

# **Fighting at home – the brass bands that became part of the civil defence war effort on the home front during WW2**

*Gavin Holman, 11 June 2020*

During World War Two many brass bands ceased operations as their members were called up into the services, or they volunteered themselves. Some bands continued to rehearse and perform much as before the War, but there were fewer engagements (concert or contest) as in previous years. Many bands, despite being depleted as their members went off to war, started to assist their local Home Guard companies by leading their parades.



Other bands became more directly associated with the local defence force(s), which had been rapidly established to secure the home front within Britain. In some cases, remaining players from two or three local bands would make up a Home Guard band, for example. Other bands joined a defence force organization en bloc. In addition to the brass bands, Home Guard companies formed bugle & drum bands, some others had military-style bands.

In addition to the Home Guard there were also the N.F.S. (National Fire Service) and A.F.S. (Auxiliary Fire Service) bands

Once these defence service bands were established, they were primarily used to provide music for parades and other military engagements, but they also performed civilian concerts, entertaining their local population, and a few even managed to compete in some of the brass band contests that were still being held during the War.

This paper lists over 150 such bands that have been identified so far. In most cases it has been possible to specify the particular battalion or company of the defence force, but in few cases this is not. This may be due to there being more than one battalion in that town/city, or the company in question is not in a identified force HQ area, but could be associated with more than one, without further documentation.

## **Home Guard**

The Home Guard (initially Local Defence Volunteers or LDV) was an armed citizen militia supporting the British Army during the Second World War. Operational from 1940 to 1944, the Home Guard had 1.5 million local volunteers otherwise ineligible for military service, such as those who were too young or too old to join the regular armed services or those in reserved occupations. Their main roles were defending key communication points and factories, maintaining control of the civilian population in the event of an invasion, manning roadblocks and guarding the coastal areas and other important sites.

On the evening of 14 May 1940, Secretary of State for War Anthony Eden, gave a radio broadcast announcing the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) and calling for volunteers to join the force: "You will not be paid, but you will receive a uniform and will be armed". Men aged 17 to 65 years could join although the upper-age limit was not strictly enforced. Service was unpaid but gave a chance for older or inexperienced soldiers to support the war effort. Women were not initially admitted into its ranks. In December 1941, the unofficial Women's Home Defence (WHD) was formed, whose members were taught weapons training and basic military training. Limited female involvement in the Home Guard was permitted later only in traditional female support roles (e.g. clerical, driving) and not as combatants.



By the end of 1940, the Home Guard was established into 1,200 battalions, 5,000 companies and 25,000 platoons. Lasting throughout the bulk of the War, the Home Guard were formally stood down on 3 December 1944 and finally disbanded on 31 December 1945.

## **National Fire Service**

The National Fire Service (NFS) was the single fire service created in Great Britain in 1941 during the Second World War by the amalgamation of the wartime national Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) and the local authority fire brigades (about 1,600 of them). It existed until 1948, when it was again split by the Fire Services Act 1947, with fire services reverting to local authority control, although this time there were far fewer brigades, with only one per county and county borough. The Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) was first formed in 1938 as part of the Civil Defence Service. Its role being to supplement the work of brigades at local level.



## **Civil Defence Service**

The Civil Defence Service was founded in 1935 and encompassed the Air Raid Precautions, wardens, firemen (AFS and, later, NFS), first aid and other support organisations. Specific Civil Defence bands were established in the 1940's during WW2, and several more were founded after 1949 and in the 1950's associated with the Civil Defence Corps a new volunteer civilian organisation that operated from 1949 to 1968. These later CDC bands are not covered in the paper.



## The Bands

**Abercarn Silver Band** (Monmouthshire) - Active in the early 1900's as Abercarn Welfare Brass Band. Became the 4th Battalion Monmouth Home Guard Band on 10 December 1940

**Accrington Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - The Accrington Old Band (a military band) became attached to the Home Guard. It was later to become the current East Lancashire Concert Band

**Aldridge Colliery Silver Prize Band** (Staffordshire) - Formed in 1920 after the Walsall Wood Temperance Band went bankrupt. The band practised in a large garage in Brookland Road. Mr Tom Smith was the conductor in the 1920's. Arthur Reeves was the band secretary and also played the trombone. Other players were J Breeze, B Snape, Bradford, J Welsh, and E Westwood. It is believed they performed in a short radio concert on BBC radio in the 1930's. The band joined with Bloxwich British Legion Band and Bescot Band during the Second World War to form the Walsall Home Guard Band. This was disbanded after the war. The Aldridge Colliery Band continued after the War, to disband in 1950.

**Alston (Mountain Rifles) Volunteer Band** (Cumberland) - Active in 1875, the band of the 6th Cumberland Rifle Volunteers. Renamed Alston Town Band around 1902. Conductor T. Dowson in 1904. It became a Home Guard band during WW2 and performed its last public engagement in 1946. It was finally wound up in 1960. For further details see "Brass Bands on Alston Moor" at [www.ibew.co.uk](http://www.ibew.co.uk)

**Altrincham Home Guard Brass Band** (Cheshire) - The band of the 1st Cheshire Home Guard. Competed twice in 1944, conductor H.E. Wynn

**Ancoats Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Active during WW2. Competed in the Belle Vue Marching Contest (Class B) in August 1942

**Ardwick Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - *See: Levenshulme Home Guard Band*

**Ashington Home Guard Band** (Northumberland) - Active in 1942, the band of the 17th Northumberland Home Guard

**B Division 7 Area N.F.S. Band** (Matlock, Derbyshire) - *See: Matlock Band*

**BAC Works Home Guard Band** (Accrington, Lancashire) - *See: Bristol Aeroplane Company Works Band*

**Bacup Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Active during WW2, the band of the 32nd Lancashire Battalion Home Guard. It included several members of the Irwell Springs Band. It competed in May 1943 Belle Vue contest, conductor Walter Nuttall

**Banbury Home Guard Band** (Oxfordshire) - Active in December 1941, the band of the 1st Oxfordshire Home Guard

**Barrow Home Guard Band** (Barrow-In-Furness, Lancashire) - *See: Barrow Shipyard Band*

**Barrow Shipyard Band** (Barrow-In-Furness, Lancashire) - Founded in 1892 as Barrow Temperance Band (to 1908), Barrow Shipyard Prize Band (1908), Barrow Home Guard Band [band of the 1st Lancashire Home Guard] (1939), Barrow Shipyard Band (1945), Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Band (1960), Vickers Works Band, Vickers Barrow Works Band, British Shipbuilders Band (1980), GEC Band, VSEL Band, BAE Systems (Marine) Band, Barrow Shipyard Band (2002). Folded in 2012 when their kit, instruments and uniform were passed to the junior band. Members in 1914 were: W. Laycock, F. Pawson, H. Parker, W.H. Pickhard, W. Smithers, J. Fiddles, F. McCann, A. Smithers, J. Dunn, W. Norris, H. Fisher, J. Fisher, J. Hollaway, W. beckett, j. Boyd, F. Rothwell, J. Kemp, T. Preston, J. Walker, R. Smithers, J. Jamieson (treasurer), J.H. Carter (conductor), W. Hannigan (secretary), F. Grisdale, A. Russell, S. Sadler, T. Shaw (solo cornet), J. Towers (solo baritone).

**Bedworth Civil Defence Band** (Warwickshire) - Founded in October 1941

**Bexley A.F.S. Brass Band** (Kent) - *See: North Kent Silver Band*

**Billingham Silver Band** (Durham) - [current band] - Founded in 1941 as the band of the 19th Battalion Durham Light Infantry Home Guard, based at the Stockton Malleable Iron Works, with conductor Mr Cokerline. Known as Stockton-on-Tees Home Guard Band & Malleable Home Guard Band (to 1943), Stockton-on-Tees Malleable Works and Institute Band (to 1966), Billingham New Silver Band (to 1970)

**Bingham Home Guard Brass Band** (Nottinghamshire) - Formed in spring 1941 using the instruments of the Bingham Brass Band

**Birmingham Civil Defence Band** (Warwickshire) - Active in 1944, 1945. Had disbanded prior to July 1945

**Birmingham Zone Home Guard Brass Band** (Warwickshire) - This was generally regarded as the being the first Home Guard band to be formed, and was based in Kings Norton. It was founded in early July 1940, bandmaster Harry Lorton, before the change of the name from "L.D.V." to "Home Guard". The members were recruited from the Invictus Ex-Service Men's Band, which was founded in 1919, thought to be the oldest ex-service men's band in the country at the time. They enrolled en bloc into the L.D.V., and immediately formed themselves into the Birmingham Zone Band, the band of the 27th Warwickshire Home Guard. In 1945 it competed twice (the Midlands Area Second Section in April, and the Blackpool contest in September) - both times gaining 3rd place.



