

ENFIELD BAND TOUR OF AUSTRALASIA 1980.

Wednesday August 27, 1980. After many months of preparation the moment of departure from Enfield S.A. Hall had finally arrived. It seemed hardly credible that we were to depart from England for four weeks. After checking through customs the massive Boeing 747 awaited us on the tarmac. The size of this machine was awe-inspiring, especially when one realises that the first ever flight travelled less distance than the inside of the 747 fuselage. The travelling time door to door was in all 48 hours, with four stops en route - Bahrain, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Darwin. We had to wait a few hours in Sydney before we were once again in another Boeing 747 bound for Auckland, arriving at 2.30 local time. Just to make us feel welcome, this 747 to New Zealand had the registration ECB. On arrival at Auckland we were welcomed by about 20 Salvationists from various Corps who had taken time off to greet us. All luggage being checked at Auckland Congress Hall the band unpacked all their instruments and rehearsed for an hour. Our tour leader Major Idwal Evans spoke with us and quoted a well known phrase, 'Christ's Disciples being sent unto the uttermost parts of the earth'.

Saturday August 30. The following morning we were transported to the Haymarket Theatre for a second rehearsal which left the majority of the afternoon free for sight-seeing. A march was held through the main thoroughfare to the theatre. Enfield was preceded by the local citizens contesting band. A capacity audience received us with tremendous enthusiasm. The evening's festival contained many popular items including the cornet solo 'Song of Exultation' and the euphonium solo 'Euphony' both played with permission of the International Music Council. There were several old friends present, including Frank Lyndon and Harry Cheshire who once played in the band at Tottenham.

Sunday August 31. The day's meetings were held in the Town Hall, and the Divisional Commander had arranged the event to take the form of a local Congress in which all the surrounding Corps joined together for this one special occasion, with Enfield as the guests. The town had certainly been taken over by the Army for not only was there music being played and sung throughout the whole of the day in the Town Hall, but other bands were also taking part in open air witness to encourage and invite people to our services. Capacity

crowds filled this large hall throughout the day. As a prelude, the band played 'They shall come from the East', the fine acoustics of the building were immediately apparent and the warm tone of the band bringing a lovely atmosphere to commence our first Holiness meeting of the tour. Band Sergeant Ray Wilson gave his own personal witness and spoke of his commitment not only to the Salvation Army, but to Christ. The afternoon festival commenced with 'Spirit of Joy'. The trombone solo 'Word of Grace', played with much sensitivity by Bandsman Michael Savage was extremely well received. The festival concluded with the symphonic variations 'My Strength, My Tower'. In the evening following a march of witness, Michael Savage spoke of his Father's conversion to Christianity, and hoped that his own method of witnessing through Salvation Army brass bands would attract people to the Christian message. The glorious start to the overseas campaign was exemplified with the registration of three seekers at the conclusion of the Salvation meeting. An after meeting was provided by the band, commencing with a bridging selection 'Hold Thou my Hand'. Keith Hutchinson then played 'Cornet Rhapsody' his fine sound filling the large Town Hall. Deputy Bandmaster Peter Wise produced some brilliant playing in the solo 'Better World'. The after meeting was concluded by 'Quintessence' for which the entire congregation gave the band a standing ovation.

Talking with various people at the conclusion, it was remarked that the Enfield Band communicated with the congregation not only through the enthusiasm they displayed when playing, but through everything they did and said.

Monday September 1. Lunch was provided at the local S.A. Hotel during which letters of greeting were exchanged between the Deputy Lord Mayor of Auckland and Enfield's own Mayor. A Wedding Anniversary card was presented to Major Idwal Evans, much to his surprise for he had forgotten to send a similar card to his wife. Fortunately, because of the time difference he was able to return the message and still be on time.

The coach journey from Auckland to Rotorua took the band through extremely scenic countryside, and winding roads very similar to Scotland or North Wales. The evening was kept free for the bandsmen to visit a Maori meeting house where the local Maori people treated the bandsmen and other visitors to a demonstration of Maori dance and song. Questions directed to the leader of the group revealed that the culture and dances are allegorical and symbolic. The evening provided a welcome respite for the bandsmen, and they took full opportunity to let their hair down during the entertainment.

