



From The Cairo Bandmaster.

Having completed a year as Bandmaster, of the Cairo Salvation Army Band, I thought you would be interested to know just how we manage our affairs.

We have thirty-nine instruments which were sent out through our friends at home, along with the Tune Book and the Brown Book, which has twenty-five marches and twenty-five selections. Then a New Zealand Salvation Army Band left us a full set of Ordinary Series Journals (1001 to 1050). We then wrote to our home Corps, asked for certain pieces, and have received a very fine response. We give a program every Sunday in the park bandstand for an hour and a half. Owing to the religious question, we are not allowed to conduct Open-Air Meetings, but must restrict ourselves to playing which means the rendering of up to twelve pieces with a few minutes break in between. With a temperature of from 109 to 116, we are simply gasping, but it is a great chance and we grasp it with both hands.

We have given festivals at twenty-eight camps on week-nights, the arrangements being as follows:

We have two 3-ton trucks provided, and leave the Hostel at 7:30pm and try to get back before midnight. Our boys have up to twenty-five kilos to go back to their units.

Five programmes have been given at hospitals, and four Christian Egyptian Missions have been visited. At least four ex-Salvation Army Bandsmen have been brought back to our ranks through hearing the Band in the park. I have been greatly assisted by Deputy Bandmaster Stan Raikes, of Norland Castle. He is posted to the R.A. Band here and is acting as Instructor to our band.

Here is the program we gave last Tuesday at a R.A.F. station where five of our boys are:

'The Conflict'; 'The Hardy Norseman'; monologue (Ted Buchan of Wellingborough); trombone quartet 'Triumph'; 'My Jesus, I love thee', Male Voice Party; cornet duet 'The Cleansing Stream' (F. Duncan, J. Smith); 'Spirit of Praise'; vocal solo (Cecil Wigley); 'Moments with Tchaikovsky'; vocal piece 'When I Survey' (Male Voices); 'Rock of Ages'; and 'Aberystwyth' and 'Stille Nacht' (Band).

H. Miller, of Sutton, is our Deputy Bandmaster; A. Hendry, of Croydon, was the Band Secretary; P. Lloyd, of Heywood Lancs. is the Band Sergeant; and I am a Bandsman at Bradford Central. John F. Feltwell (The Musician, September 2, 1944)

Cairo Red Shield Band.

John Feltwell casts a nostalgic look back at one of the famous wartime Army bands.

The need for instruments in the Middle East had been seen for some time, owing to the fact that a number of Salvationists from various parts of the world were doing duty in this vast area.

Doug Spalding, a bandsman from Tolworth, had made repeated representations to The War Cry, and the then Brigadier Alfred Gilliard, the Editor, became the champion of the cause. The first appeal appeared in 1941, and a very quick response was made.

General George Carpenter presented the first instruments at Regent Hall, London, and they were handed over for shipment overseas. However, the allied cause was in dire distress during early 1942, and owing to enemy action something like 30 instruments were lost at sea.

Another shipment was made and on 20 May 1943 the first cases, containing one bass drum, a side drum, an Eb tenor horn and a Bb bass, arrived at Cairo Red Shield Hostel. Then in late June more cases arrived and a complement of 16 instruments was put into use. A set of books of favorite marches and selections had been sent, also a number of Salvation Army tune books and so a start was made right away.

Bandsman Frank Loder, solo trombonist from Chalk Farm, took up the baton and within the first week a visit was made to an Egyptian Christian Mission. Then almost immediately Frank was posted and there also arose the problem of the boys always being on the move.

During August a few of them took turns on Sunday afternoons in conducting, notably Alan Giles, of Sholing, and Gordon Bailey, of Cardiff Roath. During the week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10pm after the usual meeting the lads who assembled could 'have a blow' and, in answer to the number of calls that were coming in for the band's services, John Feltwell, of Bradford Central, endeavored to get some of the pieces presentable. Early in September Adjutant Richard Bamforth called a meeting and 'locals' were chosen.

In Army circles it is always difficult to say who shall lead and more difficult who shall choose the leader. The Adjutant suggested the men should vote as they had seen three or four wielding the stick. Nominations were asked for.

