



THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES  
TE RUA MAHARA O TE OPE WHAKAORA

SEPTEMBER 2022

# REVELATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES IN NEW ZEALAND

## MUSIC IN THE SALVATION ARMY

Mandolin, brass instruments and musicals in The Salvation Army



### Print

If you wish to print the newsletter PDF:

- 1) Print both pages as A3 sheets/posters, or
- 2) Print |'actual size'| A3 double-sided | flip on short edge | then, if you wish, fold as illustrated.



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The Heritage Centre and Archives also has a webpage on which you can find information and articles of interest:

<https://archives.salvationarmy.org.nz/>

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## WELCOME

to REVELATIONS 19

► Kia ora and welcome to Revelations, our latest Newsletter from The Salvation Army Heritage Centre & Archives!

The content for this issue has a musical theme as we reflect on the compositions of the late General John Larsson and delve into the history of some of the musical instruments held by the Archives. It includes the story of a mandolin from the 1910s as well as the work of Campfield Musical Instruments Works set up by the Salvation Army.

Some of these images have also appeared in our physical displays, so we are excited to make them available to a wider audience. This also may be the occasion to follow us on Twitter (@NzftsA) as we extend our Social Media reach.



We trust you enjoy these stories of the power of music that is threaded in the work and mission of the Salvation Army and the people who have brought that music to life.

**Gregory Jennings** | Territorial Archivist ◀

If you'd like to visit our Facebook Page Salvation Army Archives NZFT:  
<https://www.facebook.com/SalvationArmyArchivesNZFT/>

## MANDOLINS IN THE SALVATION ARMY

### The Archive Mandolin and Mandolin Bands

► The Mandolin is a small wooden stringed musical instrument and is a modern member of the lute family. It evolved during the 18th century in both Italy and Germany from the 16th century mandora. From the late 19th century into the early 20th century, this period came to be known as the "Golden Age" of the mandolin. As the instrument became popular, mandolin orchestras were being organised worldwide, and new and high-quality instruments were increasingly common.



Palmerston North String Band (1912)

In the Salvation Army brass instruments were commonly used since they were effective on the march, and Army music became closely associated with the brass band. However other instruments like the concertina, mandolin, tambourine, violin, and guitar were also used. Salvation Army mandolin bands gave women an opportunity to participate in music making since women generally in this period did not play in brass bands.

With difficulties of supply for brass instruments from the United Kingdom during (& just after) World War One, Mandolin Bands & other stringed instruments became increasingly popular. The first bands were established in Christchurch City & Sydenham Corps followed by bands in



Sydenham Corps Mandolin Band (c1926)

other cities such as Dunedin, Wellington, Palmerston North and Auckland. The mandolin on the cover page was transferred to the Heritage Centre & Archives from the Christchurch City Corps in 2011. It was accompanied with a note by Dr Bramwell Cook which reads: "This mandolin was almost certainly used in the mandolin band, a prominent feature of City Corps 1915-1930."

We are not certain who the owner was, but records show that it may have belonged to Maud Mayfield (middle Row, 3rd Right). It is possible that our mandolin is shown in this photograph of the Christchurch City Corps Mandolin Band between 1919 to 1920. ◀



Christchurch City Mandolin Band (c1919)

# MUSICAL INSTRUMENT FACTORY

A vibrant history of serving the needs of Salvation Army Bands



Main workshop at the St Albans factory 1905

▶ With the rapid development of brass bands in The Salvation Army during the 1880s, The Army's Trade Department opened a brass repair shop at its Headquarters, 56 Southwark Street in London in 1889.

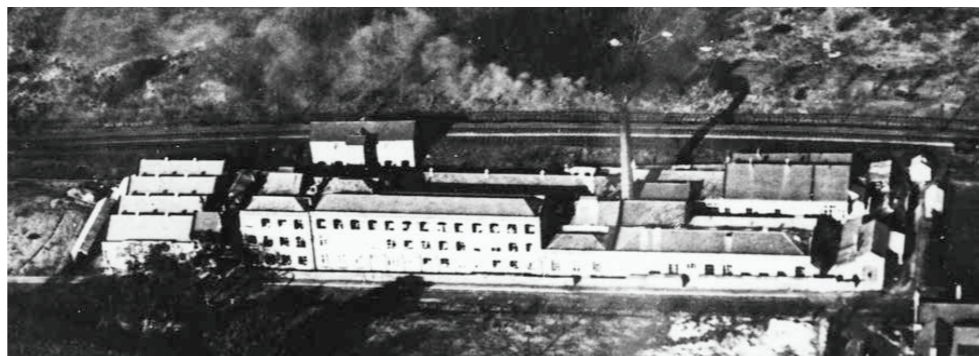
For the first three years, the factory only assembled cornets and conducted repairs, but from about 1893 the factory began making valves and manufacturing all brass band instruments.

