

Derry's Military Band

A Favourite Combination
with 3YA Listeners

ONE of the finest bands heard over the air in New Zealand is Derry's Military Band, of Christchurch, which broadcasts regularly from 3YA. The band, which bears the name of its founder, Mr. E. Derry, who for very many years was its conductor and musical director, gave its first public performance at the demonstration for the relief of Mafeking in 1901.

For the past six months, while under the musical direction of Lieutenant H. Gladstone Hill, the band has made excellent progress, both musically and numerically, until at the present time it has its full complement of sixty-three playing members, making it the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. When in Christchurch recently with the Young Australia League Band, the director (Professor B. W. Paten, formerly of the Scots Guards) said that the playing of Derry's Band was the finest of all military bands he had heard in Australia or New Zealand.

The instrumentation is as follows:—1 flute-piccolo, 1 oboe, 1 Eb clarinet, 7 first clarinets, 3 second clarinets, 2 third clarinets, 1 Eb alto clarinet, 1 bass clarinet, 2 soprano saxophones, 2 Eb alto saxophones, 2 Bb tenor saxophones, 2 Eb baritone saxophones, 4 horns, 5 first

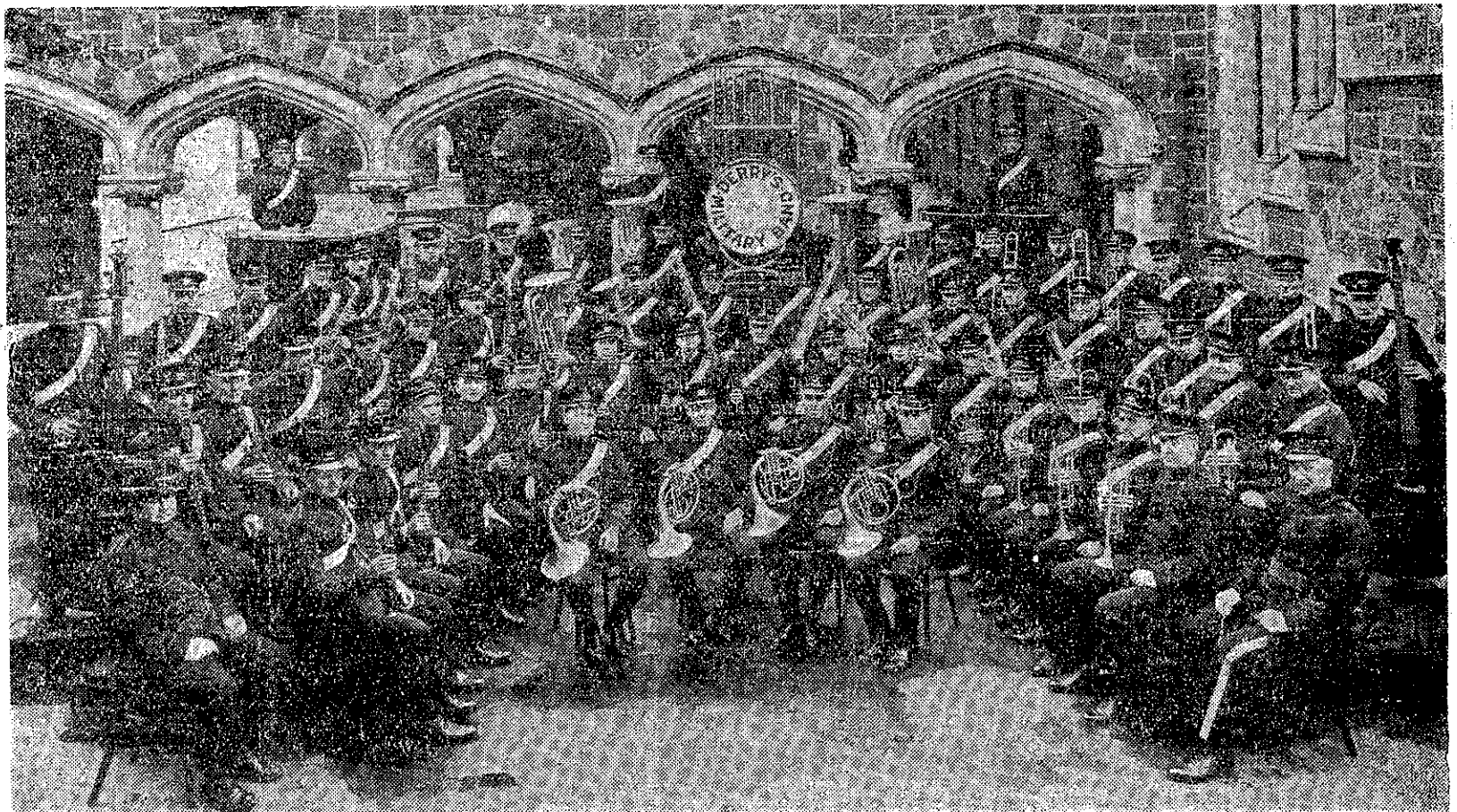
trumpets/cornets, 1 repiano, 2 second cornets/flugal, 2 third cornets/flugal, 2 baritones, 6 trombones (4 tenor, 2 bass), 3 euphoniums, 2 Eb basses, 1 Bb bass, 2 BBb basses, 2 string basses, 3 drummers, tympani, xylophone, etc.

Lieutenant Hill, musical director and conductor of Derry's Military Band, is well known throughout the Dominion, not only as a musician but as an organiser. He has had a very wide musical experience during the past forty-five years.

After many years' band experience Lieutenant Hill turned his attention to orchestral and vocal avenues, believing that a thorough knowledge of both, particularly vocal, was essential to good band playing. He is a great believer in contests and competitions, claiming that they provide the opportunity necessary for the discovery of young talent. In 1923 at the Hamilton Competitions he secured first prize in the Grand Choir contest; while in Wellington the same year, with Roiland Foster, of the Sydney Conservatorium, (Continued on page 22).



Lieutenant H. Gladstone Hill.



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—Photos. by Green and Hahn.