*Birmingham Zone Home Guard Band, 1943*

**Blackley Band** (Lancashire) - [current band] - Founded in 1941 - Former names: Blackley Home Guard Band, Blackley Home Guard Comrades Association Band, Blackley Silver Prize Band (1946). Conductor J. Jennings in 1943

**Blackley Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - [previous name of current band] *See: Blackley Band*

**Blackpool County Borough A.F.S. Band** (Lancashire) - *See: Blackpool County Borough Band*

**Blackpool County Borough Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1909 and the 1930s. Re-organised in 1910. During WW2 it was associated with the Auxilliary Fire Service.

**Blagdon Brass Band** (Somerset) - Formed in the 1920s. It is said to have played on Friendly Society Whitsun Walks - the Buffaloes, the Oddfellows and the Foresters were local societies. The Postmaster Wilf or Frank Light was one of the players. The instruments were possibly given by Lord Winterstoke, who was keen on self improvement for the villagers. A disused cottage in the centre of the village was used for storage (and possibly for practice). During WW2 this cottage was used by the Home Guard and they were going to revive the band, but the instruments, having been unused for a long time were unplayable. It is thought that a sousaphone accompanied the 'Victorian Carol Party' round the village some 40-50 years ago.

**Boscombe Home Guard Band** (Hampshire) - *See: Boscombe Silver Band*

**Boscombe Silver Band** (Hampshire) - Formed in 1910 as Boscombe Temperance Band by a father and son duo with the surname Bareham. Charlie Tiller was the first conductor of the band who also played in the then Boscombe Hippodrome Orchestra. Charlie Tiller also was renowned as a fine maker of violins. In the 1920s changed name to Boscombe Silver Band. Competed in the Crystal Palace Championships in the 1930s. During WW2 it served as Boscombe Home Guard Band from early 1943 as the band of the 7th Hampshire Home Guard. It went into decline in the 1950s and eventually amalgamated with the Bournemouth Silver Band in 1956.

**Bournemouth N.F.S. Band** (Hampshire) - Active in 1945. Competed in the London and Southern Counties (Third Section) contest in February 1946

**Brighouse Home Guard Brass Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Most of the Elland Silver Band bandsman went into the Services, the instruments were put into the store in the care of Elland Urban District Council. Although Elland Band was not-reformed until after the war, the instruments were brought out of store in 1941 and used by Brighouse Home Guard Band (the band of the 22nd West Riding Home Guard). This band was made up of a few Elland members, together with the bandsmen from surrounding districts, conductor T. Hunter



*Brighouse Home Guard Brass Band*

**Bristol Aeroplane Company Works Band** (Accrington, Lancashire) - Attached itself to the BAC Works Home Guard in autumn 1941

**Bristol Central Division Civil Defence Wardens Silver Band** (Gloucestershire) - Founded in early 1942, conductor W. Withey, rehearsing at the Peel Street Mission, Pennywell Road, Bristol.

**Bristol Gas Company Home Guard Band** (Gloucestershire) - Conductor Mr Fowler in early 1942

**Bristol Home Guard Headquarters Band** (Gloucestershire) - Active in August 1941, conductor W. Fowler (ex Bristol Victoria Band)

**Bristol N.F.S. Brass Band** (Gloucestershire) - Active from 1942 - disbanded around 1951. Competed in five contests between 1944 and 1947

**Bucknall Ex-Service Men's Band** (Staffordshire) - Renamed 2nd Battalion Staffordshire Home Guard Band in February 1941, conductor E.W. Cotterill

**Burnley Alliance Silver Band** (Lancashire) - [current band] - Founded as Burnley Home Guard Band (the band of the 29th Lancashire Home Guard). Became Burnley Alliance Silver Band in 1951

**Burnley Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - [previous name of current band] *See: Burnley Alliance Silver Band*

**Burslem Imperial Band** (Staffordshire) - Joined the Home Guard en bloc in May 1941, as the 2nd Staffs (Burslem) Home Guard Band, conductor J. Andrews

**Burton Auxiliary Fire Service Band** (Staffordshire) – Active in 1940



*Burton Auxiliary Fire Service Band*

**Bury Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1941, the band of the 21st Lancashire Home Guard. Made of members of the old Walshaw Brass Band, conductor Mr Hawkins

**Caergwrle Home Guard Brass Band** (Flintshire) - Active in December 1941

**Cakemore & District Home Guard Band** (Blackheath, Worcestershire) - *See: Hill and Cakemore Home Guard Band*

**Cambridge Railway Band** (Cambridgeshire) - Founded in late 1892 as the Great Eastern Railway Brass Band, conductor E. Johnson, president W.R. Bright. Gave their second public concert on 30 December 1892. Active to the 1930s. Competed in the Crystal Palace Championships in the 1930s. On 10 November 1940 its 31 members signed up as the Home Guard band (of the 5th Battalion Cambridgeshire Home Guard), and its first parade was on Sunday, November 18th, 1940, when it played D Company to church, conducted by Warrant Officer W. Cant.

**Carlisle Home Guard Band** (Cumberland) - Band of the 2nd Cumberland Home Guard. Conductor in December 1941 was William Lowes

**Chelmsford Home Guard Band** (Essex) - Active in 1944, conductor H.G. Waters, the band of the 6th Battalion Essex Home Guard

**Chippenham Home Guard Brass Band** (Wiltshire) - Active during WW2. Formally known as the 1st Wiltshire Home Guard Brass Band. Wally Little was the drummer in the band



*Chippenham Home Guard Band*

**Chorlton Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Treasurer A. Thornton in early 1942

**City of Birmingham Brass Band** (Warwickshire) - [current band] - Founded in May 1941 as Fisher and Ludlow Home Guard Band. Captain Blakeway, of F55 Coy. of the 41st Batt. Birmingham Home Guard - "The band is a Home Guard hand, not a Works band, but was formed with the idea of changing to a Works band on the conclusion of the war. We are a large self-contained Home Guard unit, and six months ago the idea occurred



to me of endeavouring to form a band. I canvassed our various Works for talent; the result was most encouraging, and we decided to form a brass Band. We acquired the instruments from Boosey & Hawkes. The solution of a suitable conductor presented a difficulty, but I was very fortunate in having Mr. Davis recommended. I interviewed and engaged him, and he has since joined our Home Guard and been appointed conductor with the rank of warrant officer. The progress of the band under his direction has been very rapid, and we shall shortly make our first public appearance at one of the Birmingham Theatres. No pains or expense will be spared to make this unit into an absolutely first-class band."

**City of London 7th Battalion Home Guard Band** (Dagenham, Essex) - *See: Dagenham Home Guard O.C.A. Band*

**Colne Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Made up of players from Colne Borough, Mount Zion, and Trawden bands, with conductor E. Gregory in June 1941

**Coventry Home Guard Brass Band** (Warwickshire) – Associated with one of the nine Coventry Home Guard battalions (11<sup>th</sup> Warwickshire to 19<sup>th</sup> Warwickshire)



*Coventry Home Guard Brass Band*

**Crossley Brothers Brass Band** (Manchester, Lancashire) - Active in the 1940s and early 1950s. Crossley Brothers made stationary engines and internal combustion engines, and later became part of the Rolls Royce group. Known as 49th Lancashire Home Guard Band during WW2.

**Dagenham Home Guard O.C.A. Band** (Essex) - Founded in 1941 as Dagenham Home Guard Brass Band (the band of the City of London 7th Battalion, Rippleside, Home Guard). Original secretary/bandmaster were W.T. Watson and H.J. Tomkins. The Old Comrades Association of the Home Guard kept up links between wartime Home Guard

and other forces members. In the 1950's and 1960's it was known as the Ford Motor Works Band (a military band)



*Dagenham Home Guard Band*

**Dawley Town Band** (Shropshire) - Active in 1899, conductor Mr Brice. Became the 5th Battalion Shropshire (C Coy) Home Guard Band during WW2, competing in the Belle Vue May (Class D) contest in May 1944, conductor Edwin Baldwin. Still active as Dawley Town Band in 1953.