Tuesday September 2. The band was treated to sightseeing at the Rainbow and Fairy Springs, this is a sub-tropical park in which many ferns and trees unknown to the British tourist were seen, and which also incorporated a trout farm. The animals which inhabited this park, it was said, had been introduced by the early settlers of New Zealand. Because of the conducive climate these animals had become a pest, consequently each wild animal could be hunted one month of the year.

Before lunch the band marched through the town of Rotorua to the municipal buildings for a civic reception with the local district Mayor. During this march the band were recorded by the local radio station, and afterwards the Bandmaster and Michael Savage were interviewed on their thoughts of New Zealand in particular, and the reasons for travelling the country. During the afternoon the band visited the thermal reservoir with geysers, mud pools and boiling hot springs. The thermal reservoir also included a Maori culture house in which students and apprentices of the Maori race learn the skills of their forefathers in carving, skirt production and sculpture.

The programme for the evening commenced with 'Invincible Army', and the band's soloists for the evening were Keith Hutchinson and Michael Savage. The rendition of 'Red Shield' and the horn feature 'On the Sunny Side' brought the house down.

Wednesday September 3. During the drive to Gisborne, Major Idwal Evans spent 10 minutes talking to the bandsmen in a Bible study which became a continued feature for most of the tour. At lunch time we were met by a farmer who had taken time away from his responsibilities to show the band around his farm. His demonstration with sheep dogs was an education. Lunch was provided by the farmer and his neighbour and was a feast of home produced food. On arrival at Gisborne the band was given a traditional Maori welcome outside their meeting house. After the customary speeches had been made by the Maori leaders and the leader of the tour, each bandsman in turn was presented to the Maori elders in a traditional manner by a hand shake and the twice touching of noses.

The majority of the arrangements for the band's visit to Gisborne had been overseen by Bandsman Ian Dunsmore who had been a member of the band at Tottenham whilst visiting England. The band's programme commenced with the march 'Crusaders', continued with 'Songs of the Morning', and the cornet solo 'Tucker'. The customary ease displayed by Bandsman Richard Martin produced enthusiastic applause. The programme also included the euphonium solo

'Better World', and continued with a spirited performance of 'Ratcliffe Highway'.

Thursday September 4. The journey to Napier was one of the most torturous endured by the band so far because of the winding roads which took the coach through extremely scenic countryside. On arrival at Napier the band gave an open air concert on the sea front, and the Bandmaster was interviewed by the local Press. The programme at this venue consisted of mostly light numbers and selections from the journals. After lunch the Bandmaster and John Hill left for a local radio broadcast and interview.

The band travelled on to Hastings for the evening festival and was met by Colonel Dinsdale Pender. Before the band played, the local Mayor welcomed his visitors to the country. The concert commenced with 'Red Shield' played in the band's traditional way. By this time the band had obtained quite a following. A remark made by Songster Leader Mahaffie was that other bands which had toured his country, while providing a large repertoire in their brochure, seemed only to play a limited number. He was delighted and amazed that there was very little repetition in Enfield's programme to date. The items included during the evening were the arrangement of Greig's 'Last Spring', the trombone solo 'Eternal Quest', and the now increasingly popular march by John Larsson 'It's New'. The concluding items were 'Quintessence', and 'Heralds of Victory'.

Friday September 5. The short drive to Palmerston North was broken by lunch being provided by Salvationists at Dannevierke. Unfortunately because of the inclement weather the band could not play and march through the local town, but they did sing to the Salvationists after refreshment.

It is worth recording at this point the full programme to show the readers how the band was building it's stamina for the weekend at Wellington.

Celebration
Magic Flute
Cornet Solo - Tucker
Euphonium Solo - The Swan
Band Song
Kaleidoscope
St. Peter
Symphony of Thanksgiving
Horn Feature - On the Sunny Side
Song of the Eternal
March - Red Shield
The Manger Scene

Many kind remarks were said of the band's clarity of technique, sound, and it's full range of dynamics.

