



The Folkestone-Canadian Military Band of 1915.

The above photograph of the Canadian Military Band was taken at Folkestone, Kent, during the Great War.

Quite a few of the Bandsmen were unable to be present owing to their military duties.

How this splendid combination came to being will, I feel sure, make interesting reading, especially at the present time, when the Canadian troops are again in this country.

During the year 1915 I was stationed at Folkestone when the Canadian Army came to Shorncliffe and the surrounding camps for training.

With a little enterprise I was able to get into touch with the G.O.C., General Sir Samuel Steele, and he consented to preside over a special Meeting we had arranged at the Citadel.

This afforded me the opportunity for which I had been seeking a conversation with the general regarding the troops, for whom I was anxious to do something.

He spoke to me of certain problems concerning the great Canadian Army and concluded by saying, "I should like you to get around among the men as much as you can, and I shall appreciate any help you can give them."

I spared no effort in this direction.

Now for the account of the origin of the Folkestone-Canadian Salvationist Band:

We opened our Young People's Hall as a rest-room for the Canadian troops during the week, and this was greatly appreciated.

On Sunday afternoons the soldiers would pack the Citadel, and after the Meeting we provided tea for them.

By this means I discovered hundreds of Salvationists.

I also visited the camp every week, and there came into contact with many who were Salvation Army Bandsmen.

Indeed, the Regimental Bandmaster was Bandmaster Perrier, of Peterborough.

I again saw General Sir Samuel Steele, who gave his sanction for the Salvationists to form themselves into a Band that they might play every Sunday in our Citadel.

He also gave permission for the men to use their regimental instruments.

This, every Sunday afternoon our Corps Bandsmen would conduct the open-air Meeting, and then march to the Citadel, where they would take their place in the body of the Hall, whilst the Canadian would occupy the platform and render a programme under the leadership of Bandmaster Perrier.

The Citadel would be crowded to its utmost capacity.

The photograph was taken after the Meeting one Sunday afternoon.

With the group is Colonel Martin (Retired), who had been Chief Secretary of our work in Germany, and who was then at I.H.Q.

The Colonel had been conducting the weekend Meetings on this occasion.

Also present are two Salvation Army Officers, Captains Steele (centre) and Robinson, Chaplains in the Canadian Army.

Captain Steele, now Brigadier, has again returned to this country with the troops, and with the military rank of Major.

Captain Robinson made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefield of France during the last war.

With the group also are Bandmaster Perrier and myself.

No doubt some of the Canadian boys now here will recognize their own father in the group.

Robert W. Edwards, Major. (The Musician, February 3, 1940)