Chosen.

There were about 20 men present and John Feltwell was chosen to be bandmaster and 'Dusty' Miller, of Sutton, was the deputy. John Knights accepted the position of band sergeant and Ron Pusey, of Catford, and Bernard Webb, of Hastings, undertook to be band librarians. The last position of secretary was filled by Roy Harrington, who hailed from Eastbourne and had taken over G trombone (there being only one tenor horn) and he was making a very fine effort with it.

The bandmaster was a lance corporal in the Corps of Military Police and was attached to the military police base depot as a clerk. The deputy bandmaster had already served three years in Cairo and was a CSM on survey work with the Royal Engineers.

Wednesday night was made the evening for band practice, 8-10 pm and 9-10 pm on Mondays and Fridays for 'a blow'.

The band was very fortunate at this time in having quite a few good players who were more or less in permanent jobs. Ron Reed, of Cambridge, was a fine BBb player and the cornets and the trombone section were quite up to standard. Also, it was quite a regular occurrence to change the 'eupho' players during a practice when up to four good men were waiting to have a blow and only one euphonium was available.

The Adjutant managed to obtain permission for the band to play in the Egbekieh Gardens Bandstand on Sunday afternoons and this was an opportunity too good to be missed.

The religious laws of Egypt did not allow for any open-air activities, and so the men were very fortunate in being allowed to play, but not so fortunate in that they could not do any singing or speaking. This meant that from 3-4 pm a dozen or so band pieces had to be played with no chance of a break, and it became a real test of endurance in a temperature of 100° to 120° in the shade - and very little shade at that! Hymn tunes were given special prominence in the programmes and many requests were made for the old favorites.

The first Sunday in the gardens was certainly an amazing affair. Accustomed to the sedate and orderly concerts in the British style, the men were simply dumbfounded. Clamoring around the stand were some 200 men, women and children, their gesticulations and the Arabic tongue making a pandemonium. Then their native garb provided a marvelous spectacle. It was simply hopeless to attempt to commence until three Egyptian police sergeants came on the scene. They belabored all and sundry with canes and made the bandsmen fairly cringe. Still, something like order was restored and a very good program was given. The police received their reward and 10 Piastres was given every Sunday as a retainer. Cameras were clicking from all angles and some good snaps were taken. Salvation Army history was being made.

Within a few weeks 16 more instruments were sent down from the Haifa hostel, where the supply exceeded the demand, and so a band of 35-40 bandsmen could be provided for. A further appeal was sent home for more music, and soon a steady flow of Festival and Ordinary Series journals was

arriving. During the week a constant demand for the band to visit various camps was met and on occasions two places were visited in one week. The procedure here was rather unusual. The camp concerned would send two three-ton trucks to the hostel and be ready to move off at 7.30 pm. The lads would come in from their various units (some of them had 20 to 30 Km to travel) and then they would be off to the camp they were to visit.

Final Festival.

The final festival was given at an African station at Helwan, which was over 30 kilometers away from Cairo. More than 200 soldiers were crowded around a very fine concrete stage, and arc lamps were shining from all angles. Marches and selections, monologues, piano solos, a cornet solo and an item from Mrs. Adjutant Bamforth on her concertina, delighted the crowd. So it went on until nearly 10 o'clock, out in the desert under a starry sky with the heat of an Egyptian summer turning the bandsmen into perspiring bundles of humanity.

Sergeant Ken Wood, a South African bandsman from Johannesburg, had catered for our refreshment and a sumptuous supper and heaps of chi (tea) were very welcome, and expressions of thanks were exchanged. So the return journey back to the camp was made at about 1 am.

The band was really getting into its stride now, and early in October 1943 Brigadier Chrystall, the Area Commander, invited it to play at the Alamein Club on one of two Sunday mornings. The club is situated on the far side of the Nile, just over the English Bridge and was presented to allied service personnel to commemorate the victory at Alamein in November 1942.

