THE BELGIAN GRENADIERS BAND

Francis Pieters



Band of the Grenadiers Regiment - colored litho by C. Payen. 1854.

A royal decree of May 8, **1837** created a *Régiment de Grenadiers et Voltigeurs réunis* [United regiment of Grenadiers and Voltigeurs] consisting of the elite companies of the twelve Regiments of Line. The new regiment boasted two battalions of Grenadiers and two battalions of Voltigeurs.

A royal decree published on January 1, **1839** definitively broke the links with the old units of Line. And the regiment was called *Régiment d'Élite* [*Elite Regiment*].

On March 5, **1850**, the Voltigeurs companies were transferred to the Chasseurs-Carabiniers Regiment [Riflemen – Carabineers] and the *Elite Regiment* was then renamed the *Régiment de Grenadiers*. Until 1912, it was the only regiment that stood guard at the royal palace. In 1913, following the reorganization of the army, the regiment became the *Ist Grenadier Regiment*.



Saint Elisabeth Barracks Home of the Grenadiers until 1905.

1838

On November 12, **1838** a Royal Decree (nr. 3033) allowed the creation of a military band within the regiment.

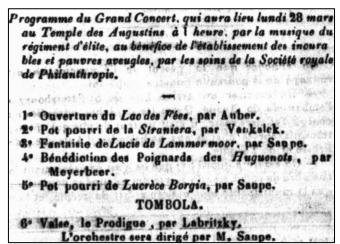
A one-time sum of 2.900 francs is granted to the United Regiment of Grenadiers and Voltigeurs in order to establish a band, and also from November 1, 1838 onwards an annual sum of 6.100 francs for the maintenance of the musicians.¹

German born clarinetist Frédéric-Auguste Saupe was appointed bandmaster on January 1, 1839.

Frédéric-Auguste Saupe (1839-1843)

Saupe (sometimes spelled Saupé) was born at Meuselwitz Thüringen, Germany on May 7, 1809. In 1829 he joined the Band of the Duke of Saxe-Altenburg and stayed four years with that band. In 1834 he moved to Belgium and was enlisted as a solo clarinet player with the Band of the 11th Regiment of the Line. He conducted the Band of the Elite Regiment from January 19, 1839 to January 7, 1843. He also conducted several amateur bands including the "Société d'Harmonie de l'Union" of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean, the "Société d'Harmonie" of Vilvoorde and the fanfare band "Les "Pélissiers" of Binche where he taught many young musicians, including the composer Louis Canivez. Frédéric-Auguste Saupe died at Hantes Wihéries on October 17, 1869.

The Band regularly played concerts at the Temple des Augustins and Saupe often performed as clarinet soloist.² He conducted several of his arrangements including *Introduction de Gemma di Vergy* (Donizetti), *Pot-pourri du Brasseur de Preston* (Adolphe Adam), *Final de la Juive* (Fromental Halévy) and *Fantaisie de Lucie de Lammermoor* (Donizetti) and some own compositions such as *Revue Musicale*.



Jean-Martin Schmidt (1843-1848)

Jean-Martin Schmidt, also German-born, succeeded Saupe as conductor on January 8, 1843. Martin Schmidt was born on December 31, 1786 at Waldau, Brandenburg. He participated in the Russian Campaign with the Westphalian Guard. Schmidt, who was a fine trombone player, joined the Belgian Army in 1834. From October 1, 1834 to December 10, 1842 he conducted the Band of the 10th Regiment of the Line. After having conducted the Band of the Elite Regiment for five years he took his pension on April 1, 1848. Schmidt also succeeded Saupe as conductor of the "Société d'Harmonie l'Union" of Molenbeek in April 1845.

¹ Journal Militaire Officiel 1838, pp. 368-369.

² L'Indépendance Belge, March 3, 1842, p. 3.

A Royal decree of January 31, 1845 stipulated the introduction of the bearskin-cap for the Grenadiers Regiment.