The Trade Department and the brass shop moved locations twice until in 1901 the SA opened a factory for instrument making in St. Albans, London, called the Campfield Musical Instruments Works. It was near the SA printing facility, called Campfield Press. The factory produced all brass band

instruments and even designed and patented an Eb bass trombone with a slide going forwards as usual and another going backwards, both working together with ropes and pulleys.

Several attempts were made to produce a less expensive instrument line for small corps and youth bands, but ways could not be found to produce cheaper instruments. The main model for senior bands in the early years was called Gold Medal, later changed to Triumph or Triumphonic models added in 1914.

The Triumphonic line was made until the St. Albans factory closed in 1972. It was sold to Boosey and Hawkes, as by then the machinery was getting so old that accurate parts were difficult to make. The SA decision makers in London decided not to fund the modernisation of the SA factory because of huge costs and it had been losing money for several years.



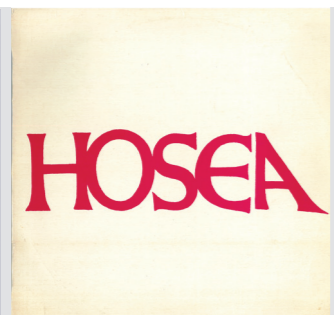
▲ Campfield Rd instrument factory and printing works in 1938. ▶  
▼ Engraving and burnishing.  
Courtesy of The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre.



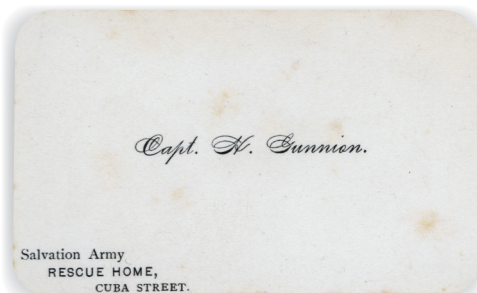
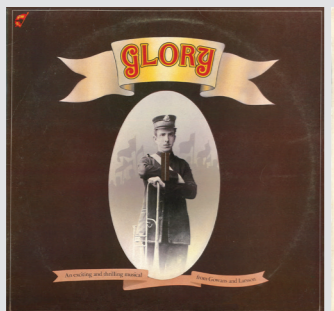
Staff at the Clerkenwell Road factory c1895

The Campfield Musical Instrument Works had a vibrant history of serving the needs of SA bands. Instruments were made with thicker metal and heavier silver plate to meet the needs of active schedules and sometimes hostile street corners!

Even though only 34,000 instruments were produced in 83 years, these were made to serve the Lord, and to meet the needs of ever-expanding bands in the Army world. From the beginning, many of the workers in the factory used their skills to make instruments, and to play them in corps bands. Today we pay tribute and give thanks to those dedicated men and women, who gave so much to the history of Salvation Army bands. ◀



**John Larsson and His Musicals**  
Known extensively throughout the Salvation Army world and beyond for his collaboration with General John Gowers in the writing and production of 10 full-length musicals, the impact of General John Larsson's contribution to Salvation Army heritage cannot be underestimated.  
His music, both in the context of the musicals, but also in his composition of words and music for many other songs, has had a significant spiritual impact on people of all ages. Those who had the privilege of hearing him play his own compositions at the piano will also surely not forget that experience. However, it should be remembered that the influence of General Larsson's own character, his gentle and unassuming nature and his depth of spirituality also remains an integral part of his legacy to The Salvation Army throughout the world.



**Captain Robert McCallum**  
Captain Robert McCallum is pictured in this image from 1895 holding his banjo. He was stationed in Christchurch and trained for officership in 1888.  
This cabinet card (see the reverse on the image above), was addressed to Captain Hannah Gunnion whom he married on 24th of February 1898.

Scan QR code for more photographs, or <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzKaSN>

At the end of 2021 we received a donation of a wooden box full to the brim of Cabinet Cards (photographic prints mounted on thick card). Many individuals in the photographs are unknown, so please let us know if you can help us by identifying unknown portraits.