Hymn sheets had been provided and, led by Lieut.-Colonel Hunt, the Assistant Chaplain General, the band accompanied the singing. Then for half-an-hour after the service the band gave a programme of Salvation Army marches and selections. The brigadier was very complimentary in his remarks to the bandmaster and the boys and promised to help in any way possible. In a further endeavour, the brigadier had letters written for every man to get released from duty whenever the band had an engagement. During November and December, Stan Raikes, deputy bandmaster of Norland Castle, and a bombardier in the artillery, came into base for a course and gave valuable assistance in teaching a few pieces.

He was a Welsh lad who was keenly interested in brass band technique and a euphonium player of some repute. His services as instructor were made full use of.

Stan then moved with his unit to kilometer 4½ on the Suez Road, and one evening the band went and presented a festival. Three trucks were arranged to form a background and the engines were kept running to provide electric light. A piano had been brought from the hostel, and once again the desert was a scene of music and enjoyment. What thrills those events were!

Glowing Account.

Colonel Moffat, of International Headquarters, came out on a tour during this period, and a picture of the band was taken. On his return to England his dispatches appeared in *The War Cry*, and a glowing account was given of Cairo Band's activities.

During the winter of 1943-44, a hall was secured in the Egyptian YMCA for Sunday evening meetings, and this gave the band an opportunity of keeping our Sunday night selections to the fore. Quite a number of non-Army servicemen were attracted and congregations increased.

Christmas 1943 saw the band playing old familiar carols, and the 63rd General Hospital was visited on Christmas Day afternoon. Then, at night, an impromptu concert was given in the hostel canteen. The tea at 6 pm had been a very fine spread, which showed that Egypt was certainly a land of plenty. The Adjutant and his staff had done their best to make our Christmas as much like home as possible.

Special Menu.

Many of the camps now visited were the stations of our bandsmen, and there seemed to be quite a competition in putting on the best supper. The bandmaster's CP Base Depot set the ball rolling when 35 bandsmen (and about 10 who could not be accommodated with instruments) enjoyed the sergeant

cook's pastries. Then followed visits to an RAF camp at Tura, where four or five of the lads were stationed, the RAF Base Accounts, and the Signal's Base at Digla. Eggs and chips were the special menu, along with the ever-welcome cup of tea. Up to March 1944, 18 places were visited and a busy summer was in store.

Early in March the Adjutant brought forward the idea of celebrating the first anniversary of the arrival of the instruments and after some discussion 20 May was decided upon and preparations made to cover a good week-end. Suggestions are one thing, but the possibility of being able to do very much seemed somewhat remote. The boys were all on active service, and many could only get into Cairo on special pass. The bandmaster and Bert Elliott, of Blackburn, had been working on welfare at the hostel for some weeks and Bert hit on the idea of raising some money toward the dinner that was to start the week-end.

One fine Tuesday afternoon, when these two stalwarts were out on their half-day, Bert suddenly said, 'Come on, let's try our luck at the Saidanoui stores.'

'Can I see the manager, please?' set the ball rolling. In five minutes Bert had £5 in his hand. In three weeks £73 had been raised. Bert was on the list as another Army beggar!

The Adjutant was delighted and most keen to make further arrangements. The National Hotel was recommended and the manager promised to provide a dinner really fit for Salvationists to sit down to. The Ewart Memorial Hall was kindly loaned, and a photograph of the band was taken, 44 men appearing and making a very fine group, with one New Zealander, and three South Africans amongst the 'Blighty' boys.

The week before the anniversary, the BBC consented to do a recording for a gramophone record for which the 'Hallelujah' chorus from Handel's Messiah was chosen. The spacious church hall of the American Mission was loaned for the occasion and 40 men were in the band at the ready. After a change round in the position of the comets, trombones, basses and one or two preliminary tests, the experts gave the word 'go'. Everyone seemed anxious to give of his best and the words of the BBC official, 'It's terrific,' made the effort seem well worthwhile.

Reverse Side.

On the reverse side, the Adjutant introduced the bandsmen and they all spoke their names and the corps from which they came. The next day about 10 of the lads went along to the studio and were delighted with the recording. But a big disappointment came when the HMV Gramophone Company could not publish the record as the reverse side constituted a personal message, and was an infringement of copyright.