The Band continued to play (mostly philanthropic) concerts at the Temple des Augustins and on the bandstand in the Park of Brussels. The programs included mainly arrangements and transcriptions by Belgian military band conductors including Van Calck, Valentin Bender, Louis Zetsche etc.

GRAND CONCERT PUBLIC Donné par l'excellente musique du régiment d'élite. PROGRAMME. 1. Ouverture de Reissinger. — 20 Pot-pourri de Bélisaire, de Donizetti, arrangé par Zetzsche. — 50 Grande fantaisie dramatique de l'opéra des Martyrs, de Donizetti, arrangée par M. Snel. — 40 Pot-pourri de l'opéra de Mosse, de Rossini, arrangée par Van Calk. — 50 Valse de Zander.

Concert at the Palais Ducal, February 2, 1848

Louis Ulser (1848)

When Schmidt retired on April 1, 1848 no successor had been appointed. Apparently a certain Louis Ulser was put in charge as conductor ad interim as he conducted a concert by the band on April 9, 1848.³ On May 25, 1848 a jury composed of François-Joseph Fétis⁴, Joseph Daussoigne⁵, Joseph-François Snel⁶, Charles Hanssens⁷ and Valentin Bender⁸ was made up to choose a new conductor for the *Musique du Régiment d'Elite*.⁹

Apparently no candidate was selected as M. Louis (probably Louis Ulser) was still conductor at the concert of July 16, 1848. Mind the program boasted two première performances.

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A l'occasion de la kermesse de Bruxelles, le corps de nusique du régiment d'élite donnera demain dimanche, i heure, dans le kiosque du Parc, un grand concert, ont voici le programme:

1º Marche triomphale sur le chant du Belge, par Bouillon (1º exécution).

2º Fantaisie sur deux motifs de Don Sébastien, par nel (1º exécution).

3º Pot-pourri de Robert le Diable, par Snel.

4º Concertante sur deux motifs de Bélisaire, pour ornet et trombone, par Snel (1º exécution).

5º Grande valse, par Labitski.
Le concert sera dirigé par M. Louis.
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⁴ Composer and music critic François-Joseph Fétis (1784–1871) was director of the Brussels Royal Conservatory

³ L'Indépendance Belge, April 9, 1848, p. 4.

since 1833.

⁵ The French composer Joseph Daussoigne-Méhul (1790–1875) was the first director of the Royal Conservatory of Liège from 1826–1862.

⁶ The Belgian violinist, conductor, teacher, and composer Joseph-François Snel (1793-1861), inspector of army music schools (1829), conducted the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie Orchestra and the Société Royale de la Grande Harmonie.

⁷ The Belgian composer, violoncellist and composer Charles Louis Hanssens (1802-1871) succeeded Snel as conductor of La Monnaie and the Grande Harmonie.

⁸ Conductor, clarinetist and composer Jean-Valentin Bender (1801–1873) was the founder and first conductor of the Belgian Guides Band (1832-1873).

⁹ L'Indépendance Belge, May 18, 1848, Journal de Bruxelles, May 18, 1848, p.1 & L'Organe des Flandres, May 19, 1848, p. 1.

¹⁰ Journal de la Belgique : pièces officielles et nouvelles des Armées, July 15, 1848, p. 3.



Another contest to select a conductor or the *Musique du Régiment d'Élite* was organized on November 24, 1848 and on November 29 the jury, consisting of Fétis, Snel, Bender, Blaes¹¹ and Dhans, unanimously choose Jean Meissner, musician of the Musique du Régiment d'Élite, as new conductor for the Band.¹² However Jean Meissner (1815-1905), musician with the Musique du Régiment d'Élite from 1839 to 1848, did not accept the function. He became bandmaster of the Band of the 7th Regiment of the Line which he conducted from 1849 to 1876. Louis Ulser continued the interim and conducted still three concerts in March 1849.

