

CRYSTAL PALACE PARK

(at the Bandstand)

Sunday bands at 6.30

August 14	ST. ALBANS CITY AND BRITISH LEGION BAND
August 21 HANWELL SILVER BAND
August 28 UNITED SERVICES MILITARY BAND

Children's Entertainments at 3.0

August 9 NORMAN CONQUEST
August 12 ERNEST BRISBANE
August 16 DONALD RICHARDS
August 19 SIDNEY JEFFORD
August 23 BILLY MARTIN
August 26 STANLEY QUIGLEY

(Note : Adults are not admitted to the enclosure at children's entertainments)

Open-Air Cinema Show
(near Refreshment House)

August 15 at 7.0
A selection of films suitable for young audiences will be shown

(J.W.24495)

Harry Mortimer
O. B. E.

Wherever brass bands foregather the name of Mortimer is bound, sooner or later, to be mentioned. Harry Mortimer began playing the cornet at the age of eight at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where brass bands have existed for generations. He later moved south and was conducting the Luton Red Cross Junior Band at fourteen. It was with Foden's, however, under his father, the late Fred Mortimer, that he built his enormous reputation as a cornet soloist and gained the experience that has taken him to the very front rank as a band trainer. In the orchestral field, too, he achieved distinction, being for a number of years principal trumpet of the Hallé and Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestras. He was appointed Brass and Military Bands Supervisor of the B.B.C. in 1942.

His list of conducting successes at major contests, like that of his late father, is a staggering one.—F.W.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

TO BE PERFORMED BY
MASSED BRASS BANDS

FANFARE and
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

- 1 PRELUDIO MARZIALE *Frank Wright*
- 2 SKYE BOAT SONG *arr. W. Rimmer*
- 3 Two pieces featuring Cornets :
(a) CORNET CARILLON *Binge*
(b) TRUMPET VOLUNTARY *Purcell*
- 4 Waltz, THE GRENADIERS *Waldteufel*
- 5 Vocal Item, THE LITTLE SHEPHERDESS ... *Rossini*
Soloist : Roxane Houston
- 6 Suite, INDIAN SUMMER *Eric Ball*

INTERVAL

- 7 Overture, PIRATES OF PENZANCE *Sullivan*
- 8 Two pieces featuring Trombones :
(a) TROMBONES TO THE FORE *Scull*
(b) PANIS ANGELICUS *César Franck*
- 9 BOHEMIAN SUITE *Ord Hume*
- 10 Featuring Euphoniums : ABIDE WITH ME *Liddle*
- 11 Tone Poem, FINLANDIA *Sibelius*

MASSED
BRASS
BANDS

GUEST CONDUCTOR
HARRY MORTIMER, O.B.E.

BANDS

CROYDON BOROUGH

Conductor : Wesley Johnstone

CRYSTAL PALACE

Conductor : Walter Gill

LUTON

Conductor : Albert Coupe

with ROXANE HOUSTON, Soprano

SUNDAY, 7th AUGUST at 7 p.m.
CRYSTAL PALACE (Arena)

CRYSTAL PALACE — ITS BAND TRADITION

Mention Crystal Palace to any brass band lover and you will at once conjure up in his mind large-scale Band Festivals with as many as eight separate contests running concurrently and crowds of 50,000 and more, most of them intent on listening to the various sections, the rest contentedly milling round the multitudinous displays of shining band instruments, uniforms and music, and all, at some time or other during the day, hoping to obtain a seat in the great Concert Hall where the crack bands are engaged in a grim battle for premier honours.

Many of the wise ones, having reserved their seats, sit for the whole day as if under a spell, turning the pages of their scores—a few, to be sure, unable closely to follow the music and perhaps getting lost occasionally, especially in the fast passages.

Finally the grand evening concert in the vast Centre Transcept, with the massed bands, resplendent in their brightly coloured uniforms, occupying the steeply graded "orchestra". The glorious sound of the "Hallelujah Chorus", always a popular item, seems to echo back to us over the years.

It was in 1900 that the first Festival was held at Crystal Palace. The late J. Henry Iles, the brass band protagonist, impressed by the bands he had heard on a visit to Belle Vue, Manchester, a few years before, decided it was high time that such fine playing should cease to be the monopoly of the North. He enlisted the sympathy of Sir Arthur Sullivan, who conducted a massed band concert at the Royal Albert Hall—probably the origin of massed band concerts as we know them today—and then founded the National Festival with its home at the magnificent glass edifice—a Crystal Palace indeed!—standing high on the Sydenham Hill.

The Festival flourished. Special trains brought bands with thousands of their supporters from all parts of the country. Crowded charabancs, with banners flying, were everywhere. It was the big day of the year in every bandsman's life.

When on that fateful Monday night in November, 1936, the "Palace" was destroyed in a conflagration that could be seen for miles, the great fraternity of brass bandsmen heard the news with sinking heart. What would become of the Festival now? J. Henry Iles decided that there was only one place : Alexander Palace. So to the mammoth building north of Wood Green went the bands and supporters. But only for two years. War came and the Festival was abandoned until 1944, when, under the aegis of the "Daily Herald" with J. Henry Iles as advisor, it was reborn in the dignified setting of the Royal Albert Hall. In 1952 it was transferred to the Empress Hall for reasons of space but last year saw its return to the Hall of the Arts and Sciences, at Kensington—scene of the first massed band concert on a large scale.

Doubtless there lurks somewhere in the mind of every brass band lover the desire to see another Crystal Palace built and the bands and supporters back at their former home. Who knows . . . ? F.W.

THE BANDS

CRYSTAL PALACE BAND

The Crystal Palace Band was founded in 1900 as the Upper Norwood Prize Band ; during the 1914-18 war it was attached to the first 12th Battalion of the Volunteer Regiment and in 1923, at the invitation of the General Manager of the Crystal Palace, it was renamed the Crystal Palace Band. The band won the Grand Shield Section of the Championships at the Crystal Palace on two occasions. Mr. Walter Gill is the conductor.

CROYDON BOROUGH BAND

Founded in 1911, this combination was originally known as Croydon Temperance Band. The inaugural year was also an outstanding one in the band's history, seventeen prizes, including nine firsts, being won during this period at contests. Between 1922 and 1924 the band regularly attended contests in the Southern Counties, winning several firsts, and in 1925 appeared at Crystal Palace and was awarded second prize in the Junior Cup. Since World War II the band has competed on fewer occasions but its record has always been creditable. Its present conductor is Mr. Wesley Johnstone, B.Mus., F.T.C.L.

LUTON BAND

This band, founded in 1890 as the Luton Red Cross Band, continued under this title until 1932, when its present name was adopted. It has won many prizes at major festivals, its greatest achievement being the award of premier honours in the Championship Section at Crystal Palace in 1923—the first band in the 'south' to win the coveted thousand-guinea trophy. Among famous names of the past associated with the band are Gladney, Halliwell and Fred Mortimer. The present conductor is Mr. Albert Coupe.