

The Whale Tent (1907) and earlier history of the Ulverston Rifle Volunteers Band

Gavin Holman, 30 September 2023

Various volunteer militias and military associations were formed across England in the late 18th and early 19th century to support current and future army campaigns. These ad hoc corps largely disbanded in the second decade of the 19th century.

The Crimean War and increasing fear of invasion by the French, during the 1850s, led to demands for the establishment of a nationwide Volunteer Corps to support the regular army. The War Office sanctioned the creation of this force in May 1859, and volunteer units for rifle and artillery corps were rapidly established across the country. The original unit numbering of volunteer battalions changed, particularly following 1880, when a general consolidation of the volunteer regiments took place.

Bands were often created to assist with the parades and in some cases local/village bands were “co-opted” or enrolled for a time to serve with the detachments. Many of these were brass bands, but there were also volunteer drum & fife, flute, or woodwind bands. There was no formal government support for the volunteer bands, which had to be funded and supported by the local corps and their officers.



4th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers Band (Rossendale), c. 1870 – typical of a volunteer band of the period

The 37th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, "A" Company was raised at Ulverston on 29th February 1860, and by May 1860 had the additional title “North Lonsdale”. It was attached to the 5th Admin Battalion in 1861, which was consolidated as the 10th Rifle Volunteers in 1876. After the re-organisation of the Volunteer Force, the corps became the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the King’s Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) in February 1883. This unit evolved into the 4th Battalion the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) in 1908. The battalion was mobilised at the drill hall in August 1914 before being deployed to the Western Front. The battalion was disbanded shortly before the Second World War and the drill hall, originally built in 1873 in

Victoria Road, Ulverston, was made available for recreational use. The drill hall had an attached house for the corps Sergeant.

After the Rifle Volunteer Corps was established at Ulverston, a band was quickly formed among the members, with Robert Casson as band sergeant. The first captain of the Corps was William George Ainslie, who later became the MP for North Lonsdale, in 1885.

The Ulverston Volunteers Band's first known engagement was to accompany the newly formed Cartmel Rifle Volunteers in their church parade, on Sunday 8 July 1860. The band took part in a concert at the Ulverston Temperance Hall, on Saturday 7 December 1861, where their contributions included the march "*Palmyra*" and the waltz "*Emerald*".

Subsequent, similar concerts, for which Robert Casson was the organising secretary, also included the Volunteers Band, with their selections to the evening's entertainment:

- Saturday 14 December 1861 – the band's contribution was the march "*Zampa*", cornet duet (Messrs Brockbank) "*Minute Gun at Sea*", galop "*Gorilla*", cornet duet "*When Thy Bosom*", and "*Rule Britannia*".
- Saturday 11 January 1862, saw the band perform the serenade "*Sleep Gentle Lady*", cornet duet "*When Thy Bosom*", the march "*Dixey's Land*", a waltz, cornet duet "*I Know a Bank*", and the march "*Who's Dat Knocking?*"
- Saturday 18 January 1862 – march "*Olla Podrida*", cornet solo (T. Blèzard) "*Old Towler*", march "*British Grenadiers*".
- Saturday 15 February 1862 – a march, a waltz, cornet duet ((T. Blèzard & Mr Hewartson) "*Gently Sighs the Breeze*", and a cornet solo "*The White Squall*" (T. Blèzard).



William George Ainslie

Casson left the area, and the band, in April 1862.

The second season of Saturday concerts started on 8 November 1862. The band once again took part, but it was later reported that:

"... we would suggest that in future it would be preferable were the band only to open and close the concert, parading from the market cross to the Temperance Hall and simply playing a few tunes during the half-hour previous to the commencement. The solos and duets on the cornet-à-pistons are a pleasing relief to the vocal part of the entertainment, but the band itself is too powerful for the hall."¹

¹ Ulverston Mirror and Furness Reflector, 5 April 1862

The band provided supporting music for the visiting show by Professor Ewart, the “first ventriloquist in Europe and greatest Organophonist”, at the Victoria Concert Hall, Ulverston, on 24 & 25 November 1862.

In February 1863, the band received a copy of a new piece of music, “*The Ulverston Rifle Volunteer Polka*”, which had been composed by Arthur J. Threlfall, and was dedicated to Captain Ainslie. A reviewer noted:

“The first page is remarkably good. Certain other passages, though somewhat too fanciful – luxuriating apparently in eccentricities – are nevertheless full of promise.”²

The friendly societies in Dalton held their annual procession on Tuesday 26 May 1863, for which the Ulverston Rifles Band provided the music in conjunction with the Barrow Volunteers Band.