On Saturday 20 May 1944 all the instruments were placed in position during the afternoon, the manager of the National Hotel having set aside the Moorish Room in Soliman Pasha for our use.

From 7-8 pm there was a steady flow of guests arriving and Brigadier Chrystall, who was our chief guest of honour, was accompanied by Colonel Ford and Lieut.-Colonel Hunt. Altogether some 90 men from all parts of the Middle East were present, letters of invitation having been well circulated.

Souvenir menu cards were provided by the Middle East Military Press through the efforts of our band secretary, Jack Whiting, who had held that position for just three months. He was a compositor at the GHQ and, although he was due to be posted to Iraq, his officer delayed his departure for a few days to allow him to see the week-end through.

Autographs had been freely exchanged and then at 8.15 dinner was served. Grace was sung in true Army style - quite an eye-opener for those who had been detailed to supply the wants of the party. Course after course disappeared; the spread was sumptuous! Sudanese Safriga were at hand to help the boys, and they enjoyed the pleasure of being waited on. A photographer moved around the tables and some very good shots were taken of the happy gathering. Then at 10.15 the speech-making began.

Adjutant Balmforth, as master of ceremonies, first of all read two cables, one from General George Carpenter and another from Colonel Charles Durman, in charge of Salvation Army welfare, and two letters from bandsmen who had played in the band, namely Stan Raikes and Jack Poulton, a very fine trombone player front Blackburn. Speeches followed from Brigadier Chrystall, Major Pearson, who was the officer in charge of Salvation Army work in The Middle East, the bandmaster and the deputy. Some choice and humorous words were spoken and all were well received.

The band provided a variation during the proceedings and the 'Hallelujah' chorus was rendered by the men who had done the recording during the week. The male voice party gave a very fine selection and the evening ended at 11.13 with the band playing Colonel Bram Coles' arrangement of 'Moments with Tchaikovsky'.

Unexpected Event.

One day in June 1944 the bandsmen who could be got together took part in a sad and quite unexpected-event. Bandsman Tatler, of Lowestoft, had come to Cairo from Italy. On the Tuesday he had enjoyed the privilege of playing in the band at an Italian POW camp, and had met some old chums he had known in England. On Thursday morning the bandmaster found him dead in bed, and a note at his bedside to his dear wife telling of his joy and pleasure gave evidence of his last happy days. Perhaps he was the only Salvationist to have a Salvation Army funeral in the Middle East.

Adjutant Balmforth, assisted by a military chaplain, conducted the funeral service and the bandmaster sounded the Last Post. Our comrade lies in the Heliopolis Cemetery in a soldier's grave surmounted by a simple cross, far from any scene of fighting. The bands-men were at least grateful that they had been able to pay these last respects to their friend and comrade.

Changing Personnel.

Changing personnel had always been evident in the band and during 1944 the position of both sergeant and secretary had twice been replaced. During August, Stan Raikes came back to base and secured a place in the R.A. band. He was invited to take over Bandmastership of the Cairo Salvation Army Band. John had completed one year as the bandmaster and would still be on hand whenever Stan or the deputy were away.

More music began to arrive from home and such pieces as 'The Old Wells', 'British Melodies', 'A little ship' and a number Ordinary Series journals were creating additional interest for the men. Camps, hospitals and monthly visit to the Abbassia Military Prison kept them busy. The prison had some 400 men, all serving from three to ? years. Their solitary confinement, especially on Sunday, was much relieved and the band turned up in fine style for these occasions.

By Christmas 1944 only 11 members of the original band were left, but on Christmas Day more than 30 men turned up and carols were played at an RAF hospital (in the morning) and at the 63rd General Hospital in the afternoon. The Adjutant had provided a grand spread at the hostel and at 6pm nearly 80 men and two or three service girls sat down to what we all hoped would be the last Christmas party away from home. Oranges bananas, sweets, raisins, nuts, Christmas cake and the usual fare made the war seem very far away.

The evening was given over to an impromptu concert, the high spot of which was when Bert, who had dressed up as an Egyptian waiter, in red fez and long white robe, appeared and played a tenor horn solo. The party was convulsed.