Saturday September 6. The City of Wellington is only a short drive from Palmerston North which gave the bandsmen opportunity to prepare themselves and relax before the evening's festival. At last, being in the capital City of New Zealand and at the famous Wellington Citadel Corps the band felt as though they had really arrived, and had to play to the expectations of the home bandsmen. Following the tradition of the International Staff Band, and the Wellington Citadel Band was a challenging prospect, and each bandsman felt that to produce anything less than their best would disappoint the congregation, themselves and the Bandmaster. The opening two numbers of the programme, the march 'Sound of the Gospel' and the ever popular 'Army of the Brave' were played at a cracking pace, and hardly had the applause died than Bandsman Keith Hutchinson produced a memorable performance of 'Rhapsody for Cornet'. One of the pieces for which the band has become famous concluded the first part of the programme, the Tocatta 'Oh the Blessed Lord'. The bandsmen felt the playing had probably not been bettered, and the performance was warmly and generously received.

Many will know of the band's method of proclaiming the word of God during the middle part of the programme, and after the reading and short talk from Major Idwal Evans, the band produced a sensitive performance of 'Guardian of our Way'.

The last part of the programme commenced with the march 'Redcliffe', an old but traditional march. Deputy Bandmaster Peter Wise then played 'Euphony'. The final item of the planned programme was 'The Lord is King'. The bandsmens enthusiasm for this composition was clearly evident in it's playing and brought prolonged applause. To conclude, the band played 'Red Shield' and 'Heralds of Victory' to the cheering crowd, and despite cries of 'more' the Bandmaster declined. In the band room afterwards, many congratulations were given by the Wellington folk.

Sunday September 7. The morning activity in the form of bandsmens councils commenced at Wellington South Corps with the visitors, the home Band, and Wellington Citadel Band. This was followed by the Holiness meeting during which Fathers in the band were recognised as greetings from their children were read (it being Fathers day). During the meeting Bandsman Kevin Dallas related a moving account of his forebears conversion and witnessed to the presence of Christ in his life.

The home Songster Brigade contributed during the meeting and it was felt by all that the day's worship had started well.

The afternoon festival was given in the Citadel. After 'Spirit of Joy' and a lively 'Jesus Folk', Richard Martin played 'Song of Exultation', the excitement of the music being shared by the crowd. Despite being extremely poorly, Michael Savage played 'Word of Grace' and the first part concluded with 'Quintessence'.

The second half commenced with 'It's New', and the euphonium solo 'Rondo' played by Kevin Dallas, well known to British folk for the performance given by Gordon Hildreth during Wellington Citadel's World Tour. The final item was 'My Strength, My Tower'. Retired Bandmaster H. Neeve was then invited to lead the band in the concluding 'Invincible Army'. This was a reciprocal gesture by our own Bandmaster who had conducted the Wellington Band during their visit to Regent Hall.

Tea was taken in the rooms of the City Cathedral with the Wellington Citadel bandsmen. It was during this hour that much fellowship was enjoyed and shared. Many gained real insight into the workings of the Citadel Band over the decades and realised that the methods and goals of this band was no different from Enfield. The older bandsmen related a number of stories concerning Bandmaster H. Neeve, reminiscent of Bandmaster James Williams. It was remarkable to see the similarities of these two men, the way they behaved and trained their bands.

The evening meeting led by Major Idwal Evans included the band playing 'How charming is Thy Name', a word of personal witness by Bandsman Philip Wilson, and a contribution by the Songster Brigade, 'Precious Jesus'.

An 'after meeting' is a common feature in New Zealand and that day was to be no exception. Commissioner Dean Goffin conducted his own march 'Crusaders' and obviously enjoyed the experience. The two cornet soloists played 'To set the people free', Peter Wise played 'Better World', and the climax for the evening was a sparkling performance of 'Kaleidoscope'. Following a standing ovation led by Bandmaster H. Neeve and the Commissioner, the evening was brought to a fitting end by 'Jesus loves me'.