The band contributed to a concert at the Ulverston Temperance Hall on Saturday 26 September 1863. This was followed by their musical accompaniment to a lecture given by the Vice-president of the Athletic Society at the Victoria Concert Hall, on Thursday 22 October.



Monday 16 May 1864 saw the band leading the Morecambe Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows in the Whit Monday procession at Ulverston, which also included the Barrow Volunteer Band, Austwick Brass Band, and Cleator Moor Band. On the following Wednesday, 18 May, the band travelled to Barrow to take part in the friendly societies’ parade there, leading the Furness Star Lodge of the Order of Druids.

² Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser and General Intelligencer, 12 February 1863

Further engagements by the band, as reported in the local press, were:

- Tuesday 19 July 1864 - performing at the Great Temperance Demonstration, at Ford House Park, Ulverston
- Wednesday 3 August 1864 – providing music, led by Mr Brockbank, for the Annual Rifle contest of the 5th Administrative Battalion Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, at Barrow.
- Monday 5 June 1865 - leading the Morecambe Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows in the Whit Monday procession at Ulverston, and there after performing at their anniversary dinner at the King's Arms Inn.
- Friday 14 July 1865 – the band played at the Battalion Drill of the 5th Administrative Battalion Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, at Cartmel Park. It is not known what happened to the band after its previous engagement in June, but it was now reported to be “newly-organised”, making its first appearance with the company at this Drill – under the tutorship of Alfred Monks, who had instructed them for but a short time.
- Tuesday 26 September 1865 - played during the day on the occasion of the marriage of Lady Louise Cavendish to the Hon. Francis Egerton, at Holker Hall.
- Friday 20 October 1865 – performed at the Grand Athletic Fete held in the Victoria Concert Hall, Ulverston, led by Mr Monks.
- Monday 2 April 1866 – eleven members of the band played for the Club Walk and Dinner of the Independent Order of Mechanics, Morecambe Lodge, at Low Wood, Haverthwaite.
- Monday 21 May 1866 – provided music at the 30th anniversary of the Morecambe Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, at the King's Arms.



1st Clackmannanshire Rifle Volunteers Band, 1870

- Friday 27 July 1866 – a concert was given in Ulverston Market Place, including the pieces: *“How Beautiful upon the Mountains”*, *“Life’s a Bumper”*, *“Before Jehovah’s Awful Throne”*, and *“Awake Æolian Lyre”*.
- Tuesday 28 August 1866 – the band entertained the competitors and visitors at the Grand Volunteer Fete, at Stone Cross, organised by the officers of the Volunteer Battalion.
- Tuesday 9 April 1867 – some the band members performed at the Ulverston Cricket Club Bazaar.
- Monday 10 June 1867 – the band led the Working Men’s Friend Lodge (Friendly United Order of Mechanics) in the Whitsuntide procession.
- Wednesday 29 January 1868 – the band performed at the Penny Readings evening at the Urswick Schoolroom.



- Saturday 22 February 1868 – the band took part in the Penny Readings concert for the Church Mission Room, Swan Street, in the Temperance Hall, Ulverston. Their contribution was a number of selections.
- Monday 1 June 1868 – the band led the Working Men’s Friend Lodge of Mechanics in the Whit Monday procession. Also taking part were the Ulverston Amateur Band, Backbarrow Temperance Band, and Lancaster Volunteers Band. Later, at the Black Bull Inn, the band performed several pieces, including *“Strike the Lyre”*, *“Life’s a Bumper”*, *“God Bless the Prince of Wales”*, *“Vital Spark”*, and *“Not for Joseph”*.
- Tuesday 2 June 1868 – the band led the Grand United Order of Oddfellows in their parade at Dalton.
- Wednesday 26 August 1868 – the Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society show, held at Lightburne Park, was entertained by the band during the day.
- Monday 17 May 1869 – the band led the Order of Mechanics from their Black Bull Inn home in the procession around the town. It then performed the same

duty for the Rose of Furness Lodge of the Order of Oddfellows, later playing at the meeting of that group in the evening.

