

50th Anniversary

Little did Rhys Davies (21st Cardiff Company) know when he accepted the message from the Brigade President at Brigade Council in Cardiff in September 2006 that the adventure was just beginning. The message was relayed on foot, bicycle, canoe and car. It was received by various bands, a Deputy Lord Mayor and a Town Council Chairman. It visited all sections of the Brigade at regular company meeting nights. It arrived at Battalion and District meetings and was carried for part of its journey through the Peak District by a BB/GB group from Nottingham undertaking their Gold assessment expedition.

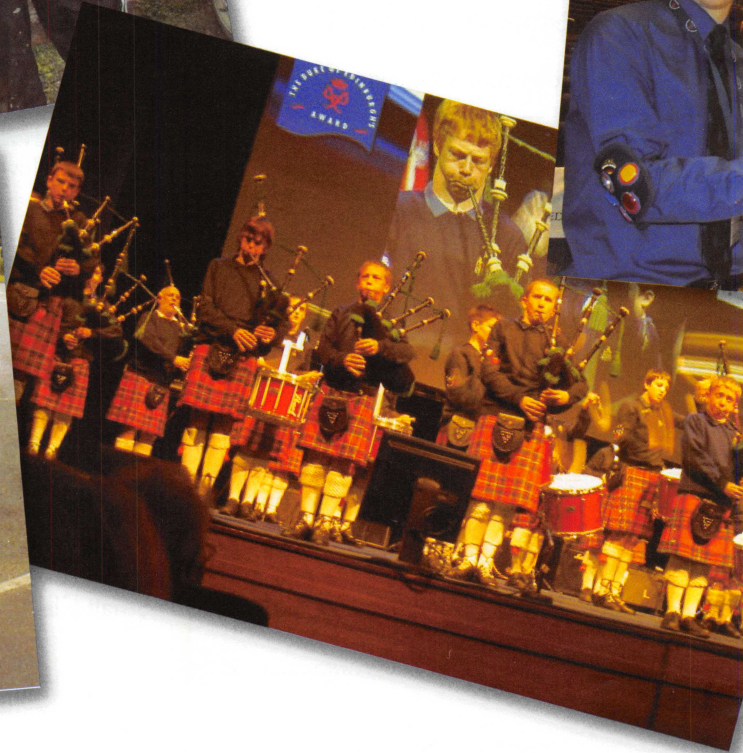
It was delivered to the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, where The Duke of Edinburgh's Award General Council was held in November 2006 with the Duke of Edinburgh himself being present. Four young men from 3rd Kilsyth Company handed it to the official presentation party: Michael Gregory of 1st Burton-in-Kendal, James Brodie, 1st New Deer and John Bogle of 1st Loughaghery. On cue, they marched across the stage and down to the Duke of Edinburgh. The 'the adventure begins here' logo and the message were shown on the screen and Martin Lewis

CBE read the message. The presentation received loud applause from the large audience.

In the evening, an excellent concert was held. The items were performed entirely by young people, which included the 6th/8th Dundee Company pipes and drums and 36 bandsmen of all ranks.

In closing the conference, Sir Tom Farmer CBE KCSG, chairman of the Award Trustees, told of two schoolboy friends of his who belonged to the BB. They said those days in the BB provided the foundation that shaped their lives and influenced everything they did. His final words of encouragement were "don't let your heads go down, you are making a difference in the lives of your young people."

Thus completed a splendid achievement by the Brigade, demonstrating a wonderful exercise of co-operation, communication and public relations, spread over several months.





1st Uxbridge Company. Four Senior boys were presented with their Bronze Award. This was the first time any boys have received D of E awards in the company. Well done to Daniel Moss, Peter Hull, George Hollands and Richard Maddy. George and Richard were also presented with their President's Badge. The young men are pictured with Deputy Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Catherine Dann and Captain, Alan Hollaway, who was marking his retirement after 34 years as Captain.



IN THE VERY BEGINNING ...

The Duke of Edinburgh's award was adopted at its experimental stage by The Boys' Brigade. The Award's Magazine, *The Gauntlet*, recorded that Sergeants Ronald Gray and Lindsay Smith from the 1st Lerwick Company in Shetland, became the first BB boys to achieve their Gold award. The Presentation of their awards by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh took place in Dundee early in 1958.



The Brigade Executive at its meeting on 18th November 2006 recorded its thanks to the following who participated in the transport of the message from Cardiff to Edinburgh:

- 21st Cardiff Company
- 5th Croydon Company
- 2nd Blackwood Company
- 17th Nottingham Company
- Nottingham Battalion
- 1st Malvern Company
- Worcester Battalion
- 2nd Bromsgrove Company
- 1st Kidderminster Company
- 4th Halesowen Company
- 1st Redditch Company
- Birmingham Battalion
- Wolverhampton Battalion
- East Cheshire Battalion
- 1st Elworth Company
- 1st Haslington Company
- North Cheshire Battalion
- 2nd & 9th Widnes Companies
- 2nd & 4th & 7th
- Altrincham Companies
- 5th & 50th Manchester Companies
- 55th & 59th Manchester Companies
- 1st & 2nd Denton Companies
- 14th Bolton Company
- 1st Chapel-en-le-Frith Company
- 3rd & 8th Trafford Companies
- 9th Stockport Company
- St Helens & District Battalion
- Southport & District Battalion
- Hartlepool Battalion
- 1st, 3rd, 4th & 8th Hartlepool Companies
- 10th South Shields Company
- 3rd Gateshead Company
- Buchan Battalion
- 2nd Blantyre Company
- 1st Larkhall Company
- 25th Edinburgh Company
- 1st Vale of Leven Company
- 5th Livingston Company
- 4th Dunfermline Company
- 3rd Kilsyth Company
- Michael Gregory,
- 1st Burton-in-Kendal
- James Brodie, 1st New Deer
- John Bogle, 1st Loughaghery
- Keith Vinerd,
- D of E Organiser, E & W
- James Crawford,
- Expedition Organiser, Scotland
- Hugh McGregor,
- Route Organiser, Scotland