Monday September 8. Our hosts at Wellington provided a most generous sightseeing tour and visit to the Southward Private Motor Museum. The owner remained at the museum in order to show the band around his fine collection. It was clearly evident from the fun he had when conducting the Bandmaster around the cars that this was not only his hobby, but his love.

Part of the Motor Museum had been built as a theatre, and inside was a converted Wurlitzer organ. One of the bandsmen proceeded to demonstrate the number of sound effects which this instrument could produce, during which time the organ turned a full circle and disappeared into the basement of the building. Mr. Southward also showed the moving floor which could tilt and swivel to accommodate a number of events.

Lunch was provided by the generous gesture of the Wellington Corps folk, and fond farewells were said at the airport before the band departed for Sydney en route to Brisbane. On arrival we found the Brisbane City Temple Band on duty and playing at the airport to greet us. This was the first time we had been welcomed in this fashion, and it was certainly much appreciated.

Tuesday September 9. Nearly all the bandsmen of Brisbane City Temple had taken the day off work to treat the bandsmen to a relaxing morning on the Gold Coast. At this venue is an aquarium and amusement park named Sea World where performing sharks, dolphins and other ocean creatures were on view. The temperature on this occasion was 35 degrees centigrade (95 fahrenheit).

We were afterwards taken to the University Concert Hall. It was a pleasure to see Ian Hankey, and he assured us that he would be listening intently during the festival.

The Deputy Premier of Queensland, who is an ardent Christian was present and exchanged greetings before he resumed his seat to enjoy what was later described as a feast of music. The programme opened with the exciting march 'Faith is the Victory' followed by Bruce Broughton's arrangement of songs from the musical 'Hosea'. The first soloist of the evening was Bandsman Keith Hutchinson with a performance of Ray Bowes beautiful cornet solo 'Rhapsody for Cornet and Band'. The second soloist of the evening was Bandsman Michael Savage who despite having attended the Doctor in the morning was in fine form and played with ease and artistry the trombone solo 'Word of Grace'. The first half of the programme concluded with 'Quintessence'.

A feature of the band's programme during the tour was an interval during which the bandsmen were able to meet the people, sell records and brochures, and were often inundated for autographs.

The second half of the programme commenced with the march 'It's New', which became a firm favourite with the crowds throughout the tour. Deputy Bandmaster Peter Wise produced an exhilarating performance of 'Better World'. The final two items of the planned programme proved to be crowd winners, they were 'Songs of Australia' and 'Kaleidoscope'. After prolonged applause the band provided additional items, the cornet ensemble 'Heralds of Victory' and 'Red Shield'.

As a mark of appreciation the audience would not leave their seats, (although the benediction had been said) until the band had left the stage. The people of Brisbane were extremely kind in their remarks about the band and it's playing, and were delighted that a visiting section to their country had made an appearance at their City which is out on a limb and often forgotten.

Wednesday September 10. Immediately on arrival in Sydney, the band was taken to the Cathedral Square to play prior to a lunch-time service. It was strange to see a Cathedral built in the Norman style in a City which only has a history of a few hundred years. Nevertheless, it was a delight and nostalgic moment for the band to play in such a fine building. We were the guests of the Sydney Congress Hall Band who entertained us quite lavishly.

The band were in fine form for the evening's festival which commenced with 'Celebration', and the overture to the 'Magic Flute'. Richard Martin received deserved applause for his performance of 'Song of Exultation' and in contrast the Deputy Bandmaster played Ray Steadman-Allen's arrangement of Saint-Saens 'The Swan'. During the whole of the festival Lt. Colonel Ray Steadman-Allen was very moved at seeing his friends from England and hearing a British brass band sound again. Hanging on every note his concentration and enjoyment were intense. The final item, 'Ratcliffe Highway' was followed by the now traditional and expected 'Red Shield' and 'Heralds of Victory'.

Thursday September 11. The morning was spent touring the Sydney Opera House. Seeing this magnificent structure made each of us well aware of the genius granted to those who had conceived such a building.