- Monday 6 June 1870 – the band led the Order of Mechanics from their new Braddyll's Arms Hotel home in the procession around the town.
- Saturday 28 January 1871 – the band took part in the Rattan-Row School Church Readings concert evening.
- Monday 29 May 1871 – the band performed at the dinner of the Order of Mechanics at the Braddyll's Arms Hotel, Daltongate.
- Tuesday 30 May 1871 - the band performed at the dinner of the Court Bowmen of Furness (Ancient Order of Foresters), at the Wellington Hotel, Dalton.
- Saturday 24 June 1871 – the band accompanied a party of about 100 people from Ulverston on a picnic to Lake Coniston, performing for dancing and general entertainment.
- Robert Casson had, by this time, returned to Ulverston and taken up the position of bandmaster once more.
- Saturday 15 July 1871 – the band played during the afternoon at the cricket match between Ulverston and Annfield (Liverpool).
- Wednesday 19 July 1871 – the band entertained visitors to the Floral and Horticultural Show at the Grange Hotel.
- Tuesday 15 August 1871 – led the procession of the children of the Wesleyan Sunday and Day Schools for their annual treat.
- Sunday 15 October 1871 – several members of the Ulverston band augmented the band of the 53rd Lancashire Volunteers in their church parade at Cartmel.
- Saturday 18 November 1871 – the band took part in the Rattan Row School Church Readings evening, contributing the cornet solo “*Una Voce Poca fa*” (Mr Wilson), selections from “*Bohemian Girl*”, a cornet and saxhorn duet (Messrs Wilson and Byrnes), and “*Lord of Lorne Lancers*”.
- Friday 24 November 1871 – the band took part in a fundraising entertainment by the combined choirs of St Mary and Holy Trinity churches, Ulverston.
- Thursday 21 December 1871 – the band provided music during the lecture given by Henry Cook for the Ulverston Lecture Association at the Temperance Hall.
- Friday 12 July 1872 – the band entertained visitors to the Floral and Horticultural Show at the Grange Hotel.
- Saturday 13 July 1872 – the band travelled to Edinburgh to compete in the National Contest at the Powderhall Grounds, where they gained the third prize in a field of 10 bands.



Award to Private John Myers of the 37th Lancs Volunteers, 1871 & 1872

- Friday 19 July 1872 – the band led the parade of the “Star of Furness” lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars through the town to their Grand Demonstration at Ford House Park.
- Monday 24 February 1873 – the band held a ball at the new Drill Hall on Dragley Beck Lane, which still in an unfinished state, yet rendered ‘pleasing and comfortable’ for the event.



The new Drill Hall, Dragley Beck, Ulverston

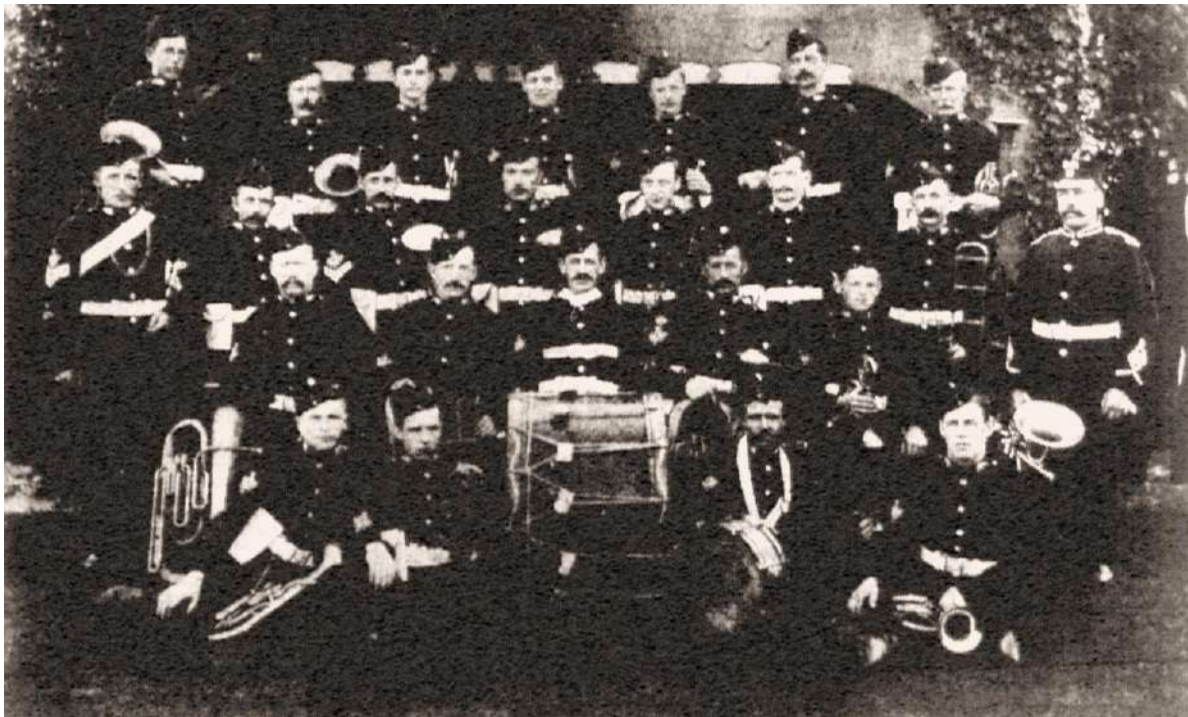
- Monday 2 June 1873 – the band headed the procession of the Old Friends’ Lodge of the Independent Order of Mechanics through the streets of the town.
- Friday 22 August 1873 – the band led the procession of the Townbank Sunday School on their annual treat to the Art and Industrial Exhibition.
- Monday 25 May 1874 – the band played at the dinner of the Old Friends’ Lodge of the Independent Order of Mechanics, at the Old Friends’s Inn, Soutergate.
- Monday 17 May 1875 - the band headed the procession of the Old Friends’ Lodge of the Independent Order of Mechanics through the streets of the town. Other lodges engaged the Ulverston Amateur Brass Band and the Dalton Brass Band for their parades on the same day in the town.
- Sunday 27 June 1875 – the band performed at the parade, inspection and service which concluded the annual encampment of the 5th Administrative Battalion of Lancashire Volunteers, in Bardsea Park.
- Saturday 4 September 1875 – the band held its annual trip, sponsored by Mr Casson, visiting Bowness and Ambleside.
- Wednesday 7 June 1876 – the band played at the dinner following the procession of the Pilot Lodge, No. 4811, of the Independent Order of Mechanics, at the Victoria Hotel.
- Wednesday 19 July 1876 – the band led the parade of the children of the Holy Trinity Church Sunday School on their annual treat.
- Monday 8 January 1877 – a concert at the Pennington New Schools included selections from the band, which later played for dancing at the Schools.

