

Another Successful Boys' Brigade Band

The 2nd Enfield Co. B.B. Band.

"This Company is going to have a band; but it is not going to have a Bugle Band, nor is it going to have a Drum and Fife Band. It is going to have a Brass Band."

That announcement, made some twelve years ago by Capt. P. T. Roddis, at the conclusion of a Sunday morning's Bible Class, signalled the official commencement of the Brass Band of the 2nd. Enfield Co. B.B.

It can well be imagined what excitement and initial enthusiasm greeted this announcement, and the majority of the boys in the Company applied for places in the band. However, a few weeks of

pany have been hard put to keep it alive, for there is an ever-present problem to be continuously surmounted in the running of a brass band in connection with a B.B. Company, and it is this. The ruling of Boys' Brigade is, that when a boy reaches the age of 17 he must be discharged from the Company at the end of the season in which he became seventeen, and it does not require much thought to realise the inconvenience which is often caused by the carrying out of this rule. Invariably the lads who are leaving are proficient players, and their going leaves a gap that it is sometimes impossible to fill, and in consequence the

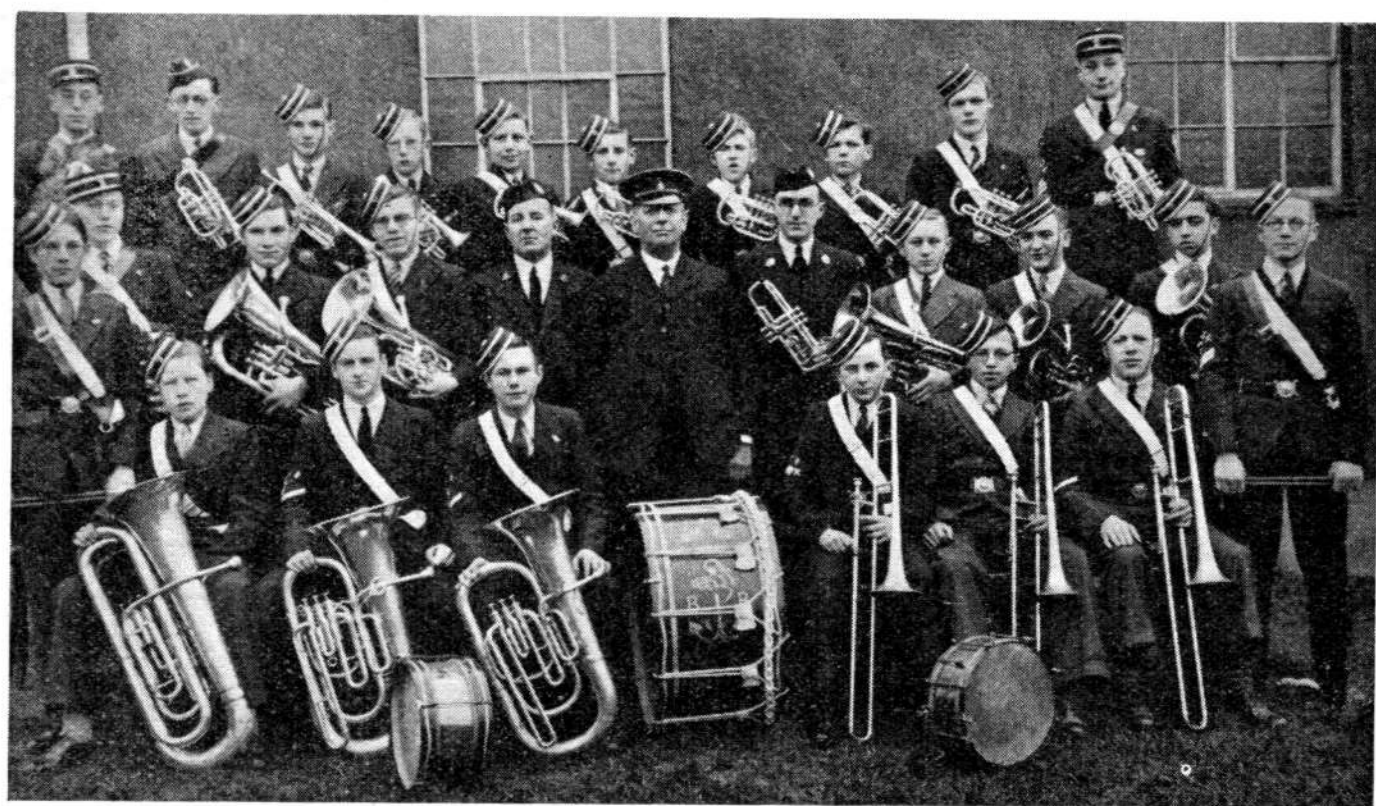
has, by hard work and perseverance brought the band up to a fine standard, though we know that he is not yet satisfied by a long way, and that he is determined to bring the band to an even higher state of proficiency.

Of the lads who have passed through this band much could be written. Suffice it to say that many have graduated, as quite capable players, into various local bands, and it is gratifying to know that bands such as Enfield Central, Edmonton Silver, and North Middlesex all contain players who were taught to play in this brass band of the 2nd Enfield B.B.

Another feature that gives satisfaction to the Officers of the Company is the continued assistance of two members of the original band.

An even longer story could be written concerning the various activities and experiences of the band as a whole, but space will not permit of this. It can be stated that various local bodies have taken advantage of this band's popularity and have asked for their services for various affairs for charity, and it is to the band's great credit that they have always been willing to give and have given their wholehearted assistance on these occasions. The band has also played on occasions with the Massed Bands at the Albert Hall Demonstration and on the occasion of the Jubilee Celebrations at the Wembley Stadium the band gave a good account of itself when it played the accompanying music for the P.T. Exercises that were featured by the Enfield Battalion.

In conclusion it might be of interest to state that this band has always had one main ambition and that is to compete against their friends and rivals, the brass band of the Second South Essex Company, in the Junior Shield Contest at the National Band Festival.



The Subject of this Article.

"donkey work" soon reduced the numbers to something more wieldy and Mr. Herbert Field—well known amongst bandsmen as a band critic—who had accepted the task of coaching and conducting the band, found himself with a set of second-hand instruments and a useful number of boys who showed varying degrees of talent and promise.

Mr. Field carried out his work well, and in a remarkably short time the Brass Band of the 2nd. Enfield B.B. was an accomplished fact; so it was that on a Sunday morning, some four or five months after that first announcement, the band made its debut. The writer, who as a boy, was a member of that original band, can call to mind the very first march ever played—it was that popular old favourite "Belphegor."

Since that time, the band has always been in existence, and judging the band as it stands now, it can truthfully be said that it has prospered. But there have been times when the Officers of the Com-

pany efficiency of the band is lowered considerably.

And so it is not to be wondered at that the Officers of the 2nd. Enfield B.B. are very grateful to those gentlemen who have, at some time or other, given their time and talents to serve in the capacity of Bandmaster. Among those who have served in that capacity are Mr. H. Field, who has already been mentioned, and also the familiar names of Mr. Albert Fredericks and Mr. Tyrrell. Mr. Fredericks will be recognised as the well-known trombone player, now with Callenders, while Mr. Tyrrell requires no introduction as the Conductor of the Edmonton Silver Prize Band.

At present the Band is in the very capable charge of one who must be very well known and respected by Bandsmen everywhere, if only by virtue of his long association with the old Enfield Silver Prize Band—Mr. Albert Plume. Mr. Plume undertook the exacting task of Bandmaster some three years ago, and