A new and hopefully successful contest to select a conductor became urgent as one could read in the press:

« Depuis deux ans le corps de musique du régiment d'élite se trouvait sans chef en titre nonobstant les concours qui ont eu lieu pour cette place. Nous apprenons que c'est M. Schroeder, chef de musique au 7° de ligne, qui vient d'être engagé pour passer en cette qualité au régiment d'élite, après la période du camp de Beverloo. »¹³

[For two years the band of the elite regiment had been without a titular conductor despite the contests organized for that purpose. We learn that it is Mr. Schroeder, conductor of Band of the 7th Regiment of the Line, who has just been appointed in this capacity with the elite regiment, after the period of the camp of Beverlo.]

Jean-Christophe Schröder was selected and left his conductorship of the Band of the 7th Regiment of the Line to Jean Meissner.¹⁴

Jean-Christophe Schröder (1849-1859)



Grenadiers 1845.

Jean-Christophe Schröder¹⁵ was born on September 18, 1800 in Leiden, The Netherlands. He enlisted as a musician with the Swiss Regiment nr. 33 of the Dutch Army on May 20, 1818 but left this regiment on April 1, 1819 and joined the Band of the Swiss Regiment nr. 30 (July 1819 – December 1824). From January 1, 1825 to December 31, 1828 he was musician with the 5th Infantry Regiment of the French Royal Guard¹⁶ and from March 7, 1829 to December 25, 1839 he was bandmaster of the French 3rd Light Infantry Regiment (3° *Régiment d'Infanterie Légère*). On August 6, 1840 he became bandmaster of the Belgian 7th Regiment of the Line at Bruges where he also conducted the local Philharmonie. Finally he was appointed bandmaster of the Régiment d'Élite on September 1, 1849.

¹¹Arnold Joseph Blaes (1814-1892) principal clarinettist at the court and professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatory made successful concert tours all over Europe and instructed Russian military bands during two years.

¹² Journal de Bruxelles, November 22, 1848, p. 2 & November 30, 1848, p. 1.

¹³ Journal de la Belgique, August 2, 1849, p. 4.

¹⁴ Journal de Belgique: pièces officielles et nouvelles des Armées, September 28, 1849, p. 4.

¹⁵ Often spelled Schroeder.

¹⁶ There was again a Royal army in France during the Restoration (1814-1830).

On September 3, 1849, Schroeder was welcomed as new conductor by the musicians of the band:

« M. Schroeder, récemment nommé chef de la musique du régiment d'élite, a été reçu à son arrivée à Bruxelles par les musiciens de ce corps qui lui ont offert lundi dernier un banquet, où ont été portés plusieurs toasts. »¹⁷

[Mr. Schroeder, recently appointed bandmaster of the elite regiment, was welcomed on his arrival in Brussels last Monday by the musicians of this band who offered him a banquet, at which several toasts were given.]

Under Schroeder's conductorship the Band continued to play concerts at the Temple des Augustins, but also at the Brussels Zoological Gardens, at the Brussels Botanic Gardens, at the Royal Palace at Laken and on the bandstands at the Brussels Park and the Market Place. The Band also performed at several other Belgian cities such as Ghent and Antwerp.

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Temple des Augustins. - Matinée musicale et tombola du
dimanche 24 mars 1850, à 1 heure, au profit des pauvres de l'Hospice des
vieillards aveugles incurables et de la Crèche.
  Concert donné par la musique du régiment d'élite sous la direction de
M. SCHRODER, avec la coopération généreuse de MII. EUGÉNIE DE PAUW,
cantatrice, et M. DESMET, trombone.
                             PROGRAMME.
  1. Marche triomphale par
                                                          W. Schulthes.
  2. Ouverture du Val d'Andore
   Cavatine chantée par Mile Eug. Be PAUW
                                                          Bellini.
  4. Première fantaisie sur la Favorite .
                                                          Schroder.
 5. Air varié pour trombone, exécuté par M. DESMET.
                                                          Van Calck.
 6. Bénédiction des poignards .
                                                          Schroder.
  7. Romance chantée par Mile Eug. De Pauw .
                                                         Lanner.
  Immédiatement après le concert on tirera la tombola. Le local sera convena-
blement chauffé.
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On March 5, 1850 the name of the Régiment d'Élite changed into Régiment de Grenadiers and subsequently the name of the Band changed into *MUSIQUE DES GRENADIERS*. ¹⁸ Yet this name change was not applied immediately and the Band was still mentioned under its old name in the press until halfway 1851. ¹⁹