- Wednesday 23 May 1877 – the band led the parade of the Pilot Lodge, No. 4811, of the Independent Order of Mechanics.
- Saturday 18 August 1877 – played at the Cartmel Horticultural Society show.
- Friday 12 July 1878 – led the procession of the combined schools of St Mary’s Ulverston, Rattou Row, St Jude’s South Ulverston, and St John’s Osmotherley to the station for their trip to Holker Park.
- Saturday 17 August 1878 – played at the Cartmel Horticultural Society show.
- Tuesday 10 September 1878 – played at the Cartmel Agricultural Society exhibition.
- Sunday 8 June 1879 – the band took part in the service in Ulverston Parish Church, and played the “*Hallelujah Chorus*” as the congregation dispersed.
- Friday 8 August 1879 – the band played at the Ulverston Flan Sports.
- Tuesday 9 September 1879 – played at the Cartmel Agricultural Society exhibition.
- January 1880 – Sergeant Dickinson, who played the 2nd Saxhorn in the band, lost his book of music, and offered a reward for its return.
- Monday 17 May 1880 - the band headed the procession of the Old Friends’ Lodge of the Independent Order of Mechanics in the town.
- Saturday 22 May 1880 – led the procession of the Urswick Working Men’s Club on their annual celebration.
- Friday 9 July 1880 – took part in the procession of the combined Sunday Schools in their centenary festival at Ulverston, together with the Barrow Volunteer Band.
- Monday 6 June 1881 - the band headed the procession of the Old Friends’ Lodge of the Independent Order of Mechanics in the town.
- Saturday 11 June 1881 – led the procession of the Urswick Tontine Club for their anniversary.
- Friday 8 July 1881 – led the procession of the combined Sunday Schools to the railway station for their annual treat.



Float in procession at Ulverston

- Friday 22 July 1881 – the band played at the Lawn Party held by Rev. C.W. Bardsley for the teachers, staff and friends of the Sunday Schools.
- Friday 30 December 1881 – played for the Public Ball of the Piel Castle Lodge of the I.U.O. Mechanics at the Drill Hall, Ulverston.
- Saturday 4 March 1882 – the band provided musical selections at a dioramic entertainment at the Ulverston Temperance Hall, given by Rev. W. Troughton, which was descriptive of the Zulu Wars.
- Monday 29 May 1882 – led the procession of the Old Friends' Lodge of the Independent Order of Mechanics.
- Saturday 3 June 1882 – led the procession of the Urswick Working Men's Club.
- Friday 21 July 1882 - led the procession of the combined Sunday Schools for their annual treat.
- Tuesday 19 June 1883 - performed at the Grange College athletic sports.
- Friday 20 July 1883 - performed at the Ulverston Amateur Athletic Festival at Dragley Beck.
- Friday 17 August 1883 - performed at the Furness Fell Sports.
- Monday 2 June 1884 – led the Old Friends' Lodge members in the combined lodges' procession through the town.
- Saturday 25 April 1885 – conducted by Bandmaster Dickinson, the band played at the football benefit match between Dalston and Ulverston.
- Monday 25 May 1885 - led the Old Friends' Lodge members in the combined lodges' procession through the town.
- Saturday 20 March 1886 – the band took part in a concert at the Rattan Row Mission Church.