A ferry was taken from the Opera House to the North Shore of Sydney Harbour, and lunch was provided by the S.A. at Colloroy which is the home of many music camps. Some of the residents at the adjoining home for the elderly and infirm were not associated with the Army, and were extremely interested to know the reason for 30 men in red blazers descending upon them this Thursday morning. The staff were grateful to the band for singing in benediction 'You must go home by the way of the Cross'.

In the afternoon the band set off by plane to the capital territory of Canberra. The evening festival was held jointly with the Swedish string band. The choice of auditorium for the festival was not well planned for it suited neither brass music nor singing. However, both sections did their best to overcome the leadedness of the acoustics and sought to enjoy themselves and communicate their 'fun' to the audience.

Friday September 12. The band were taken on a tour of the City commencing at the Exhibition Centre, via the telecommunication tower to Canberra South Corps

for lunch. The bandsmen were given an insight into the conception of Canberra before, during, and after it's development. We were astounded that man's mind was able to visualise such a development from the plains and bush of the countryside. On arrival at the Airport for our flight to Melbourne, we found that the aircraft could not take all our luggage. So the most important items, the instruments, travelled with the band, and all the personal luggage travelled on a later flight. After meeting the hosts, everyone joined together at Camberwell Corps for dinner where many new friendships were made and old acquaintances renewed.

Saturday September 13. The programme at the Dallas Brookes Hall commenced with the popular march 'Sound of the Gospel'. This was immediately followed by 'Army of the Brave'. The first soloist of the evening was Bandsman Richard Martin who played 'Song of Exultation'. A complete contrast was given by Michael Savage in the trombone solo 'Word of Grace'. This was played with delicate musicianship, particularly when played in the high register. Major Idwal Evans followed this solo by a Scripture reading and the final piece of the first part was 'Quintessence'.

After the interval the programme continued with the march 'Redcliffe', and the third soloist of the evening, Deputy Bandmaster Peter Wise played 'Euphony'. The Band's song for the evening was the arrangement of three Negro Spirituals, and the programme concluded with the masterly composition by Ray Steadman-Allen 'The Lord is King'. By then the congregation were eagerly awaiting the expected additions to the programme, the march 'Red Shield' and 'Heralds of Victory'. After the programme had concluded, many kind comments were given to the bandsmen and Bandmaster, and included such phrases as clear and precise tonal colours and technique; a full symphonic brass sound. Such remarks are indeed a compliment to a brass combination who have tried not only to give of their best in their own small measure, but to emulate the full brass sound of British contesting bands.

Sunday September 14. The band marched to an old people's home and hospital prior to the morning Holiness meeting. The bandsmen felt much at home in these surroundings as similar activities take place regularly in their home corps.

The afternoon festival was provided by the visitors, together with the Melbourne Staff Band and the Camberwell Band. It was interesting for the bandsmen from Enfield to hear other bands for a change, adding variety to a programme which had been eagerly anticipated. The Camberwell Band played the arrangement 'Through the Blood of the Lamb' which was given a spirited

performance. The Melbourne Staff Band played Eric Ball's 'Song of Courage', and 'A Pilgrim Song'. Both performances were played with enthusiasm and given a warm reception by the crowd. The Enfield bandsmen were encouraged by the singing of the Melbourne Staff Band. Enfield Band played 'Tocatta', 'Jesus Folk' and the soloists for the afternoon were Bandsman Keith Hutchinson and Deputy Bandmaster Peter Wise. All three bands were received by the Lord Mayor of Camberwell who provided an excellent meal over which fellowship was increased between the three bands concerned.

During the evening meeting Major Idwal Evans brought a challenging message and the band played 'How charming is Thy Name'. Before the after meeting the band concluded the Salvation meeting with the selection 'They shall come from the East'. By request the band played 'It's New', the popular selection 'Songs of Australia', and the Rondo from Mozart's 4th Concerto, played by Bandsman Kevin Dallas, the cornet duet 'To set the people free' and the meeting concluded with 'Ratcliffe Highway'.