At a concert by the Band at the Société Royale de Zoologie in June 1858, unexpectedly attended by the Royal Family, the Band twice played Rossini's *Le Rendez-vous de Chasse*, next to the national anthem *La Brabançonne* at the King's arrival and departure.²⁰

Next to the marches *Mon Plaisir*, *Tivoli*, *Le Congrès de Paris* and *Le Bosphore*, the dirges *L'Hiver* and *Cyprès*, Schroeder composed several pieces for wind band including *Un Soir d'été au Château*, *Quadrille* and *Potpourri sur des airs suisses*, *Polonaise* and also wrote numerous arrangements of pieces by Meyerbeer, Donizetti, Verdi and other contemporary composers, published by Le Métronome in Brussels.

Jean-Christophe Schroeder retired on March 29, 1859 and died at Brussels on October 18, 1860.²¹ The Grenadiers Band led the funeral procession on October 10.²²

¹⁷ L'Indépendance Belge, September 7, 1849, p. 2. & Den Vaderlander, September 9, 1849, p. 1.

¹⁸ L'Indépendance Belge, March 23, 1850, p. 1.

¹⁹ L'Indépendance Belge, March 24, 1850 p. 3

²⁰ Journal de Bruxelles, June 16, 1858, p. 2.

²¹ L'Indépendance Belge, October 10, 1860, p. 1.

²² Journal de la Belgique, October 21, 1860, p. 2.



Jean-Georges Gerêt (1859-1860)

The third bandmaster of the Musique des G²renadiers was also a German.

Jean-Georges Gerêt was born on April 19, 1832 at Schwabach, Bavaria. He was appointed bandmaster of the Belgian Grenadiers Band on April 1, 1859. He also made several arrangements for the Band such as Fantaisie du Pardon de Ploërmel (after Meyerbeer), Fantaisie sur l'opéra Stradella (Flotow), Motifs sur l'opéra des Porcherons pour piston (Grisar), Preciosa Ouverture (Weber), Air de Nabuchodonosor (Verdi), Wittelsbacher - schottisch, L'Incendie galop (Stasny) and he composed a Revue Musicale.

Gerêt died unexpectedly at Vilvoorde in June 1860, only aged 27.²³

Voici le programme du concert d'harmonie militaire qui sera donné au Jardin Zeologique par le corps de musique du régiment des grenadiers, le mardi 30, sous la direction de M. Gérêt:

1. Felsen-Muhle, ouverture (Reissiger) 2. Fantaisie sur l'opéra Stradella, de Flotow (Gérêt); 5. Valse (Gung'l); 4. Airs suisses, variations (Schroeder); Polka-mazurka (Schroder); 6. Fantaisie sur l'opéra, le Pardon de Ploermel, de Meyerbeer (Gérêt); 7. L'incendie, galop de Stasny (Cérêt).

Constantin Bender (1860-1897)

After Gerêt's untimely decease he was very swiftly replaced by clarinetist Constantin Bender, son of Jacques Bender and nephew of Valentin Bender. On June 18, 1860 he conducted his first concert with the Grenadiers Band:

« Le corps de musique des grenadiers a joué au Parc, hier, sous la direction de son nouveau chef M. Bender, neveu de M. le directeur de la musique des guides. »²⁴

The Grenadiers Band played at the park yesterday under the direction of its new leader Mr. Bender, nephew of the conductor of the Guides band].