The Ulverston Rifle Volunteers Band, in the 1890s

- Sunday 29 May 1887 - accompanied an open-air service on the Hill of Hoad.

- Tuesday 7 June 1887 – played at the Primrose League Demonstration at Hall Garth, Carnforth.
- Friday 29 July 1887 – the band held its annual dinner at the Devonshire Hotel. Led by Bandmaster Dickinson, a musical evening was enjoyed.
- Saturday 17 September 1887 – the band played at the inauguration of the new Primrose League “Eagle” Habitation branch, in the grounds of Merlewood, Grange.
- Wednesday 8 August 1888 – the band led the eleven companies of the 1st Lancashire Royal King’s Own Regiment to their week’s camp at Calgarth.
- 1890? – Bandmaster E. Dickinson resigned, to be replaced by J. Newby. At the same time, bandsman James Millican also resigned.
- Saturday 9 January 1892 – after playing selections of sacred music at Gillbanks on alternate Sunday afternoons during the summer of 1891, a committee raised subscriptions to entertain the bandsmen, with Bandmaster J. Newby, to a supper, which was held in their band room at the rear of the Coach and Horses Inn, Upper Brook Street.



Another parade float in Ulverston

- Sunday 21 August 1892 – the band played selections of sacred music in the Gillbanks.
- Sunday 17 September 1893 – the band played selections of sacred music in the Gillbanks.
- Sunday 13 May 1894 – the band played selections of sacred music in the Gillbanks.
- Sunday 24 June 1894 – the band, under the baton of Bandmaster C. (Kit) Garnett, played selections of sacred music in the Gillbanks.
- Sunday 9 June 1895 – the band played selections of sacred music in the Gillbanks.

- Sunday 18 August 1895 – led the Friendly Societies’ procession through the town, together with the Swarthmoor Brass Band and the Church Lads’ Brigade Band.
- Monday 20 June 1898 – the band led a procession of children through the town for the opening of the new Jubilee Playground.
- Tuesday 2 August 1898 – played at the Kendal Gala, together with the Lancaster Borough Prize Concert Band.
- Sunday 11 June 1899 - the band performed the following music in the Gillbanks: march “*Preciosa*”, selection “*La Somnambula*”, air varie “*Hanover*”, cornet solo “*The Holy City*”, selection “*Lohengrin*”, and the “*National Anthem*”.
- Saturday 23 December 1899 – the band proceeded to Stone Cross where they gave a concert, receiving a cheque for £20 towards the new instrument fund.
- Friday 12 July 1901 – the band led the Holy Trinity Sunday School in procession to the railway station for their annual excursion to Broughton-in-Furness.



2nd Somerset Rifle Volunteers Band, Chard, 1882

- Sunday 12 April 1903 – gave a concert on the Hoad.
- Monday 1 June 1903 – led the procession of the Wesleyan Band of Hope on their annual treat to Tod Busk Park.
- Saturday 19 July 1903 – the band played at the Ulverston Higher Grade and Technical Schools annual sports.
- Tuesday 8 September 1903 – the band provided musical entertainment at the wedding of Rev. Ernest Huntington Dykes and Miss Octavia Margaret Fell, at Ulverston Parish Church.
- Sunday 10 April 1904 - the band played selections of music on Gillbanks, the collection raising 18s for their tuition fund. John H. Carter, conductor of the Dalton Town Band, had been engaged to give lessons to the Volunteer Band once a week during the summer.

- Thursday 7 July 1904 – the band entered the contest, held at Foundry Field, Penrith, which was promoted by Penrith Friendly Society. The set test piece was Harry Round's *"Songs of Other Days"*, and the Volunteer Band, conducted by John H. Carter, took second place in a field of six, losing out to the Dalton Town Band, also conducted by John Carter.
- Sunday 18 September 1904 – gave a concert on the Hoad.
- Saturday 1 October 1904 – the band travelled to London to compete in the Grand Shield section of the National Brass Band Championships, at the Crystal Palace, in the North Tower Gardens Bandstand. Conducted by John Carter, they performed the test piece *"Polito"* (Donizetti), but were unplaced.