**De Havilland Home Guard Brass Band** (Hatfield, Hertfordshire) - *See: De Havilland Works Brass Band*

**De Havilland Works Brass Band** (Hatfield, Hertfordshire) - Founded in spring 1940, linked to the factory at Hatfield, conductor A.L. Williams. Soon became associated with the local Home Guard to become De Havilland (Hatfield) Home Guard Brass Band

**Derby National Fire Service Band** (Derbyshire) - Active in 1945 when it competed in the Midlands Area Second Section contest

**Dinnington Colliery Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - [current band] - Founded in 1904. Dinnington Main Colliery Band joined the Home Guard en bloc in November 1940, conductor Maldwyn Lewis

**Dinnington Home Guard Brass Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Dinnington Colliery Band*



*De Havilland Home Guard Brass Band*

**Dodworth Auxiliary Fire Service Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Dodworth Colliery Miners Welfare Band*



*Dodworth Auxiliary Fire Service Band*

**Dodworth Colliery Miners Welfare Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - [current band] - Founded in 1836 - Former names: Dodworth Prize Band, Dodworth Miners Welfare Band, Dodworth Colliery Band, British Steel Dodworth Band, JWE Mobile Phone Dodworth Band (1993?-1996), Dodworth Miners Welfare Phoenix Band, Dodworth Phoenix Band. Conductor W. Allen in 1867, James Moorhouse in 1894-1905. Officers in 1890 included: T.V. Wentworth, president; T. Taylor, president; C.H. Cobbold,

chairman & treasurer; Mr Wills, secretary. During WW2 it became the Dodworth Auxiliary Fire Service Band, later the Dodworth National Fire Service Band. The band's papers (1887-1942) are held at the Barnsley Archive and Local Studies Department

**Dodworth N.F.S. Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Dodworth Colliery Miners Welfare Band*

**Dorman Long and Company Works Band** (Redcar, Yorkshire (North Riding)) - Formed as Dorman's Works Band in 1875. Became the Dorman's Home Guard Band, conductor Mr Beasley, during WW2

**Dorman's Home Guard Band** (Redcar, Yorkshire (North Riding)) - *See: Dorman Long and Company Works Band*

**Dundee Home Guard Brass Band (1)** (Angus) - *See: 1st City of Dundee Battalion Home Guard Brass Band*

**Dundee Home Guard Brass Band (2)** (Angus) - *See: 2nd City of Dundee Battalion Home Guard Brass Band*

**Dunston Home Guard Band** (Durham) - *See: Dunston Silver Band*

**Dunston Silver Band** (Durham) - Founded in 1887 as Dunston Wesleyan Mission Band. It was later known as Dunston Temperance Band, Dunston-on-Tyne Brass Band, then Dunston Silver Band from 1902. Between 1939 and 1945, the Band exchanged their uniforms for that of the Home Guard (part of either the 10<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> Durham, Gateshead, Home Guard). In 1985 the band folded. A successor band was formed in 1987.

**Ealing Auxiliary Fire Service Band** (Middlesex) – Active in 1941. Probably formed using ex-members of the Ealing Town Band. When the war ended the members helped to found and train the young players of the subsequent Ealing Central Band



*Ealing Auxiliary Fire Service Band*



*Ealing Auxiliary Fire Service Band*

**Easington National Fire Service Band** (Durham) - *See: Easington Public Band*

**Easington Public Band** (Durham) - Formed in 1915 as Easington Colliery Youth Band, became the National Fire Service Band during World War 2 (in which guise it competed in nine contests) and Easington Public Band from 1946. Merged with Easington Colliery Band in 1956.

**Easington Public Band** (Durham) - Formed in 1915 as Easington Colliery Youth Band, became the National Fire Service Band during World War 2 and thereafter Easington Public Band. Merged with Easington Colliery Band in 1956.

**East Woodhay Home Guard Brass Band** (Hampshire) - *See: East Woodhay Silver Band*

**East Woodhay Silver Band** (Hampshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1884 as East Woodhay Mechanics Band (to 1904). Then renamed St. Martin's Brass Band. With the outbreak of the World War 2, the band became a Home Guard band, reverting back when the war ended

**Ebor Excelsior Silver Band** (York, Yorkshire) - Formed 1883 as Chaucer Street Mission Band by Noah Bruce, later names were York and District Mission Band, York Excelsior Band. Known as York Home Guard Brass Band during WW2 (14th West Riding Home Guard), and Ebor Excelsior Band after WW2. Merged, in 1952, with York City Brass Band to form the current York Railway Institute Band.

**Eccles National Fire Service Band** (Lancashire) - Active from 1942. A wartime combination of players from Barton Hall Works Band and Eccles Borough Band, conductor was Dan Shepherd.

**Farnworth Old Band** (Lancashire) - Formed in 1848 by Thomas Barnes, a mill owner, originally known as Band of the Farnworth Cotton Mills, later as Barnes' Band, Tapps Rifles' Band (c.1860), Farnworth Old (Barnes') Band, Farnworth Old Band, West Lancs Home Guard Band (1940 and during WW2), and Farnworth Old Band (to 1990) when it merged with Eaton (Truck Components) Band to form Eaton Farnworth Brass Band. In the 1870s the band was associated with the local volunteers (76th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers), reverting to Farnworth Brass Band in 1880. Became associated with the 14th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard during WW2, during which time it competed in the 1942 Belle Vue March contest

**Ferranti Home Guard Brass Band** (Hollinwood, Lancashire) - Active in August 1941 - based around the Ferranti works

**Fisher and Ludlow Home Guard Band** (Birmingham, Warwickshire) - *See: City of Birmingham Brass Band*

**Foresters Brass 2000** (Leicester, Leicestershire) - [current band] - Founded in 1902 - Former names: Bread Street Mission Band, Leicester Ivanhoe Band (1910s/1920s - competing in a brass band contest at Overseal, Leicestershire in July 1921, under conductor C. A. Anderson (drawn 5 of 11 bands, they were not placed). Still active as Ivanhoe Band in 1923), North Evington Working Men's Club and Institute Band (1928, conducted by Mr S. Brown to 1940), 9th Battalion Leicestershire Home Guard Band, City of Leicester Special Constabulary Band (1946), Leicester Foresters Band (1958), Band of the Ancient Order of Foresters (1978-2000) - Note: Amalgamated with Brass 2000 in 2000

**Frome Home Guard Brass Band** (Somerset) - *See: Frome Town Band*

**Frome Town Band** (Somerset) - Formed as Frome Military Band in 1911, becoming part of the 4th Somerset Home Guard from 1943 to 1944. It converted to a brass band in 1956. Still active in 1981

**Fulham Civil Defence Band** (Middlesex) - Active in 1942

**G.K.B. Steel Works Home Guard Band** (Port Talbot, Glamorgan) - Active in 1942. Associated with the Guest Keen, Baldwins steel works. Associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> Glamorgan (Port Talbot) Home Guard



*G.K.B. Steel Works Home Guard Band*

**Glasgow National Fire Service Band** (Lanarkshire) - Competed in the Scottish A.B.A. Contest in September 1943. The Band Association constitution, minutes and correspondence, 1943-1944, are held in the Glasgow City Archives

**Golcar Subscription Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Active from 1852. During WW2 it became 26th Battalion (B Coy) Home Guard Band

**Greenock Home Guard Band** (Renfrewshire) - Active in 1942. This was a military band associated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Renfrewshire & Buteshire Home Guard Battalion



*Greenock Home Guard Band, 1942*

**Halifax Home Guard Brass Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Active from 1940 to 1945. The first to broadcast on the BBC in January 1941, with their conductor Tom Casson (conductor of King Cross Band). It had been formed by bandsmen from two local bands. Competed in the 1944 British Open contest.