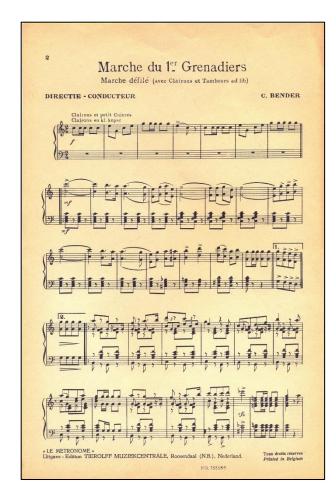
Constantin Bender was born on November 12, 1826 at Sint Niklaas. Aged fifteen he enlisted as a drummer-boy with the 10th Regiment of the Line on November 16, 1841 and became a clarinetist with the band of the same regiment on December 16, 1848. On January 26, 1849 he joined the Band of the 1st Regiment of the Line as a solo clarinetist. On July 1, 1860 he was appointed bandmaster of the Musique des Grenadiers. Next to several marches such as Franklin, Le Vainqueur, Le Bienfaiteur, Hommage à l'Armée, Allegro Militaire (from La Petite Mariée by Lecocq) and *Hommage à Saint-Nicolas*, Constantin Bender composed the *March of* the 1st Grenadiers Regiment. Moreover he also composed the bolero Alida, the schottische Une Nuit au Château, the galop L'Éveil, Polka-Caprice for cornet (or flute) and band, the polka La Rosée du Matin, Le Comte de Hainaut for flugelhorn and band, Fantaisie Concertante pour divers instruments, Constantine - polka and the Ouverture de Concours, written for a wind band contest at Lille (France) in June 1882. His music was published by Le Métronome (Brussels). His Fantasy on L'Africaine (Meyerbeer) was dedicated to Fétis in November 1866²⁵ and in 1867 he dedicated an *Overture* to the Minister of War, Lieutenant-General Goethals.²⁶

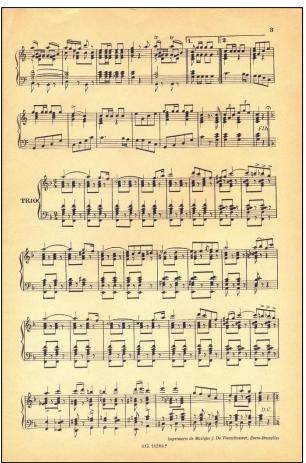
²³ La Meuse, June 8, 1860, p.3.

²⁴ L'Indépendance Belge, June 19, 1860, p. 1.

²⁵ L'Écho du Parlement, November 5, 1866, p. 2.

²⁶ L'Indépendance Belge, May 10, 1867, p. 2, Journal de Bruxelles, May 11, 1867, p. 2, L'Écho du Parlement, May 10, 1867, p. 2 & L'Étoile Belge, May 10, 1867, p. 4.

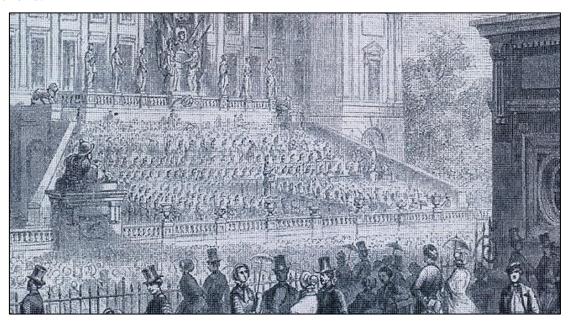






Constantin Bender.

On September 25, 1861, the Grenadiers Band participated in a grand concert in front of the Royal Palace. Next to the performance of a *Faust Fantasy*, the band accompanied the massed choirs.²⁷



Serenade in front of the Royal Palace.

Part of the Grenadiers Band participated in the premiere performance of Peter Benoit's *Cantate Patriotique* (also called *Aan de Vlaamsche Gemeente* [To the Flemish Community]. This cantate, on a text by Fr. Wittman, translated into Dutch by Edward Keurvels, was written for large men's choir and brass ensemble consisting of 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, ophicleide, tuba and contrabasses. It was performed by four Brussels choral societies and musicians of the Band of the Grenadiers, a total of 350 performers conducted by Joseph Fischer (1819-1897), choirmaster of the Brussels cathedral.²⁸



Manuscript of the Cantate Patriotique.