Monday September 15. The farewells said to the folk of Camberwell were merely 'au revoir' for many relationships would be renewed in Adelaide during the forthcoming Congress. The band travelled to Bendigo and during the afternoon were given a tour of a local pottery.

The bandsmen had been told that the audience for the evening's festival although not large would be enthusiastic and proved to be so as the band played 'Songs of Australia', the cornet duet 'Deliverance' and 'Song of the Eternal'. In fact the response was so great that additional items 'Red Shield', 'Just like John', and a special arrangement of 'The National Anthem' were performed. This must be the first time that any Army band has received applause whistles and cheers for the performance of the British National Anthem.

The following day was to prove a very exhausting one for the bandsmen, for a return journey to Melbourne had to be made for the connecting flight to Adelaide. After our arrival in Adelaide we were surprised and delighted to see that the aircraft were unloading not only the band's instruments but the timpani belonging to Camberwell! The band were taken to Adelaide Town Hall in order to prepare for the festival in the evening. During this time Bandsman Martyn Evans who had left Enfield for Perth Fortress some months previous was pleased to renew friendships.

The band's programme was to be the only festival to take place in Adelaide that evening prior to the Congress, and therefore a packed hall was the order of the day. Not to disappoint the audience the band produced another fine programme of Army music including a number of items which

proved to be popular throughout the tour. The soloists for the evening were Bandsman Keith Hutchinson, Michael Savage and Peter Wise. The programme concluded with Ray Steadman-Allen's magnificent 'The Lord is King'. The congregation still asked for more, and so 'Songs of Australia', 'Red Shield' and 'Heralds of Victory' were performed for the eager and enthusiastic crowd, who gave a standing ovation. This was extremely encouraging to the bandsmen who by now were beginning to feel that they had been away from home and families for many weeks.

The following day was a free one for the bandsmen, except for an evening rehearsal for the tattoo which was to take place on Thursday. Unfortunately, it rained most of the time, and the bandsmen felt extremely sorry for those performers who were taking part and were already rehearsing in the inclement weather in their full uniform.

Thursday September 18 - Centenary Celebrations

The City of Adelaide had been well decorated by the Army for this event, and very few people in the City could have been ignorant of the fact that The Salvation Army were celebrating one hundred years of warfare in their country.

A march of witness was organised through the streets of Adelaide commencing at 10.30 a.m. passing the General en route. After this the General opened the Centenary celebrations in an official ceremony where there were thousands of visitors and civic dignitaries. This took place adjacent to the famous gum tree in the Botanical Gardens of Adelaide where a stone and plaque had been erected to commemorate the start of The Salvation Army in Australia.

The evening took the form of a tattoo with a large number of groups participating. The evening concluded with the massed performers gathered on the grounds of the tennis courts to display the last few items under a canopy of fireworks.

Friday September 19. The Enfield Band's first engagement of the day was an outside bandstand which took place in the precinct of the City Museum. The programme consisted of mainly light numbers. The Bandmaster called a rehearsal during the afternoon for the preparation of the remaining Centenary celebrations.

Saturday September 20. The events commenced with a procession by all sections taking part at the Congress marching through the town centre. Once again the City was brought to a stand-still in order that the Salvationists could pass their General and march towards the centenary village. So many people had requested tickets for Saturday's festival that two performances were given.

Melbourne Staff Band, Sydney Congress Hall, the Swedish String with the Enfield Band were the participants. Commissioner Dennis Hunter was the afternoon chairman, and Commissioner Dean Goffin at night. Enfield Band contributed two items on both occasions. The cornet solo 'Song of Exultation' performed by Bandsman Richard Martin, and Leslie Condon's 'Song of the Eternal'. For those who know the two works in question, to perform them both well needs a great deal of concentration and application; to ask the men to perform them twice to the same standard or even better is an onerous responsibility. However, having had nearly four weeks tour behind them, Enfield were able to equip themselves well and showed the 'Aussies' that this 'pommie' band had something to say and contribute to the musical life of Australia. During the evening's performance, Bandsman Richard Martin played so well that a spontaneous standing ovation was given to him by the performers on the platform. This was a genuine response to an outstanding player. One of the items played by the massed bands was the cornet and trombone ensemble 'Gone my Care'. We were all very much impressed by the Sydney Congress Hall Band under their very capable Bandmaster Barrie Gott.