In North Tower Gardens. **10.30**

Brass Band Competition for the "Daily Express" Shield
And other Prizes, see page 2.

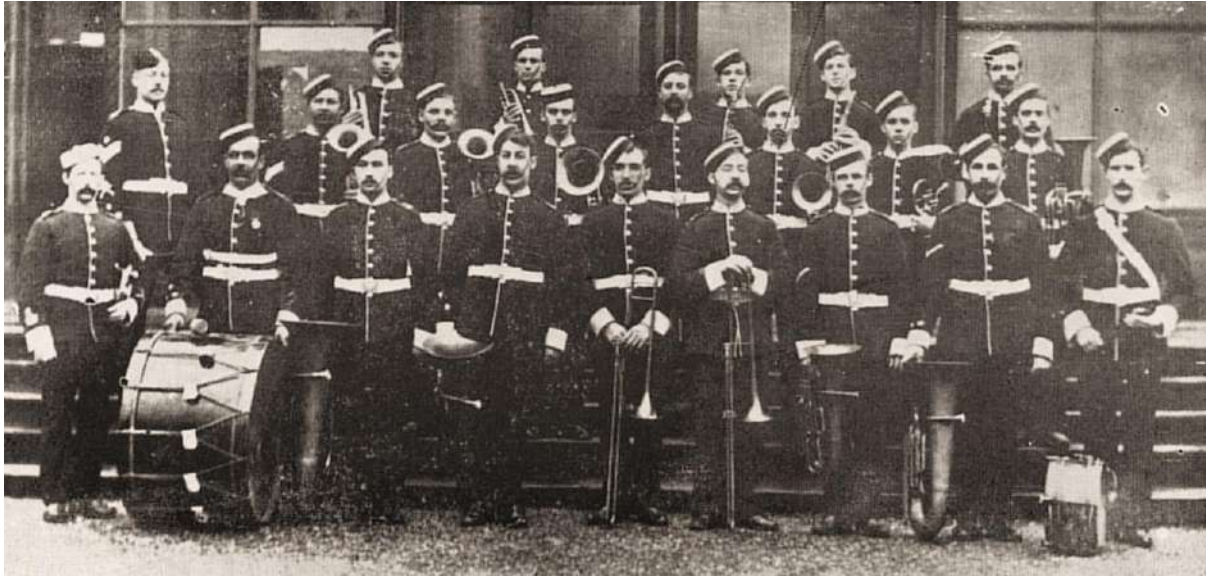
Grand Shield Section. Adjudicator: Mr. R. Stead.

Name of Band.	Conductor.	Name of Band.	Conductor.
Armley and Wortley ...	H. Mallinson	Irtlingborough ...	T. R. Preston
Barrow Shipyard ...	F. L. Traversi	Kettering Midland ...	R. Ryan
Bedford Town ...	C. H. Baker	Middlesboro' Borough...	J. Wilson, jun.
Blaina Lancaster Town	J. E. Fidler	Murton Colliery ...	A. Owen
Bolton Borough ...	W. Halliwell	Peterboro' Borough ...	T. R. Preston
Bradford City ...	W. Heap	Rawmarsh ...	F. Renshaw
Bristol Imperial ...	J. E. Wilkinson	Rhos ...	W. Rimmer
Burnley Temp... ..	A. Wilcock	Rotherham Borough ...	A. Owen
Burton Latimer Britan.	C. H. Baker	Rushden Volunteers ...	T. Seddon
Coseley ...	Squire Firth	Selby ...	T. Foster
East Kirkby Silver ...	R. Ryan	Silverdale ...	E. Booth
Enfield Town Foresters	F. Dimmock	Watford Artizans ...	T. R. Seddon
Fulham Borough ...	R. Dawson	Walthamstow Silver ...	J. Reay
Gainsborough Britannia	S. Schofield	Walthamstow Temp. ...	W. F. Gillyatt
Hampstead ...	J. Reay	Ystalyfera Temp. ...	C. A. Morgan
Handsworth Woodhouse	J. W. Cook	1st V. B. Ryl. Lanc., Ulverston	J. M. Carter
Hull Waterloo ...	C. Norman		

- April 1905 – Kit Garnett resigned as bandmaster and was replaced by the cornet player W.J. Holman.
- Saturday 10 June 1905 – the band led the procession for the Ulverston Hospital Parade.
- Saturday 15 July 1905 – played at the North Lonsdale area elementary schools sports at Ulverston Cricket Club, Tarn Close.
- Sunday 16 July 1905 - gave a concert on Hoad Hill which included: march *"Sons of the Brave"* (Bidgood), chorus *"And the Glory of the Lord"* (Handel), grand selection *"Casket of Gems"* (H. Round), air varie *"Eventide"* (W. Rimmer), and the march *"Giralda"* (Paris Chambers).