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²⁷ L'Indépendance Belge, September 26, 1861, p. 1.

²⁸ Journal de Bruxelles, September 26, 1861, p. 1.

In 1862 the Band of the Grenadiers Regiment also performed as a symphony orchestra; in fact it boasted a wind band section and a symphony section.²⁹

On July 20n 1862 the Band played a concert at the premises of the Grande Harmonie of Antwerp. Two pieces *Un Jour d'été en Norvège* and *Les Fauvettes* were encored.³⁰ Still in July 1862 the press announced a concert tour in The Netherlands before long.³¹ However this concert tour did not happen.

JARDIN ZOOLOGIQUE (6 h. 1/2). Dimanche, 14, concert extraordinaire donné par la musique des grenadiers. Programme: 1° Fra Diavo'o, ouverture (Auber); 2° The British volunteers, quadrille (Sacré); 3° Dividende, valse (Strauss); 4° la Reine de Saba (op. de Gounod), fantaisie (Singèlée); 5° la Rose de mai, polka-mazurka (baron d'Escury); 6° Jérusalem, fantaisie (Verdi); 7° les Gondoliers, valse (Sacré); 8° Grande ouverture-marche composée pour l'inauguration de l'exposition de Londres (Auber); 9° les Baisers, polka (Musard).

Concert program September 14, 1862

On December 5, 1863 the Band was invited to test the acoustics of the new "Salle des Expositions" [Exhibition Hall] where the Peter Benoit Festival was to take place.³²

When Belgium sent an expeditionary corps to Mexico to support the Emperor Maximilian and Empress Charlotte (of Belgium) ³³ Constantin Bender was charged by Baron Vandersmissen, Commander of the Expedition, with the selection of a bandmaster and musicians for a military band which was to join the corps in Mexico. The selection took place at the Grenadiers Barracks on August 8, 1864.³⁴

One newspaper did not really get the real target and wrote about an Imperial Mexican Band that would be:

« ... destinée à ajouter encore, dans les contrées lointaines, à la réputation si brillante déjà qu'ont acquise les artistes et surtout les musiciens belges à l'étranger. »³⁵

[... intended to add yet, in fa away countries, to the already brilliant reputation which artists and especially Belgian musicians have acquired abroad.]

The musicians were recruited both from the army and the civic population. The final selection consisted of a drum-major P.J. Houbart, a sergeant bugler François Crémin and a complete band of 35 musicians with bandmaster Servais Deconinck (1842) and assistant bandmaster Allard.³⁶

²⁹ L'Écho du Parlement, March 24, 1862, p. 2.

³⁰ Journal de la Belgique, July 21, 1862, p. 2.

³¹ *Journal de la Belgique*, July 24, 1862, p. 1, *L'Émancipation*, July 24, 1862, p. 1 & *L'Indépendance Belge*, July 26, 1862, p. 1.

³² L'Étoile belge, December 6, 1863, p. 5.

³³ During the Mexican Expedition, volunteers formed a Belgian legion to fight in the army of Emperor Maximilian, whose wife, Princess Charlotte of Belgium, was the daughter of King Leopold I of Belgium. This legion formed the "Empress Charlotte Regiment", comprising twelve companies divided into two battalions with a total initial strength of one thousand and five men. This legion was severely defeated at the Battle of Tacámbaro on April 11, 1865, but won the Battle of the Loma on July 16, 1865 under the orders of Colonel Alfred van der Smissen. When the regiment was disbanded in December 1866, only 754 men returned to Belgium.

³⁴ *Le Bien Public*, July 29, 1864, p. 2, *La Meuse*, July 28, 1864, p. 2, *De Koophandel*, July 28, p. 2, Journal de Bruxelles, July 29, p. 2 & *L'Émancipation*, July 29, p. 2.

³⁵ L'Écho du Parlement, August 6, 1864, p. 2.

³⁶ Francis Pieters; Van Trompetsignaal tot Muziekkapel, Kortrijk, 1981, p. 69.

