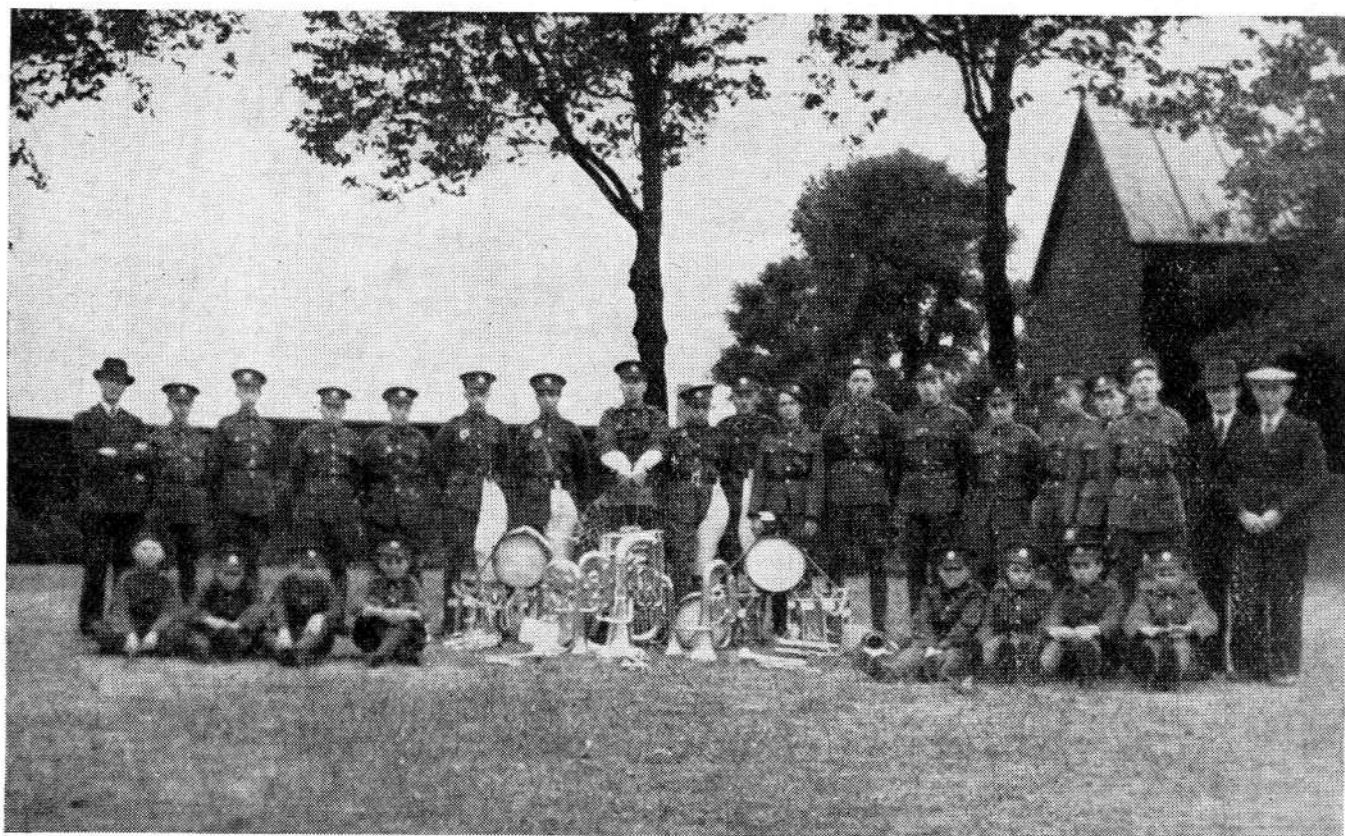


PALMERS SCHOOL BAND

The Palmers School, Grays, Band was formed in November, 1938, with a class of 14 boys placed under the instruction of Mr. A. Chandler, leader of the local Salvation Army Y.P. Band. Rapid progress was made, and by Christmas of that year, the band gave an hour of carol playing in the school. After the Christmas holidays other learners were added to the band, which by April, 1939, totalled 26 players. The above photograph was taken at a field day at the school, after a day of playing for marches and counter marches. Unfortunately the war and consequent evacuation has considerably reduced the strength of the band, but it is hoped after return to normal conditions to increase the number of players to 30. With what remains of the pre-war band and the addition of nine learners, the school is already working to that end.

Mr. A. Chandler, the instructor, has been a member of the Salvation Army Band for 36 years, for over 20 years of which he has taught boys and trained them to take their place in the senior band. He likes to take them in hand at about 8 years of age. Upon reaching the age of 15 years the lads may, if they so desire, be drafted to the Corps Senior Band. It says much for his teaching ability that 22 of the total number of 28 in the present local S.A. Band were taught by him. Quite a number have also been absorbed by other bands, and some of his old pupils are now in military bands.