- Friday 4 August 1905 – performed at the Sunday School excursion to Arnside, in a field at Black Dyke Farm.
- Sunday 4 March 1906 – the band gave two sacred concerts in the Drill Hall, in aid of band funds. In addition to solo and vocal items, the band played: hymn “*Glory Song*”, march “*Madura*”, cornet solo by W.J. Holman “*The Lost Chord*” (Sullivan), brass quartet “*Dinorah*”, selection “*German Hymn*”, hymn “*Justification*”, cornet solo by W.J. Holman “*The Better Land*” (Sullivan), brass quartet “*Albion*”, and selection “*Eventide*” (Rimmer).
- Saturday 16 June 1906 – the band performed on the main streets and in the market place in Ulverston.



Harrogate Volunteer Band

- Sunday 17 June 1906 – the band gave two concerts on Hoad Hill, which included: march “*The Elephant*” (Ord Hume), selection “*Lurline*” (Wallace), cornet solo by Sergeant Batty “*Ora Pro Nobilis*” (Piccolomini), march “*Wideawake*” (Young), selection “*La Traviata*” (Verdi), march “*Defiance*” (Hobart), march “*B.B. & C.F.*” (Ord Hume), and selection “*Victoria Cross*” (Greenwood).
- Sunday 16 July 1906 – the band gave two concerts on Hoad Hill, which included: march “*Typhon*” (Bulch), selection “*Sandringham*” (Rayner), trombone solo by Corporal Boast “*Death of Nelson*” (Braham), fantasia “*Windermere*” (Truman), chorus “*Gloria*” (Mozart), and march “*Khedive*” (Snowdon).
- Saturday 24 November 1906 – the band gave a concert in the Drill Hall in aid of band funds. The band’s music included “*Tannhauser*” (Wagner), “*A Ride for Life*”, cornet solo by W.J. Holman “*Carnival of Venice*” (Arban), intermezzo “*Cavalleria Rusticana*”, and they were supported by a number of other vocal and instrumental offerings from members and friends of the band.
- Saturday 8 December 1906 – the band held a solo and quartet competition at the Drill Hall. The competing quartets came from the bands of Askam, Barrow Wesleyan, Barrow Steelworks, Dalton Town, Barrow Shipyard, Haverigg and Broughton-in-Furness. There were also 27 solo instrumentalists. The test piece for Bb solo players was “*Nazareth*” (Gounod), and for Eb “*Alice Where*

Art Thou?” (Asher). The quartet contest was won by Dalton Town no. 2, playing “*Albion*” (Round), winning 15s and four gold medals. The Eb solo instrumental winner was H. Gathercole (Dalton) on tenor horn, winning a gold medal, and Bb solo winner was A. Laycock (Dalton) on cornet, also winning a gold medal.

- Monday 25 February 1907 – the band held a farewell supper, with musical entertainment by various vocal and instrumental soloists, in support of Bandmaster Holman, who was embarking for Montana on 2 March. He himself played a selection of cornet solos.
- Saturday 4 May 1907 – the band performed some marches in the streets of Ulverston.
- Friday 21 June 1907 – the band led a procession of the Ulverston Parish Church Sunday Schools to the railway station, for their annual excursion to Kents Bank.
- Sunday 4 August 1907 – the band led the Cartmel Volunteers to their service at Cartmel Parish Church.
- Wednesday 7 August 1907 – the Whale Tent. The previous Sunday the 1st King’s Own Volunteer Corps had established their week’s camp on Brackenber Moor, near Appleby. There were 456 volunteers in the camp, including 15 officers, 41 sergeants, and 30 corporals. Various parades and exercises were undertaken, with football, Y.M.C.A. meetings as relief from the military activities. Wednesday’s exercises included instruction in saluting and judging distances. In the evening the members of the Ulverston Volunteer Band opened their show, which they described as “The Whale Tent”, with James Johnson as director.