On January 31, 1864 the symphony of the Grenadiers Band performed the *Ouverture Dramatique* by Peter Benoit at a benefit concert at the Brussels Jardin Botanique.³⁷

La musique du régiment des Grenadiers a donné dimanche un concert de charité dans la salle du Jardin botanique. Ce corps de musique renferme des artistes de valeur, des solistes distingués, formant un ensemble des mieux conditionnés. L'attrait principal du concert était une ouverture dramatique de Pierre Benoît, parfaitement interprétée par l'orchestre, de même que celle de Guitlaume Tell. La musique des Grenadiers s'était, pour la circonstance, transformée en orchestre symphonique avec le plus grand succès.

Le titre de l'ouverture de M. Benoît indique suffisamment le caractère et les tendances de cette nouvelle œuvre : c'est une conception heureuse, bien inspirée; des motifs larges, pleins de sentiments de poésie d'une mâle énergie s'y dessinent et sont enchâssés avec un art infini dans le cadre étroit où le compositeur s'est renfermé; en un mot, c'est une perle précieuse de plus dans l'écrin mélodieux de M. Benoît.

Une deuxième audition de l'ouverture nous est promise prochai-

nement à l'occasion de l'exécution d'une grande Cantate inédite avec chœurs et orchestre dont elle forme le préambule et dont l'interprétation sera confiée aux mèmes artistes. En rendant compte de ce concert en perspective nous aurons occasion de vérifier notre première impression.

Le Guide Musical, February 4, 1864, p. 2.

This was the preface of a "Cantate Militaire", on a text by Antoine Clesse (1816-1889), written for the Grenadiers Regiment³⁸, the creation of which took place with the Symphony of the Grenadiers Band, the Petty Officers Choir of the Grenadier Regiment and the Choir of the Pupils School at a concert organized by the Royal Brussels Philantropic Society at the Théâtre National du Cirque on March 19, 1864.³⁹

— La Société des Artistes belges organise pour dimanche prochain, 31 courant, son cinquième concert dans la salle d'exposition, au Jardin botanique, qui sera donné par le corps de musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction de M. Constantin Bender. On y entendra la première exécution d'une Ouverture dramatique de M. P. Benoît.

The Band continued the series of concerts at the Brussels Park, the Zoological Gardens and the Temple des Augustins.

The programs of the concerts in 1865 included the following pieces: Robin des Bois (Der Freischütz) overture (von Weber), Sémiramide overture (Rossini), Fantasy on Le Pré-aux-Clercs (Hérold), Marche Indienne from l'Africaine (Meyerbeer/arr. C. Bender), Mélange dramatique sur l'Africaine (C. Bender), Caprice fantastique sur l'Africaine (C. Bender), Fantaisie concertante sur l'opéra I Masnadieri (Schroeder), Fantaisie sur Le Trouvère (G. Verdi), Mélanges sur Guillaume Tell (Rossini), Marche (C. Bender), Hommage à l'Angleterre (Labitzky), Le Couronnement waltz (Lanner), Albion waltz (Sacré), Le Colibri – flute solo (Sellenick), Le Rossignol - polka for piccolo (Steenebrugen).

³⁹ L'Étoile Belge, March 15, 1854, p. 2, L'Écho du Parlement, March 16, 1864, p. 3. & March 22, 1864, p. 2, L'Indépendance Belge, March 23, 1864, p. 2.

³⁷ L'Écho du Parlement, January 30, 1864, p. 2.

³⁸ Jan Blockx, *Peter Benoit*, Brussels, 1904, p. 25.

The 1867 International Military Band Contest at Paris.⁴⁰

In 1864 Napoleon III decided to have an International Exhibition in Paris. The *Grand International Military Music Contest* on Sunday July 21, 1867 was, no doubt, one of the most popular attractions organized during this International Exhibition. Initiator of this contest was the Alsatian composer and musical theorist Jean Georges Kästner (Strasbourg, 1810 – Paris, 1867), author of the famous treaty "*Manuel Général de Musique Militaire à l'usage des Armées Françaises*" [General handbook of Military Music for the use of the French Armies] and composer of several pieces for saxhorn(s) and saxophone(s).