**Hanley Home Guard Brass Band** (Staffordshire) - Active during WW2 - the band of the 4th Staffordshire Home Guard. Conductor E.W. Cotterill – 30 players in May 1941. W. Hughes took over as conductor in July 1941, with bandmaster F. Armson

**Hartlepool Home Guard Brass Band** (Durham) – The band of the 18<sup>th</sup> Durham (West Hartlepool) Home Guard



*Hartlepool Home Guard Brass Band*

**Hawarden Home Guard Band** (Flintshire) - Won second place in the Wrexham contest in August 1941. The band of the 5th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers Home Guard

**Hessle Royal British Legion Band** (Yorkshire East Riding) - Formed in the early 1900s as Hessle Halcyon Band. It later became the Scarrs Shipyard Band under which name it remained until the 1914-1918 war. Then it became known as the Hessle Victory Military Band and included woodwind instruments. During the 1939-1945 war the instruments were loaned to the home guard. When the home guard was disbanded in late 1945, the band started again under the name of Hessle Band. Changed its name to Hessle Royal



British Legion Band in 1947. Finally disbanded around 1990. The band in 1969 was: Alan Martin, Ray Lamb, Dixon Lang, Mike Frederick, Len Creasey, Alan Branston, Harry Jervis, Ian Donaldson, Tommy Burns, Alf Whitehead, Alan Spittlehouse, Tom Howson, Peter Beilby, Frank Payne, Harry Anderson, John Jefferson, Alan Bourne, Doug Jones, George Veneer, Sid Teale, Bill Overton, Harry Chatterton, Sam Walmsley (conductor), Eddy Pybus, Herbert Johnson, H. Stephenson and Berwyn Plant. For further details see "Hessle Royal British Legion Band" at [www.ibew.co.uk](http://www.ibew.co.uk)

**Heston and Isleworth Civil Defence Band** (Middlesex) - Founded in November 1941 - this was a military band

**Hexham Home Guard Band** (Northumberland) - Active in 1944 when it competed in the Hexham contest. The band of the 4th Battalion Northumberland Home Guard

**Heywood Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1941, conductor L. Davies, the band of the 60th Lancashire Home Guard

**High Wycombe Home Guard Band** (Buckinghamshire) - Formed in early 1943 as the band of the 7th Buckinghamshire Home Guard, with members from High Wycombe Excelsior, High Wycombe Town Military and High Wycombe Salvation Army bands, with conductor Sergeant Nesbitt and band sergeant Sergeant Bradbury

**Hill and Cakemore Home Guard Band** (Blackheath, Worcestershire) - Conducted by Frank R. Moore in March 1943

**Huddersfield Home Guard Brass Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Active in the 1940s

**Hyde Home Guard Band** (Cheshire) - Active in 1942. The band of the 36th Cheshire Home Guard



*Hyde Home Guard Band, 1942*

**Ipswich Home Guard Brass Band** (Suffolk) - The band of the 11th Suffolk Battalion Home Guard. Conductor G.H. Want. The band intended to carry on after the Home Guard were stood down in December 1944



*Ipswich Home Guard Brass Band*

**Kingswood Home Guard Brass Band** (Bristol, Gloucestershire) - Active in August 1941, conductor Joe Comley

**L.N.E.R. Home Guard Sub-Unit Silver Band** (Hull, Yorkshire (East Riding)) - Conductor Mr Smith in 1942

**Laurieston Home Guard Brass Band** (Stirlingshire) - Active in June 1943, the band of the 3rd Battalion Stirlingshire Home Guard

**Leeds National Fire Service Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) – Associated with the Area 4 N.F.S. division



*Leeds National Fire Service Band*

**Leicester Home Guard Band (Leicestershire) - See: Foresters Brass 2000**



*9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Home Guard Brass Band*

**Lelant Brass Band (Cornwall)** - Formed in January 1905 under James Maddern. He stayed until 1911 when the leadership was handed over to John Tanner. EC Wills took over in 1914 and promptly left in 1915 to go to Redruth Band. The band closed down during WW1 but reorganised when that bit of unpleasantness was over. About 1931 F Gregory took over and stayed until 1942 when strange things began to happen. In 1942 they were reorganised under the new title Lelant United Services Band, still under F Gregory who, because of this second disagreement with Germany, was now in the National Fire Service (NFS). This lasted until 1943 when the Home Guard (Dad's Army) was formed and Lelant's instruments were loaned to the 14th Battalion Home Guard (St Ives) Band, now under the baton of Bandmaster Coombe. The Lelant Band - civilian - reappeared in 1945. Their contesting was confined to 1911 - 1914, their best result being achieved at a St Dennis contest in 1913 when they entered the second section playing "Village Bride" and winning £5 for their 2nd placing. After WW2, with the exception of victory parades, nothing more can be found. At one time the band kept their instruments in the Primitive Methodist Chapel "beneath the gallery that was then in place by the entrance". A. Gregory was secretary in 1908

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**Lelant United Services Band (Cornwall)** - See: *Lelant Brass Band*

**Levenshulme Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Conductor Harry Carr, bandmaster C. Beesley, founded in August 1942. Still active in 1944. The band of the 48th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard (E Company). Also known as Ardwick Home Guard Band.



*Levenshulme Home Guard Band*

**Lewisham Civil Defence Silver Band** (Kent) - Active in 1944, conductor W.J. Squire

**Liverpool Corporation Tramways Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Active in August 1941

**Liverpool National Fire Service Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1944

**Lockwood Brass Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Founded in 1940 as 26th Battalion (C Coy) Huddersfield Home Guard Band. Conductor Frank Braithwaite in September 1942. Renamed Lockwood Brass Band when the war ended

**Long Buckby Home Guard Band** (Northamptonshire) - Formed in 1940 by the merger of Long Buckby Temperance Silver Prize Band and Long Buckby Town Band, with conductor E.J. Mason. After the war, it merged with the Daventry Town Band to form Daventry and District Silver Band.

**Long Buckby Temperance Silver Prize Band** (Northamptonshire) - Founded in 1884 as a drum and fife band by George York, W. Blincow, J. Faulkner and W. Green. Conductor W. Green in 1893. Had converted to all-brass by the end of the 1880s. Played as part of the celebrations for the visit to Northampton of His Majesty King George V and Her Majesty Queen Mary on Tuesday the 23rd September 1913 - at Far Cotton. Competitions were attended and prizes won with brass instruments bound with waxed ends of shoemaker's threads and leaks stuffed with soap or some such material. At the height of their competitive success (from 1898 to 1904) a little fellow used to stand on a soap box in order that he might see the music in order to play his cornet solo. This little chap was George York junior, the son of the founder of the band (and conductor of the band in 1940). It merged with Long Buckby Town Band in 1940 to form the Long Buckby Home Guard Band.

**Longbridge Home Guard Band** (Warwickshire) – This was based at the Austin Motors factory and was associated with the 43rd Warwickshire Home Guard. It was a military band.



*Longbridge Home Guard Band*

**Lower Ince Home Guard Band** (Wigan, Lancashire) - Active in autumn 1942 (not associated with Lower Ince Temperance Band, whose bandroom had been taken over by the Government)

**Malleable Home Guard Band** (Stockton-on-Tees, Durham) - *See: Billingham Silver Band*

**Manchester Civil Defence Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Competed in the Belle Vue May (Class B & C) contest in 1945, conducted by Les Harper, bandmaster F. Mather, with solo cornets W. Collinson, J Butler and S. Saxon. Ken Collinson was also a player. Following the stand down of the Civil Defence Force in July 1945 the band voted to retain the CD name, and they moved to rehearse at St Paul's Schoolroom, Ten Acres Lane, Newton Heath. Renamed North Manchester Silver Band in November 1945, under which guise it was active into the 1950's

**Matlock Band** (Derbyshire) - [current band] - Founded in the 1850s. Conductor Mr Naylor in 1881, Mr Barnes in 1904. Became B Division Number 7 Area N.F.S. Band during WW2. During WW2 it competed three times - Belle Vue May contests in 1944 and 1945, and the Midlands Area Second Section contest in 1945

**Matlock N.F.S. Brass Band** (Derbyshire) - *See: Matlock Band*

**Medway Band** (Kent) - [current band] - Formed in 1928 as Chatham Town Band, the band continued until the out break of war in 1939, when it became a section of the Home Guard - 12th Battalion Royal West Kent Guards Band (Home Guard). Reformed following the war in 1945 as Medway Imperial Silver Band, the band continued to thrive until 1957 when it amalgamated with the City of Rochester Band to form the current Medway Towns Band. Also known as KM Gillingham Band, KM Medway Band (2000)

**Merthyr National Fire Service Brass Band** (Glamorgan) - Active in June 1942

**Middleton Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1942. The band of the 64th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard

**Mossley (Home Guard) 35th Cheshire Regiment Band** (Lancashire) - [previous name of current band] *See: St John's (Mossley) Band*