During 1944, 48 camps, hospitals and canteens had been visited, besides the band having given 45 Sunday afternoon concerts in the park, and 20 Sunday morning interludes at the service canteen in the gardens. Would 1945 be the last year of banding in Egypt? Victory seemed very near, but every week more men were arriving to replace the long-service boys.

Some of our 'stand-bys' had gone to Italy and Greece and letters arrived from them telling of fresh places and new friends. Corporal Harold Sawyer, our New Zealand bandsman and male voice party leader, had returned to Britain and Frank Duncan, the soprano player, had taken over the party. Frank was one of the 'originals' and was indeed the artiste of the band on his soprano, besides being the

solo pianist and accompanist. Frank Sinnock, of Harlesden, had also gone home after four and a half years overseas, and had been the male voice leader before any instruments had been thought of.

Doug Spalding went home after three years and for the first time the band was without a G trombone player. Our first engagement in 1945 was at a military prison, followed by a late Sunday night festival at the cathedral hall.

Tactful Manner.

The last practice attended by our first and only deputy took place on 21 March. Harold (Dusty) Miller had completed his four years and seven months, and had risen from the rank of lance-corporal to that of warrant officer first class. His genial disposition and tactful manner had impressed all who had been in his company and the best wishes of the band went with him on his homeward journey. Frank Duncan was elected to be the new deputy bandmaster, an office he accepted with his usual unassuming manner. He conducted his first piece the following Sunday afternoon in the gardens, namely 'The Hardy Norseman', Bandmaster Mountain's 'air-vaire'.

The band was now truly international, for we had welcomed an American Salvationist from a corps in Chicago who was soon at home in the bass section. Social evenings had been introduced since Christmas and once a month, on Monday nights, a 'free for all' created added interest, and individual items brought out new talent.

Adjutant and Mrs Balmforth, after two years at the Cairo hostel, had received a request from London for service in the Far East and after a period of waiting, a cable hurried their departure and they left on 13 April for a new field of service. The Adjutant had done much for the band during his stay and it was regretted that no sort of farewell could be arranged.

During the second week in April, two 'Tommys' on release from the military prison came to the hostel to thank the band for its visits. Chorus sheets had been provided at the last festival and the lads had been greatly blessed in having words to sing to.

Adjutant and Mrs Fleming were welcomed from Alexandria on 5 May 1945. The Adjutant had done a great job of work at his last appointment and his presence was soon felt at Cairo. VE-Day was announced on 8 May and after enjoying a social evening the band gave a program at the CMP Barracks in the city where the men were on standby duty. The visit was very much appreciated and again at the week-end an hour's program was given.

Sergeant Jack Sherlock, the band's first convert, farewelled for home on 13 May. He had completed four years and seven months service and gave a glowing testimony. Ted Beecham, one of the band's first trombone players, also said 'goodbye'. His words were: 'Thanks for everything; this place has been a home from home to me during my stay in the Middle East.'

The story then seems to be one of a perpetual coming and going. Sergeant-Major Sam Dickason, a grand stalwart who had been reclaimed and had nobly kept the faith and had witnessed to a very present Savior, moved on. His absence was at once felt and all the bandsmen and other Salvationists were hoping to meet him again when all the separations were over and reunions could be held back in the homeland.

Unique Event.

On 30 June an event took place which was quite unique. Bandsman George Freeman was married to Miss Muriel Onyon. George had been one of the first cornet players in the band and had been working with The Salvation Army at the Benghazi canteen for over a year. Miss Onyon, the daughter of Major and Mrs Onyon, was a nursing sister, and members of the band were especially happy to be present at the wedding of our friends. Major Pearson conducted the ceremony and Bert, our genial solo horn expert, was the best man.

A second visit was paid by the band to the cathedral hall on Sunday 8 July and such pieces as 'Gems from Haydn', 'A Sunbeam' and 'Onward to Conquer' were all well received.

The second official band photograph was taken on 15 July. In all, 32 men were present and it was interesting to note that 10 of the present band were also on the 1944 photograph and that four of the 1944 bandsmen were still playing although on duty at the time when the 1945 picture was taken.

Good Sing.

