



THE RUTLAND POLICE BAND

The Rutland Police Band was formed in the autumn of 1943 after a very generous response to an appeal for subscriptions towards its formation. Owing to the absence of any band in Rutland it had always been most difficult to organise processions, and it was this fact that prompted the movement. A committee was formed with C. B. Marriott, K.C., J.P., the chairman of the standing joint committee, as president. Other members of the committee are: Captain M. E. Street, commandant of the Special Constabulary; E. H. Hassan, J.P.; C. Matkin, Esquire, a member of the standing joint committee; J. F. Wolfenden, M.A., headmaster of Uppingham; Chief Constable (A. Bond, Esquire); Special Inspector G. M. Elliott (bandmaster), and Inspector J. R. Clark (secretary). There has been one change in the constitution of the committee since its inception, Mr. Wolfenden having left Uppingham for Shrewsbury, and his place has been taken by Mr. W. A. Wood, a playing member of the band. The band consists mainly of special constables, but it is hoped that when hostilities cease, more full-time policemen will become playing members. Starting with about 14 instrumentalists, some of whom had not played for several years, the band has been steadily built up until there is now a membership of 24.

Although it is little more than a year since a start was made, the band has made about 20 public appearances, including open air concerts, Sunday concerts in the winter, processions and garden fêtes, and it has been the means of assisting various charities, viz., Earl Haig's Fund, Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund, and other local charities.

Its bandmaster, Mr. G. M. Elliott, is an inspector of the Special Constabulary, and was at one time a member of the Gresford Colliery Band. He teaches brass at Uppingham School, and in addition to playing in the Uppingham School Orchestra, he has assisted orchestras under the direction of Sir Henry Wood and other notable conductors. On numerous occasions he has rendered the trumpet obligatos for leading singers. His work in connection with the Rutland Police Band has been untiring and he is determined to make the band worthy of recognition.