**N.F.S (Wakefield) Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Wakefield National Fire Service Band*

**N.F.S. No 7 Area Band** (Derby, Derbyshire) - *See: Derby National Fire Service Band*

**National Fire Service Band** (Easington, Durham) - *See: Easington Public Band*

**National Fire Service Band (27 Area, L Division)** (Eccles, Lancashire) - *See: Eccles National Fire Service Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 4)** (Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Leeds National Fire Service Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 11)** (Southend, Essex) - *See: Southend N.F.S. Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 14)** (Portsmouth, Hampshire) - *See: Portsmouth City Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 17)** (Bristol, Gloucestershire) - *See: Bristol N.F.S. Brass Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 21)** (Swansea, Glamorgan) - *See: Swansea National Fire Service Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 37)** (Bexley, Kent) - *See: North Kent Silver Band*

**National Fire Service Band (Area 43, A Division) Band** (Penrith, Cumberland) - *See: Penrith Town Band*

**National Fire Service Band B Division (North Midland Region)** (Nottingham, Nottinghamshire) - *See: Nottingham National Fire Service Band*

**National Fire Service Brass Band (C Division)** (Merthyr, Glamorgan) - *See: Merthyr National Fire Service Brass Band*

**National Fire Service Western (No.1) Area Band** (Glasgow, Lanarkshire) - *See: Glasgow National Fire Service Band*

**New Mills Band** (Derbyshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1812 - Former names: New Mills Band, New Mills Old Prize Band (c. 1910), Norwest Co-op New Mills Band (1979), United Co-op New Mills Band (to 2012) - Note: Formed in 1812 as a brass and reed band. For the first century the band was conducted by a members of the Beard family, having been founded by Timothy Beard. The band joined up en bloc in 1914, becoming the Sherwood Foresters Regimental Band, and they reformed on demobilisation in 1919. It became a Home Guard band in 1943, without their original conductor Sidney Potts, who had to report to the R.A.F. for service. It reverted to the original name of New Mills Old Prize Band in 1948. Sponsorship by the Co-op in 1979 secured a change of name, accommodation and musical director. [Further information - see: Dearden, Stephen J. H. - A history of New Mills Old Prize Band : two hundred years of music making - Stephen Dearden, New Mills, 2012, also original source documents held by the New Mills Local History Society]

**New Mills Home Guard Brass Band** (Derbyshire) - *See: New Mills Band*

**Newcastle Home Guard Brass Band** (Staffordshire) - Founded in December 1941, the band of the 15th Staffordshire Home Guard. Conductor E.W. Cotterill, treasurer T. Edwards, secretary W. Lovatt, in August 1942

**Normanby Works Home Guard Band** (Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire) - Conductor J. Gilboy, in March 1943, using the instruments of the Normanby Steel Works Band

**North Evington Working Men's Club and Institute Band** (Leicester, Leicestershire) - *See: Foresters Brass 2000*

**North Kent Silver Band** (Bexley, Kent) - Formed in April 1940 as Bexley A.F.S. Brass Band and, in 1942, became the official National Fire Service Band for London, being known as the National Fire Service Silver Band (37 Area). Adopted the name of North Kent Silver Band in 1945. Active into the early 1950s

**Northampton N.U.R. Silver Band** (Northamptonshire) - Formed after WW1 in 1918. Renamed Northampton Borough Silver Band 1929-1940, then Northamptonshire Home Guard Band 1940-45 (band of the 12th Northamptonshire Home Guard), Northampton Borough Band 1945-49, and finally Northampton New Imperial Band, 1949-mid/late 1950s

**Northfleet Brass** (Kent) - Founded in 1878, as Northfleet Silver Band, according to the band's website. Disbanded in March 2018. However a newspaper report about the band in August 1904 gives the band's formation as 1st May 1889. Conductor Mr Jackson in 1901, R. Dunson in 1904. Officers in 1904 were president A. Tolhurst J.P., vice-president G.J. Lucas, secretary F. Drum, treasurer W. Baxter. By 1931 the Band had around 35 members and success was coming. They had performed at London's famed Crystal Palace and soon became L&SC champions. Before the outbreak of WWII, they performed a live concert at Alexandra Palace, which was broadcast live on BBC Radio. Another radio performance was scheduled for 3rd September, 1939 although due to the outbreak of war (on that very day) the performance was understandably cancelled. During WWII a band was formed in the 17th Kent Regiment Home Guard where a number of musicians from Northfleet and Swanscombe Bands, who were in reserved occupations, played under the baton of Fred Garth. This continued until the 'outbreak of peace', when the original bands were reformed. Unfortunately, as is predicatable, a number of members of the band had been lost in the hostilities. The Band continued to run in the post-war years, rehearsing in the Factory Hall where the band also performed a number of concerts. Rehearsals then moved to the nearby Veterans' Hall In more recent times, the band enjoyed success. In 2016 they were promoted to the Championship Section under the directorship of Melvin White. The band performed at the Area Contest in 2017 and were joined by Matthew Stein, principal cornet of the Wellington Brass Band, NZ, in the seat of guest principal cornet

**Nottingham National Fire Service Band** (Nottinghamshire) - Active in June 1942. Competed in two contests in 1943, 1944

**Oakeley Home Guard Brass Band** (Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merioneth) - *See: Royal Oakeley Silver Band*

**Old 22nd Association Home Guard Band** (Tunbridge Wells, Kent) - *See: Tunbridge Wells Home Guard Band*

**Orpington Home Guard Brass Band** (Kent) - *See: Orpington Silver Band*

**Orpington Silver Band** (Kent) - Founded in 1925, it converted to concert band format some time later, probably after WW2, and is still active as a wind band. Competed in the SCABA contest in Chichester in April 1927. Became the Orpington Home Guard Band - band of the 28th Kent Home Guard - during WW2

**Penrith National Fire Service Silver Band** (Cumberland) - *See: Penrith Town Band*

**Penrith Town Band** (Cumberland) - [current band] - Founded in 1938 - Former names: Penrith Temperance Band, Penrith A Division N.F.S. (National Fire Service) Silver Band (1943), Penrith British Legion Band (1946-1963) - Formed by the amalgamation of the Penrith Subscription Band and the Penrith Sons of Temperance Oak Lodge Band

**Port Glasgow Home Guard Brass Band** (Renfrewshire) - Active in July 1942, the band of the 5th Renfrewshire Home Guard

**Portsmouth Auxiliary Fire Service Band**, (Hampshire) - *See: Portsmouth City Band*





*Orpington Home Guard Brass Band*

**Portsmouth City Band** (Hampshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1939 as Portsmouth Auxiliary Fire Service Band, National Fire Service Band (Area 14), Portsmouth City Fire Brigade Band (1951 to 1965). Conductor R. Sadler in 1951. [Further information - see: Kennett, Michael - *Forty Musical Years... and the band plays on* (Portsmouth City Band) - in Hampshire: the County Magazine - Vol. 19 (4), February 1979, pp.57-58]

**Portsmouth National Fire Service Band** (Hampshire) - See: *Portsmouth City Band*



*Portsmouth National Fire Service Band*

**Poulton-le-Fylde Band Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - *See: Poulton-le-Fylde Brass Band*

**Poulton-le-Fylde Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Founded on the 25th September 1874. Conductor Mr Hodgson in 1891. Around 1903 it amalgamated with the Thornton Subscription Band. During World War Two, the band functioned as "The Home Guard Band" under the musical direction of Mr Ernest Seed, but it was disbanded shortly after the War. A successor band was formed in the early 1950s.

**Press Battalion London Home Guard Brass Band** (London) - Founded in November 1942, and conducted by Denis Wright, under whose baton they competed in the May 1944 Belle Vue (Class A) contest. The band started out as the B.B.C.'s own company band, but it was passed over to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Press) London Home Guard in order to obtain more recruits than could be found amongst the B.B.C. staff. This Home Guard battalion was based at Fleet Street. By December 1944 it numbered 35 players in addition to 10 buglers. During its short career it broadcast three times, attended one contest, played for nearly 50 battalion and company parades, officers' guest nights and other ceremonies, and gave concerts during two summers in various parks in London and the suburbs. It was one of the bands chosen to take part in the Home Guard stand-down parade in London on December 3rd 1944. It disbanded shortly after that.



*5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Press) London Home Guard at Broadcasting House, 1944*

**Pressed Steel Company Home Guard Band** (Cowley, Oxfordshire) - *See: Pressed Steel Company Limited Works Band*

**Pressed Steel Company Limited Works Band** (Cowley, Oxfordshire) - Formed in January 1941 as a military band for the Pressed Steel Company Home Guard. Reformed as a brass band in December 1944. Achieved the Championship Section in 1947. Based at the Pressed Steel Works in Cowley, the present-day location of the Mini factory, this band ran into difficulties during the period of the three-day week in early 1974. The remaining players joined the City of Oxford Band, who were themselves at that time somewhat depleted following the successive splittings-off of Oxford Concert Brass in

1972 and Kennington (Oxford) in 1973. The band's library came into the possession of the Wantage Band.