Towards the end of July the bandmaster had to go on tour with the RA band to Palestine, also the deputy was granted a month's leave, so once again the writer took over the baton. The deputy conducted the band before going home at a festival at the REME workshops canteen where Captain Phillips was the officer commanding. Then the band paid its fourth visit to the CMP base depot, where hymn sheets were provided and in between the band items the men enjoyed a really good sing.

The defeat of Japan was announced on 15 August which was the band's practice night. Lieutenant Ron Giles, a bandsman from Holloway, was present, having returned after being in Britain and Italy.

Sunday 2 September seemed to be the commencement of a general farewell. Captain Phillips, a bandsman from Brighton Congress Hall, was due home on long-service grounds, also John Smith, of Canterbury. A farewell dinner was provided by Adjutant Fleming on the Saturday night, and then on Sunday all the meetings were in the nature of farewells.

Bandsman Phillips had been an organizer of our Saturday night social evenings and had made this a very popular success. He had assisted nobly on the Eb bass section. John Smith had been the mainstay of our cornet bench and after six years' service was going home with the band's best wishes. His testimony had always been appreciated.

Maurice Underwood also bade farewell, he having been granted a month's leave on the 'Liap' scheme. Maurice had officiated as the corps sergeant-major during the last three months and had cheerfully discharged his duty.

Stan Raikes was due home for release in a few weeks' time and it was fitting that the presentation should take place while so many of the older bandsmen were still present. In the night musical Stan spoke and gave a 'swire' (small) resume of his 13 months as the bandmaster also thanking the locals and the men for their efforts.

During the practicing of Bandmaster Kirk's air voile 'Stand like the brave' in the afternoon, the men were astounded by experiencing earthquake tremors. Chairs rocked and the electric light globe did a dance on its own. The next day's paper gave an account of the quake and reported the centre as being about 300 miles north of Cairo.

Bandsman Albert Cook said goodbye to the boys at the social evening on Saturday 15 September. Albert had seen service in Paiforce and had also been a regular member of the band for 18 months. During the last nine months with us he had fulfilled the band secretary's position, combining with it a sort of 'Jack-of-all-trades'. Stan Lewes, of Grays, Essex, a recent arrival from Britain, took over Albert's job.

During Bandmaster Raikes's stay in the Middle East he had composed a march, and this appeared in the Ordinary Series journal for September 1945 under the title 'Cairo Red Shield'. The boys had the opportunity of playing it prior to Stan leaving for home.

Major and Mrs Sparham, along with their daughter, Joy, were welcomed from Britain on 19 September. The Major was a former staff bandsman and brought greetings from all our bands at home. He had come to relieve Major and Mrs Pearson, who had pioneered our welfare work and were going to take up an appointment in Germany.

For the next few weeks after Stan's departure, Major Sparham and a New Zealand bandsman conducted the band and then on Sunday 25 November our old standby and first bandmaster again took over the baton. There were still quite a crowd of lads in the area, also a number arriving from home, and on Sunday afternoon up to 25 attended the practice.

The second farewell dinner was given by the Adjutant on Wednesday 28 November when about 35 bandsmen and other Salvationists attended. Within the next four weeks, nearly all the boys who had been regular members of the band were due to go home for release. Bob Deakin (Band Sergeant), Bert Elliot, Alan Giles, who had completed four years and had been the solo cornet player from the band's inception, Bob Scott, Maurice Underwood, Ben Godwin, Ted Anderson and Peter Lehmann (two South African bandsmen) and Fred Todd, of Portsmouth Citadel.

A Real Wrench.

All of these lads had been members of the band for over 18 months. No matter how great the longing for home had become, the leaving of the Cairo Band proved a real wrench and in one or two asides it was evident that their Salvation Army banding in Egypt would remain a lasting and inspiring memory.

The band, numbering 28, gave a program at the Detention Barracks, which would be the final visit there for 1945, finishing the afternoon with the old, well loved selection 'Adeste Fideles'. Afterwards, 10 of the men went along to the military hospital where our secretary, Stan Lewes, was seriously ill with typhoid. He was delighted to see and hear us and we all wished him a speedy recovery.