Sunday September 21. Many venues in the City were being used for worship by Salvationists who had migrated to Adelaide for the weekend. In the afternoon they all joined forces at the famous Adelaide Oval for a rally which must have consisted of at least eight thousand Salvationists and friends. It was gratifying to know that at the conclusion of Sunday night's meeting many seekers throughout the City had rededicated themselves to the service of their Lord. We were on duty at the Festival Theatre for the Salvation meeting led by the General.

Monday September 22. The band's activities commenced with another bandstand which this time took place in Victoria Square, which is in effect a large traffic island with gardens at it's centre.

The evening's festival chaired by the General took place in the Appollo Stadium on the outskirts of Adelaide. This is a basket ball arena, and therefore, not particularly suitable for musical festivals, consequently the vocal items had to be amplified. The General created an informal atmosphere, this being the final festival of the celebrations, and Enfield Band was given pride of place at the centre of the platform. All who had been connected with and supported the band throughout it's tour, and also during the Centenary celebrations, rose to give the men a standing welcome as they took their places on the platform. The band's three items were 'Tocatta', euphonium solo 'Euphony' and 'Ratcliffe Highway'. The New Zealand Youth Band performed the variations on 'Laudate Dominum' and the Camberwell Band played

Bruce Broughton's arrangement of 'Hosea'. Colonel Ray Steadman-Allen was visibly moved and thrilled at the performance of 'Ratcliffe Highway', and he, with the General led the whole congregation of two and a half thousand people in a standing ovation to thank the bandsmen for their tremendous contribution to these celebrations. This was a particularly humbling occasion for the Enfield men who felt proud that their dedicated lives had brought pleasure to so many people.

Tuesday September 23. The final day of the tour had arrived and the band travelled back to Paramatta in Sydney for their concluding festival.

After tea had been served, the bandsmen presented a silver/ivory commemorative baton to Bandmaster James Williams. This was a token of their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of one man without whose efforts the whole tour, and the band in it's present form would not have been possible.

The evening festival took place in a hospital auditorium where many people from all over Australia had travelled to hear the band for the last time before it left Australia's shores. The programme commenced with the 'Southern Cross' and 'Army of the Brave'. The band's first soloist of the evening was Bandsman Keith Hutchinson who performed 'Rhapsody for Cornet'. The evening's performance was most moving and flawless and gave great delight to the listeners. When considering that after four weeks of hard and exacting performances a player can produce such a contribution, and make such an impact upon his listeners, then truly his value to Army music making cannot be estimated. The final item of the first part of the programme was a request for the band to play 'Tocatta'. The second half of the programme commenced with the Bandmaster presenting to Bandmaster Barrie Gott of Sydney Congress Hall a commemorative colour photograph of the band, and then invited him to conduct the march 'Spirit of Joy'. Deputy Bandmaster Peter Wise then played 'Euphony' and the programme concluded with 'The Lord is King'. This work had become a firm favourite with the bandsmen and their enthusiasm was conveyed to the listeners.

Wednesday September 24. Despite an hour and a half delay before the QF1 flight to London departed from Sydney, the bandsmen gave a large cheer as the plane gently sailed upwards into the sky leaving the panorama of Sydney and Australia behind it. The cheer was even louder as the plane touched down at Heathrow some 24 hours later to be met with a damp but welcoming autumn morning.

Many families were already at Heathrow awaiting the band's arrival, and representing IHQ was Captain Trevor Davis. On arrival at Enfield Hall,

only a small number of bandsmen remained on the coach to be welcomed by the Corps Officer and others. Despite this, the welcome was nonetheless sincere and wholehearted, and we all felt glad to think that our journey had been safe, that our mission had been well accomplished and had the blessing of God upon it.

Compiled from material supplied by Stuart Garman.