**Prestwich Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - It competed three times at the Whitefield contest in 1942, 1943 and 1944, conductor J.O. Carter. The band of the 41st Battalion Lancashire Home Guard

**Radcliffe Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1941, a band of the 60th Lancashire Home Guard

**Reading Home Guard Brass Band** (Berkshire) - *See: Reading Spring Gardens Brass Band*

**Reading Spring Gardens Brass Band** (Berkshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1899 - When the Second World War began many of the band members were called up to the Forces. The remaining members formed the local Home Guard's Band (band of the 7th Berkshire Home Guard). With Captain Millward in charge, the uniform changed to traditional military khaki and George Watkins was re-instated as Musical Director. At the end of the Second World War the band reverted back to being Reading Spring Gardens Band. Their uniform then became a replica of the Guard's scarlet tunics with brass buttons, black trousers with a scarlet stripe and a peak cap edged with brass.

**Redruth Home Guard Band** (Cornwall) - The band of the 9th Battalion Cornwall Home Guard. Members in 1944 included: C. Reed, F. Rogers, K. Pelmar, J. Williams, A. Hancock, R. Martin, B. Opie, G. Wills, G. Evans, G. Martin, C. Floyd, R. Venton, G. Eustice, H. Biddick, W. Tremain, P. Jones, J. Major, A. Weeks, W.J. Opie, G. Treloar, P. Clotworthy (bandmaster), Major S.L. Mitchell, Captain A.E. Wilton, F. Thomas, O. Richards, N. Reynolds, Sergeant H. Waters, G. Stafford (drums), and D. Trevena (drums)



*Redruth Home Guard Band*



*Redruth Home Guard Band*

**Ripponden Civil Defence Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Founded in February 1942, gained second prize at the West Riding 2nd Section contest on Easter Saturday 1942 at Cleckheaton, gave over 30 performances in 1942 raising £125 for charity

**Royal Oakeley Silver Band** (Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merioneth) - [CURRENT BAND] - Founded in 1864. Conductor Albert Wade in 1904-1905, J. E. Fidler in 1905-1908. Former names: Gwaenydd Brass Band, Gwaenydd Silver Band, {Royal} Oakeley Quarry Band, Oakeley Brass Band. Became Oakeley Home Guard Brass Band during WW2 (the band of the 1st Merioneth Battalion Home Guard)

**Rubery Owen Home Guard Brass Band** (Darlaston, Staffordshire) - Members in 1941 included: Jim Badderley, Joe Ratcliffe, Jack Jenkins, Frank Jellyman, Mr Mansell, Les Emery, Phil Wright, Harry Lowe, Mr Page, and Harry Wright. Associated with the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion Staffordshire Home Guard. Rubery Owen manufactured parts for military aircraft and helmets during WW2



*Rubery Owen Home Guard Brass Band*

**Ryburn Civil Defence Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Ripponden Civil Defence Band*

**S.M.T. (Sales and Service) Home Guard Brass Band** (Glasgow, Lanarkshire) - Established in autumn 1941 by the Scottish Motor Traction Company Ltd, with 26 players

**St Albans City Band** (Hertfordshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1892. In 1941 it was decided to form the St Albans Home Guard Band (the band of the 15th Hertfordshire Home Guard) which was an amalgamation of St Albans City Band and St Albans British Legion Band - both of which had been depleted by members joining the forces. The aim of this band was to do parades and collect for the war effort especially during Government Campaigns such as War Bonds Week, Victory Week etc. Bob Anderson, who had played percussion in the British Legion Band became Bandmaster of the Home Guard Band. The St Albans City Band reformed in 1946

**St Albans Home Guard Brass Band** (Hertfordshire) - *See: St Albans City Band*

**St Ives Home Guard Brass Band** (Cornwall) - Active from 1943, using the instruments of Lelant Brass Band. Bandmaster was Mr Coombe

**St John's (Mossley) Band** (Lancashire) - [current band] - Founded in 1934 - Former names: Mossley (Home Guard) 35th Cheshire Regiment Band (during WW2)

**St Keverne Home Guard Brass Band** (Cornwall) - Conductor was Beth David

**Salford Air Raid Wardens Corps Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1945

**Salford Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - Active in 1941, the band of the 43rd Lancashire Home Guard. Competed in the Grotton Lido contest in August 1941

**Sanders' Independent Brass Band** (Long Buckby, Northamptonshire) - Formed in 1875, conductor W.C. Wills. Their first performance was on July 4th 1875. Conductor A.E. Wills in 1887-1890, W.C. Wills in 1893. Sponsored by William Sanders who provided the instruments at a cost of £50, and who ran a shoe factory in the village and used the band for promotional events. However it seems to have been initially based on the Independent Chapel (Congregational) hence the name. Sanders eventually built some assembly rooms for the band to use. These still stand. The band accepted some reed instrumentalists, but reverted back to full brass. In the mid-1890s, due to Sanders no longer being able to guarantee the financial support, the band became the Long Buckby Town Band. Considerable rivalry existed between the Town Band and the Temperance Band. There is a very nice account of a fight between the two bands at an event in Silverstone. In 1940 it merged with Long Buckby Temperance Band to form the Long Buckby Home Guard Band.

**Scunthorpe Civil Defence Brass Band** (Lincolnshire) - Active in 1942, conductor W.H. Kendall. Players included F. Moore (of Brigg) and H. McCarty (of Scunthorpe British Legion)

**Sheffield Home Guard Brass Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Conducted by W. Bennett

**Southend Band** (Essex) - [current band] - Founded in the early 1900s - Known as Southend Civil Defence Band during WW2

**Southend Borough Military Band** (Essex) - Bandmaster: Fred Green. Between the Wars a band used to practice at the Drill Hall, near the Railway PH at Prittlewell. They used to wear Army uniforms, being associated with the Territorials and they went to Camp with the 2nd Essex Infantry Regiment. The last camp they attended was circa 1932. Philip William Laflin, a trombonist, took over as Bandmaster in 1936, when, under the shadow of impending war, it was renamed Southend Local Defence Volunteer Band. During the War it continued as a brass and reed "military" combination under the title of the 16th Essex Home Guard Band. PWL remained Bandmaster, though not without some wrangling which made it to the national papers. "Army versus Pansies" was the headline in the Daily Mirror, because the Borough Parks Dept. were loathe to release Mr Laflin from his duties as Priory Park Head Gardener.

**Southend Civil Defence Band** (Essex) - *See: Southend Band*

**Southend N.F.S. Band** (Essex) - Founded in November 1941, conductor A.V. Creasey. Won several prizes at contests in 1943-1945

**Southwater Home Guard Band** (Sussex) - Active in September 1940. The band of the 1st West Sussex Home Guard

**Sowerby Bridge Home Guard Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - *See: Sowerby Bridge Subscription Band*



*Southend National Fire Service Band (11 Area)*



*Southend National Fire Service Band (11 Area)*

**Sowerby Bridge Subscription Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Founded in 1882 as Sowerby Bridge Subscription Band. The band formed the core of the local Home Guard band in 1942, 1943 (the band of the 21st West Riding Home Guard). After the war it was active through to 1959

**Spennymoor Home Guard Brass Band** (Durham) – Probably associated with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Home Guard (Bishop Auckland) and may have sourced players from the Spennymoor Temperance Band which had been active up to the outbreak of war.