Christmas 1945 was the best ever. On the previous Wednesday evening the band conducted a carol service at the CMP depot, this being the band's fifth festival there. Then, on Christmas Eve, upwards of 30 men assembled for a tour of the city. Transport had been kindly loaned for the festivities by the CMP depot and two of the bandmaster's colleagues volunteered to be drivers. The first 15 minutes were spent outside our own hostel, followed by visits to the YMCA and YWCA.

The band proceeded to the British Embassy, and Lord Killearn, after listening to our playing, invited us into the Embassy where refreshments were provided.

Substantial Donation.

Another halt was made at the GCO's residence, and Lieutenant-General Allfrey was delighted with our efforts and insisted on subscribing a substantial donation, this being later spent in providing added gifts for our boys who were in hospital. After playing carols at the CMP barracks the final stand of the evening was at Bandsman Eddie Wilkinson's detachment at Abbassoa. Eddie was the CSM of the CMP here and he had very thoughtfully catered for our needs, and some hot coffee and mince pies were gratefully accepted.

On Christmas morning a festival of carols, marches and selections was given at the RAF hospital. Major Sparham officiated as conductor, the bandmaster helping our depleted cornet section, and again in the afternoon when the band visited the military hospital, finishing up with a rousing march down the main avenue. Dinner and tea were provided at the hostel and from 7 to 10.30 pm the meeting room was a scene of hilarious entertainment and games.

During the previous week Bandsman Bernard Patrick had accepted the position of band sergeant. Bernard had recently arrived from home and had won distinction as a flying officer in the RAF, having been decorated for gallantry with the DFC and bar. He expected to remain in Cairo for some months and was proving a great help on the cornet bench.

By the end of 1945 only 14 men were available on the last Sunday of the year, and the writer was himself due to return three weeks later. Finally, then, may I thank all Salvation Army officers for their interest in the 'Cairo Red Shield'. My two and a half years in Cairo were one continual thrill and will be a lasting and joyous memory.

Postscript. In 1946 the band undertook a visit to Jerusalem where it played in the ground of the Garden Tomb. During the period of its existence Cairo Red Shield Band undertook more than 80 engagements. (The Musician, October - December 1979)

1943 Cairo Red Shield Bandsmen:

Bandmaster: John feltwell - Bradford Citadel

Cairo Salvation Army Hostel: Adjutant Richard Bamforth

Soprano:

Frank Duncan - Long Eaton

Cornets:

Bert Elliot - Blackburn Citadel

John Smith - Canterbury Citadel

Alan Giles - Sholing

Gordon Bailey - Cardiff Roath Temple

Fred Ogdan - West ?

Robert White - Southwick

Bob Deakin - Swadlincote

Phillip Ingram - Swindon Gorse Hill

Charlie Smith - Walthamstow Central

Peter Harry - Hamilton

Jim Freda - Howdon-on-Tyne

Tony Davis - Everton, Liverpool

William Wright - Norwich Citadel

Flugel:

Philip Edwards - Bingley

Horns;

Harold Sawyer - Newton, Auckland, New Zealand

Philip Worboys - Cottenham

Jack Whiting - Salisbury

Bob Edwards - Norland Castle

Baritones:

Peter Lehmann - Transvaal, South Africa

Leslie Poole - Bristol Citadel

Euphoniums:

Walter Green - Norwich Citadel

Harold Miller - Sutton (Deputy-Bandmaster)

Frank Newbury - Rothwell

Peter Lloyd - Heywood, Lancashire

Gording Rope - 50 Bravid Road

Trombones:

ernest Twaite - Portsmouth Citadel

Albert Hendry - West Croydon

Ted Beecham - Wellingborough

Albert Cook - Leigh-on-Sea

Doug Spalding - Tolworth, Surry

Basses:

Ron Edwards - Mansfield

Burt Masons - Scarborough

Howard Philips - Brighton Congress Hall

John Moats - Felixstowe

? Barren - Wigan

John Jackson - Carlisle

Maurice Hallicote - Maldon, Essex

Percussion:

George Mockett - Margate

Flag-Sergeant:

Ernie Mango - Woodbury

Librarian:

John Sherlock - Deanbank