companies having dropped out at some stage. If my memory serves me correctly all the numbers were re-allocated and companies were functioning. Sadly, Wesley Chapel was a 'victim' of the continuation of the M32 into the city centre and closed sometime in the 1970's.

During my term of office as District President (1983-6) it was my privilege to be at Holy Trinity when the Lord Mayor of Bristol presented the Brigade President's Commendation certificate to Matthew Dart.

I'm not sure how much of a gap there was between the closure of the original and the formation of the present 7<sup>th</sup>, but we can claim up to 115 years of service to Boys in the Baptist Mills and Stapleton districts of Bristol.

**Frank Flook**