



Originally issued 1957 – Copyright unknown
Re-mastered 2005 by John Thorpe of Matlock
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Civil Defence Association
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Early in 2005 a CDA member came across one of the parts from this march, aptly subtitled '*Come if ye Dare*'. A copy of the military band set was obtained from the Boosey archive and of the piano version from another member's archive.

It was written by Anthony J Richards FTCL LRAM LGSM ARCM psm in late 1955 or early 1956 after graduating as a Bandmaster on 6 October 1955. At that time he was in an administrative post waiting for his first bandmaster appointment which came on 2 May 1956. It was entered into the competition for a March for the CD Services and won. He retired in 1984 as a Major as Director of Music, The Life Guards, He then served as Lt Colonel, Director of Music, Oman Police Force until 1994. He died in 2002. The only other march known to have been written by him is '*Recce Flight*', the Regimental March of the Army Air Corps.

We understand that the March is based on the following text from King Arthur by John Dryden, Scene II Act 1.

'Come, if ye dare, out trumpets sound
Come, if ye dare, the foes rebound
We come, we come, we come, we come,
Says the double, double, double beat of the thundering drum.

Now they charge on amain,
Now they rally again
The Gods from above the mad labour behold
And pity mankind, that will perish for gold.

The fainting Saxons quit their ground
Their trumpets languish in the sound,
They fly, they fly, they fly, they fly,
Victoria, Victoria the bold Britons cry.

Continued inside

Now the victory is won,
To the plunder we run;
We return to our lasses like fortunate traders
Triumphant with spoils of the vanquished invaders.'

Home Office Civil Defence Circular No: 20/56, issued in June 1956, said 'Many requests have been received that there should be a recognised Civil Defence March to be used at Civil Defence parades and on similar occasions when civil defence services are represented. He (the Secretary of State) has therefore approved for this purpose a march composed by arrangement with the Royal Military School of Music which will be published at the end of August by Messrs Boosey and Hawkes, 295 Regent Street London W.1. under the title "The March of the Civil Defence Services".'

The Secretary of State asks Corps Authorities to seek opportunities to publicise the March and to make use of it as a means of fostering esprit de corps.'

This information was repeated in the Industrial Civil Defence circulars 4/56 para 21 and 7/57 para 10.

Circular CDC 12/57, probably dated around March 1957, announced that a gramophone recording (a '78') was available from Boosey & Hawkes at 6/- (30p) including P&P! Sadly this source could not be verified at the Public Records Office.

We understand that it was played in the 1964 over the MV Dunera (a former troopship) Tannoy system as one of several civil defence cruises entered ports in Holland, Norway, Denmark, Gibraltar, Spain, Portugal, Morocco and Madeira with the Civil Defence and Association of Civil Defence Officers flags flying which must have been something. Our researches suggest that it is likely that the last time it was played in public was at Stand-down parades for the Civil Defence Corps in 1968.

EMI have searched their archive but could find no trace of either the recording or even any record of the recording being made. The British Library have the music but no

recording. A copy could not be found either at Kneller Hall, in the BBC record library or within the Boosey organisation.

The only other reference to The March was within the database of the Performing Rights Society who pointed us to Hawkes & Co (London) Limited who also had it in their database. There are no records anywhere of a commercial recording having been made. We are most grateful for all the efforts made by many people in this search.

However, we now know that it was recorded twice, presumably during the latter part of 1956, by the Student Band of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. The first was by the BBC conducted by the School Bandmaster Rodney Bashford (who was later DOM, Kneller Hall). The second was by EMI during a session recording Regimental Marches which were issued as an LP. The conductor was Lt Colonel David McBain and one of the Principal Cornets was Gordon Turner. The Civil Defence march was not used on the LP but this '78' is clearly this recording.

During a chance conversation with another CDA member he mentioned that he had seen a copy of the record in his late father's archive and this copy was found still to exist. It is thought that Holly Cartwright, a long time civil defender in Birmingham who had a very strong sense of history in the making, had 're-located' it to a safe place where it remained untouched until now. Holly died in 1998. It may be that this is the only copy in existence.

The CDA plan to re-issue this recording, together with more modern versions, alongside its book to record the service of Civil Defence volunteers entitled 'A Brief History of Civil Defence' (ISBN 0-9550153-0-8) and make both the book and recordings available as free down-loads from their web-site www.civildefenceassociation.org.uk

For those without broadband a limited number of CD's will be available.

This edition will be offered to complete the archives at such as The British Library.