*Spennymoor Home Guard Brass Band*

**Staffordshire Band** (Staffordshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1900 - Former names: Walsall Wood Institute Temperance Band (to 1920s), Aldridge Colliery Silver Prize Band, Walsall Home Guard Band (during WW2 - band of the 27th Staffordshire Home Guard), Aldridge Town Band, Aldridge Brownhills Brass Band (1966), Walsall Metropolitan Band (1975), Walsall Servis Band (1980), Walsall Highgate Band (1983), C.I.Group Brass (1988), Staffordshire Building Society Band (1993-1998)

**Standish Home Guard Brass Band** (Wigan, Lancashire) - Formed in summer 1941, conductor G. Smith

**Stockport Home Guard Brass Band** (Cheshire) - Competed in May Belle Vue contests in 1941 (conductor C.F. Swift) and 1942 (conductor Harry Mortimer). The band of the 38th Cheshire Home Guard

**Stockton-on-Tees Home Guard Band** (Durham) - [previous name of current band] *See: Billingham Silver Band*

**Stroud and District Brass Band** (Gloucestershire) - Active in 1942, conductor C.D. Smith, as the 7th Battalion Gloucester Home Guard Band. After the Home Guard was stood down, the band reformed, in March 1945 as the Stroud and District Brass Band. It was still active in 1960

**Swansea National Fire Service Band** (Glamorgan) - Active during WW2

**Swindon Home Guard Band** (Wiltshire) - Active in 1944. The band of the 5th Wiltshire Home Guard





*Stockton-on-Tees Home Guard Band*



*Swansea National Fire Service Band*



*Swindon Home Guard Band, 1944*

**Toddington Home Guard Band** (Bedfordshire) - Active during WW2. Probably made up of members from the Toddington Town Band

**Torrington Home Guard Band** (Devon) - Active in 1940 to 1942. Probably associated with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devon (Bideford) Home Guard



*Torrington Home Guard Band, 1942*

**Treharris Home Guard Brass Band** (Glamorgan) - The band of the 13th Glamorgan Home Guard. Active in November 1942 when it competed at Pontypridd in the South Wales & Monmouthshire Brass Band Association (C Section) contest

**Troedyrhiw Brass Band** (Glamorgan) - Active from 1876 to the 1950s. Also known as Troedyrhiw Silver Band, Troedyrhiw Town Band and, during WW2, Troedyrhiw National Fire Service Band. [Further information - see: Holley, T. F. - The Troedyrhiw Town silver band - Merthyr Historian, vol. 18 (2005), p. 77-98.]

**Troedyrhiw National Fire Service Band** (Glamorgan) - *See: Troedyrhiw Silver*

**Truro Home Guard Band** (Cornwall) - Active during WW2. The band of the 10th Cornwall Home Guard



*Truro Home Guard Band*

**Tunbridge Wells Home Guard Band** (Kent) - Active in the 1940s and continued into the 1950s. The band of the 22nd Kent Home Guard

**Tunstall Home Guard Brass Band** (Staffordshire) - Conductor G. Kirkham until January 1941, when he left to set up a Home Guard band at Burslem. Replaced by J. Andrews, then G. Kirkham returned in 1942, when members included Joseph Cotterill (solo cornet), S. Turner (treasurer), W.E. Findler (euphonium)

**Tyldesley Band** (Lancashire) - [current band] - Founded in 1876, leader Mr Hinchcliffe. The band joined the Home Guard en bloc in late 1940 for the duration of the war

**Tyldesley Home Guard Brass Band** (Lancashire) - *See: Tyldesley Band*

**Wakefield National Fire Service Band** (Yorkshire West Riding) - Competed in the Yorkshire Championships Second Section contest in June 1943

**Walsall Home Guard Band** (Staffordshire) - [previous name of current band] *See: Staffordshire Band*

**Wantage Home Guard Band** (Berkshire) - Active in August 1942, conductor A.E. Thomas.  
The band of the 5th Berkshire Home Guard

**West Lancashire Home Guard Band** (Farnworth, Lancashire) - *See: Farnworth Old Band*

**Wigan British Legion and Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - Active during WW2



*Wigan Home Guard Band, 1941*

**Winchburgh and District Brass Band** (West Lothian) - Active in the 1920s to the 1960s.  
Operated as Winchburgh Home Guard Brass Band during part of WW2, competing in three contests in 1945 under that name. Conducted by Richard Pritchard in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Winchburgh Home Guard Brass Band** (West Lothian) - *See: Winchburgh and District Brass Band*

**Wolverhampton Home Guard Band** (Staffordshire) - Conductor George Hart in March 1942

**Wolverton Home Guard Military Band** (Buckinghamshire) - *See: Wolverton Town Band*

**Wolverton Town Band** (Buckinghamshire) - [current band] - Founded in 1908. The band had to stand down during WW2 as men were called up to service. Players and instruments became part of the Local Defence Volunteer Band, and in 1940 the Wolverton Home Guard Military Band was formed (part of the 2nd Buckinghamshire Home Guard) with Doug Dytham as Bandmaster. After leading the Stand-down Parade through Wolverton at the head of the battalion in December 1944, the band passed into history and, once the war was over, Wolverton Town Band came back into being.

**Worthing Home Guard Brass Band** (Sussex) - Formed in June 1942, conductor A. Pratt, with instruments from the Storrington Band. The band of the 5th Sussex Home Guard

**Wye Valley Home Guard Brass Band** (Coleford, Gloucestershire) - Active in 1943, 1944, the band of the 17th Gloucestershire Home Guard. It had made 18 public appearances between March and December 1944. On 22 October 1944 the band gave a concert at Broadwell which included the selections "Famous Musical Plays", "The Maid of the Mountains", suites from "Ballet Egyptien", and "The Merchant of Venice", trombone solo "The Trumpeter" (soloist: Corporal Sleeman), "Salut d'Amour", and a march pot-pourri entitled "The Glo'sters", specially arranged by Lieutenant E. A. Y. Jones, the musical director, consisting of the regimental marches of all the county battalions. The band went on to form the core of the new Coleford Town Band in 1945

**Wythenshawe Brass Band** (Cheshire) - The band became the local Home Guard band in early 1942, conducted by Mr Ackers. After WW2 the band reverted to its civilian name, and lasted until the 1970's

**Wythenshawe Home Guard Band** (Cheshire) - *See: Wythenshawe Brass Band*

**York Home Guard Brass Band** (Yorkshire) - *See: Ebor Excelsior Silver Band*

**Zone Home Guard Brass Band** (Birmingham, Warwickshire) - *See: Birmingham Zone Home Guard Brass Band*

**1st Cheshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Altrincham, Cheshire) - *See: Altrincham Home Guard Brass Band*

**1st City of Dundee Battalion Home Guard Brass Band** (Dundee, Angus) - Active in March 1943 - probably made of players from the R.N.V.R. Brass Band and the Dundee Trades Band

**1st Lancashire Home Guard Band** (Barrow-In-Furness, Lancashire) - *See: Barrow Shipyard Band*

**1st Merioneth Battalion Home Guard Band** (Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merioneth) - *See: Royal Oakeley Silver Band*

**1st Oxfordshire Home Guard Band** (Banbury, Oxfordshire) - *See: Banbury Home Guard Band*

**1st Renfrewshire & Buteshire Home Guard Band** (Renfrewshire) – *See: Greenock Home Guard Band*



*Unknown Derbyshire Home Guard Band*

**1st West Sussex Home Guard Band** (Southwater, Sussex) - *See: Southwater Home Guard Band*

**1st Wiltshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Chippenham, Wiltshire) - *See: Chippenham Home Guard Brass Band*

**2nd Battalion Staffordshire Home Guard Band** (Bucknall, Staffordshire) - *See: Bucknall Ex-Service Men's Band*

**2nd Buckinghamshire Home Guard Band** (Wolverton, Buckinghamshire) - *See: Wolverton Town Band*

**2nd City of Dundee Battalion Home Guard Brass Band** (Dundee, Angus) - Active in September 1944

**2nd Cumberland Home Guard Band** (Carlisle, Cumberland) - *See: Carlisle Home Guard Band*

**2nd Staffordshire Home Guard Band** (Burslem, Staffordshire) - *See: Burslem Imperial Band*

**3rd Battalion Stirlingshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Laurieston, Stirlingshire) - *See: Laurieston Home Guard Brass Band*

**4th Battalion Monmouth Home Guard Band** (Abercarn, Monmouthshire) - *See: Abercarn Silver Band*

**4th Battalion Northumberland Home Guard Brass Band** (Hexham, Northumberland) - *See: Hexham Home Guard Band*

**4th Somerset Home Guard Band** (Frome, Somerset) - *See: Frome Town Band*

**4th Staffordshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Hanley, Staffordshire) - *See: Hanley Home Guard Brass Band*

**5th Battalion Cambridgeshire Home Guard Band** (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire) - *See: Cambridge Railway Band*

**5th Battalion London Home Guard Brass Band** (London) - *See: Press Battalion London Home Guard Brass Band*

**5th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers Home Guard Band** (Hawarden, Flintshire) - *See: Hawarden Home Guard Band*