“The programme is full of “tip-top” attractions, and I have little doubt that the man in the fur coat is right when he says it is the most remarkable show in existence. The “top turn” (outside the marvellous whale, of course) is the wonderful disappearing trick for which the twin volunteers belonging to the Ulverston detachment are capital subjects. How the man is placed securely in a box, which is not removed

from the sight of the audience outside, and then within a few seconds appears from the tent door has puzzled more than one volunteer “not in the know”, affords ample amusement and is being well patronised.”³



- Saturday 19 October 1907 – gave a concert in the Temperance Hall, Ulverston, the fifth in the series, which included a cornet duet “*When Thy Bosom*” by the Messrs. Brocklebank.
- Saturday 4 January 1908 – gave another concert in the Temperance Hall, Ulverston, the sixteenth and last in the series.
- September 1908 – “*The Ulverston Rifle Volunteer Polka*” was composed by the young townsman Arthur J. Threlfall, dedicated to Captain Ainslie of the Volunteers, and presented to the band for a future performance.
- Saturday 27 May 1911 – the first in a series of concerts by the band in Ulverston market place took place. Piece played included: “*Witches Glee*”, “*Palermo Quadrilles*”, “*Hallelujah Chorus*”, and “*Nymph of the Waves Waltz*”.
- Tuesday 8 August 1911 - the band entertained the competitors and visitors at the Grand Volunteer Fete, at Stone Cross.

The fate of the Ulverston Volunteer Band is not known. No further mention of the band has been uncovered, so I assume it folded sometime after this and before WW1.

³ Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser and General Intelligencer, 8 August 1907



Volunteer 4th Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment outside their HQ at Ulverston Drill Hall, 1914

Further reading

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A selection of photographs of other Volunteer Bands



1 Company, 2nd Gloucester Volunteer Regiment Band, Stow



1st City of London Artillery Volunteers Band, c. 1905



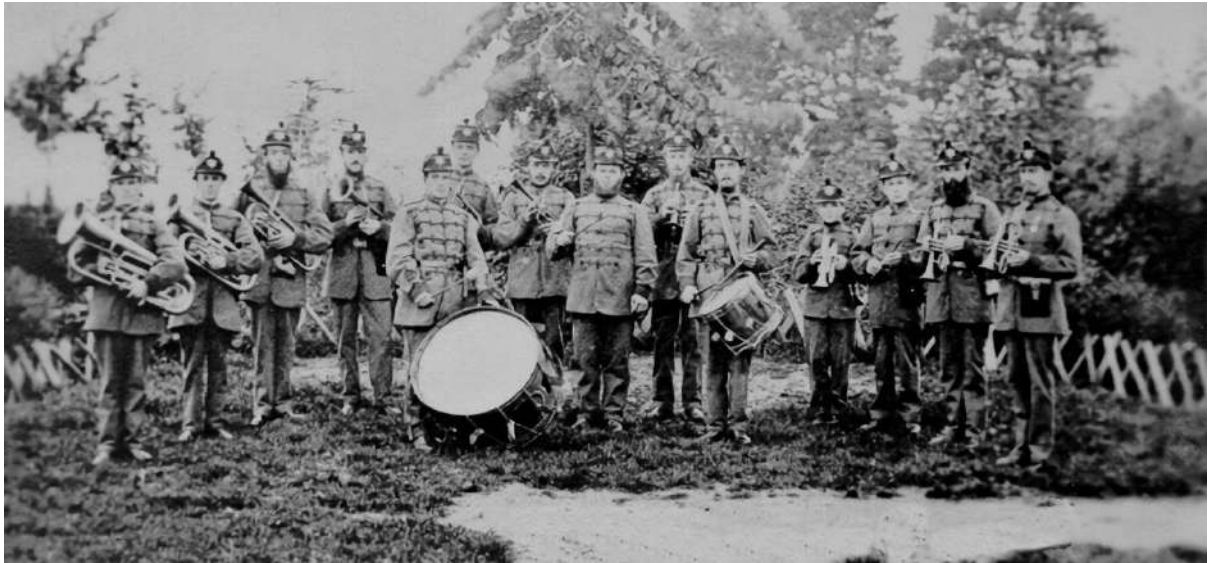
1st Hampshire Volunteers Band



2nd Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band, Liverpool



21st Company Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers Band



6th Devon Rifle Volunteers Band, Barnstaple



Band of the 2nd Lancashire Rifle Volunteer Corps (Blackburn)



Cumberland Artillery Volunteers Band



Bonnyrigg Volunteer Brass Band, c. 1880



Invernesshire Rifles Volunteers Band, 1870s