**5th Battalion Shropshire (C Coy) Home Guard Band** (Dawley, Shropshire) - *See: Dawley Town Band*



*Unknown Home Guard Band*

**5th Berkshire Home Guard Band** (Wantage, Berkshire) - *See: Wantage Home Guard Band*

**5th Renfrewshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire) -

**5th Sussex Home Guard Brass Band** (Worthing, Sussex) - *See: Worthing Home Guard Brass Band*

**5th Wiltshire Home Guard Band** (Swindon, Wiltshire) - *See: Swindon Home Guard Band*

**6th Battalion Essex Home Guard Band** (Chelmsford, Essex) - *See: Chelmsford Home Guard Band*

**7th Battalion City of London Home Guard Band** (Dagenham, Essex) - *See: Dagenham Home Guard O.C.A. Band*

**7th Battalion Gloucester Home Guard Band** (Stroud, Gloucestershire) - *See: Stroud and District Brass Band*

**7th Berkshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Reading, Berkshire) - *See: Reading Spring Gardens Brass Band*

**7th Buckinghamshire Home Guard Band** (High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire) - *See: High Wycombe Home Guard Band*

**7th Hampshire Home Guard Band** (Boscombe, Hampshire) - *See: Boscombe Silver Band*

**9th Battalion Cornwall Home Guard Band** (Redruth, Cornwall) - *See: Redruth Home Guard Band*

**9th Battalion Leicestershire Home Guard Band** (Leicester, Leicestershire) - *See: Foresters Brass 2000*

**10th Cornwall Home Guard Brass Band** (Truro, Cornwall) - *See: Truro Home Guard Band*

**11th City of Glasgow Home Guard Brass Band** (Glasgow, Lanarkshire) - Founded in June 1940, conductor A.H.B. Hutchison, based at Ibrox. During 1944 it completed 100 engagements, including public parks, 24 engagements, cinema and theatre concerts, church parades, sports meetings, etc. After the Home Guard stand down the band carried on as the band of the 6th Battalion Highland Light Infantry (A.C.F.), having gone over en bloc as a band to that unit.

**11th Suffolk Battalion Home Guard Band** (Ipswich, Suffolk) - *See: Ipswich Home Guard Brass Band*

**12th Gloucester Home Guard Brass Band** (Bristol, Gloucestershire) - Active during WW2

**12th Kent Home Guard Brass Band** (Chatham, Kent) - *See: Medway Band*

**12th Northamptonshire Home Guard Band** (Northampton, Northamptonshire) - *See: Northampton N.U.R. Silver Band*



- 13th Glamorgan Home Guard Brass Band** (Treharris, Glamorgan) - *See: Treharris Home Guard Brass Band*
- 14th Battalion Home Guard (St Ives) Band** (St Ives, Cornwall) - *See: St Ives Home Guard Brass Band*
- 14th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Farnworth, Lancashire) - *See: Farnworth Old Band*
- 14th West Riding Home Guard Brass Band** (York, Yorkshire) - *See: Ebor Excelsior Silver Band*
- 15th Hertfordshire Home Guard Band** (St Albans, Hertfordshire) - *See: St Albans City Band*
- 15th Staffordshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire) - *See: Newcastle Home Guard Brass Band*
- 17th Gloucestershire (Wye Valley) Home Guard Brass Band** (Coleford, Gloucestershire) - *See: Wye Valley Home Guard Brass Band*
- 17th Kent Home Guard Brass Band** (Northfleet, Kent) - *See: Northfleet Brass*
- 17th Northumberland Home Guard Band** (Ashington, Northumberland) - *See: Ashington Home Guard Band*
- 18th Durham Home Guard Brass Band** (Hartlepool, Durham) - *See: Hartlepool Home Guard Brass Band*
- 19th Battalion Durham Light Infantry Home Guard Band** (Stockton-on-Tees, Durham) - *See: Billingham Silver Band*
- 20th Glamorgan Home Guard Band** (Port Talbot, Glamorgan) - *See: G.K.B. Steel Works Home Guard Band*
- 21st Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Bury, Lancashire) - *See: Bury Home Guard Band*
- 21st West Riding Home Guard Brass Band** (Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire (West Riding)) - *See: Sowerby Bridge Subscription Band*
- 22nd Kent Home Guard Brass Band** (Tunbridge Wells, Kent) - *See: Tunbridge Wells Home Guard Band*
- 22nd West Riding Home Guard Brass Band** (Brighouse, Yorkshire (West Riding)) - *See: Brighouse Home Guard Brass Band*



**25th West Riding Home Guard Brass Band** (Huddersfield, Yorkshire (West Riding)) -

**26th Battalion (B Coy) Home Guard Band** (Golcar, Yorkshire (West Riding)) - *See: Golcar Subscription Band*

**26th Battalion (C Coy) Huddersfield Home Guard Band** (Lockwood, Yorkshire (West Riding)) - *See: Lockwood Brass Band*

**27th Staffordshire Home Guard Band** (Walsall, Staffordshire) - [previous name of current band] *See: Staffordshire Band*

**27th Warwickshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Birmingham, Warwickshire) - *See: Birmingham Zone Home Guard Brass Band*

**28th Kent Home Guard Brass Band** (Orpington, Kent) - *See: Orpington Silver Band*

**29th Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Burnley, Lancashire) - [previous name of current band] *See: Burnley Alliance Silver Band*

**30th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard Band** (Lancashire) - *See: Accrington Home Guard Band*

**32nd Lancashire Battalion Home Guard Band** (Bacup, Lancashire) - *See: Bacup Home Guard Band*

**35th Cheshire Home Guard Brass Band** (Mossley, Cheshire) - *See: St John's (Mossley) Band*

**36th Cheshire Home Guard Band** (Hyde, Cheshire) - *See: Hyde Home Guard Band*

**38th Cheshire Battalion Home Guard Brass Band** (Stockport, Cheshire) - Active during WW2 *See: Stockport Home Guard Brass Band*

**41st Battalion Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Prestwich, Lancashire) - *See: Prestwich Home Guard Brass Band*

**43rd Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Salford, Lancashire) - *See: Salford Home Guard Brass Band*

**43rd Warwickshire Home Guard Band** (Longbridge, Warwickshire) - *See: Longbridge Home Guard Band*

**48th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard Band** (Levenshulme, Lancashire) - *See: Levenshulme Home Guard Band*



**49th Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Manchester, Lancashire) - *See: Crossley Brothers Brass Band*

**50th Duke of Lancaster's Home Guard Brass Band** (Ancoats, Lancashire) - *See: Ancoats Home Guard Brass Band*

**60th Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Heywood, Lancashire) - *See: Heywood Home Guard Brass Band*

**60th Lancashire Home Guard Brass Band** (Radcliffe, Lancashire) - *See: Radcliffe Home Guard Brass Band*

**64th Battalion Lancashire Home Guard Band** (Middleton, Lancashire) - *See: Middleton Home Guard Band*

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## Further information

- The Home Guard - <https://www.home-guard.org.uk>
- The Home Guard of Great Britain - <http://www.staffshomeguard.co.uk>

Various books and articles have been produced for specific Home Guards or county battalions. The following are more general works

- Atkin, Malcolm - *To the Last Man: The Home Guard in War and Popular Culture* - Pen & Sword Military, 2019. ISBN: 978-1526745934
- Brophy, John - *Britain's Home Guard: A Character Study* - Harrap, 1945
- Carroll, David - *Dad's Army: The Home Guard 1940-1944* - The History Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0752449463
- Clarke, Dale - *Britain's Final Defence: Arming the Home Guard, 1940-1944* - The History Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0750967310
- Cook, Arthur - *An Illustrated History of the Home Guard: From the LDV of 1940 to Stand Down in 1944* - Halsgrove, 2011. ISBN: 978-0857041050
- Cullen, Stephen - *In Search of the Real Dad's Army: The Home Guard and the Defence of the United Kingdom 1940 - 1944* - Pen & Sword Military, 2016. ISBN: 978-1473878228
- Graves, Charles - *The Home Guard of Britain* - Hutchinson & Co., London, 1943
- Hickin, William F. - *Fire force: a short organisational history and directory of the National Fire Service of 1941 to 1948* - WFH Publications, London, 2013. ISBN: 978-0957490406
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- Storey, Neil R. - *The Home Guard* - Shire Publications, 2009. ISBN: 978-0747807513
- Summerfield, Penny & Peniston-Bird, Corinna - *Contesting Home Defence: Men, Women and the Home Guard in the Second World War* - Manchester University Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0719062025