Several European countries were invited to send a military band and finally seven countries (Austria, Bavaria, Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Baden-Württemberg, Russia, Spain and The Netherlands) each sent one band, whereas Prussia sent two bands that would perform as one large band. The host country, France, also delegated two bands. The contest including the composition, of the jury and the list of participating bands was announced in the weekly music magazines *Le Ménestrel* and *Revue et Gazette Musicale 1864 Paris* of the day.⁴¹

The Belgian press mentioned the departure of the Grenadiers Band⁴², but would hardly comment the band's result. In *Le Guide Musical*⁴³ one could read:

La musique des grenadiers peut rivaliser aujourd'hui avec les plus célèbres du genre, et ne tardera pas à les surpasser toutes sous l'impulsion de son vaillant chef. On sait que la musique des grenadiers a été désignée pour prendre part au concours de musique militaire, à Paris; nous avons la conviction qu'elle reviendra victorieuse de cette lutte, à laquelle les meilleures musiques de tous les pays prendront part.

The Contest

The participating bands in order of their appearance at the contest were:

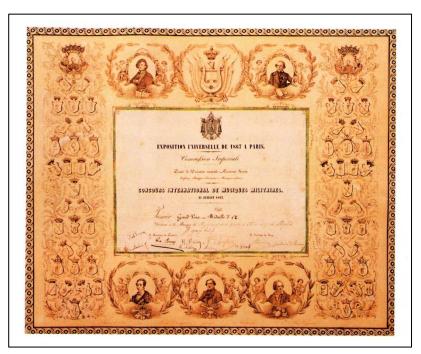
- Grand Duchy of Baden: *Band of the Grenadier Guards* (54 musicians), conductor: Rudolf Burg.
- Spain: Band of the 1st Engineers Regiment (64 musicians), conductor: Maimó.
- Prussia: Combined bands of the 2nd Royal Guard Regiment "2er Garde Regiment zu Fuss" and the Grenadier Guards "Kaiser Franz Garde Grenadiers Regiment Nummer 2" (90 musicians), conductor: Wilhelm Wieprecht –
- Austria: *Band of the 73rd Infantry Regiment* "Albrecht Herzog von Württemberg (76 musicians), conductor: Michael Zimmerman.
- **Belgium**: *Band of the 1st Grenadiers Regiment* (59 musicians), conductor: Constantin Bender.
- Bavaria: *Band of the 1st Infantry Regiment* (51 musicians), conductor: Johann Wilhelm Siebenkäs.
- The Netherlands: *Band of the Grenadiers and Chasseurs* (56 musicians), conductor: François Dunkler Jr.
- France: Band of the Paris Guard "Garde de Paris" (56 musicians). conductor: Jean Paulus.
- Russia: Band of the Mounted Guards (71 musicians), conductor: Anton Dörfeldt.
- France: Band of the Imperial Guides (62 Musicians), conductor: Jules Cressonois.

⁴⁰ Francis Pieters, *The legendary 1867 Military Band Contest in Paris* in WASBE World, March 2012, pp. 8-17.

⁴¹ Le Ménestrel, Sunday July 21, 1867, p. 272 and Revue et Gazette Musicale de Paris, July 21, 1867, p. 231.

⁴² L'indépendance belge, July 19, 1867, p. 1, Le Bien Public, July 19, 1867, p. 2 & L'Emancipation, July 20, 1967, p. 2.

⁴³ Le Guide Musical, May 16, 1867, p. 3.



First Prize Certificate of the Band of the Garde de Paris.

The (Belgian) **Band of the 1**st **Grenadiers Regiment**, conducted by Constantin Bender, consisted of:

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2 flutes – 2 oboes – 2 E flat clarinets – 16 B flat clarinets – 4 saxophones – 4 bassoons – 5 horns – 2 B flat flugelhorns – 2 cornets – 4 trumpets – 4 trombones – 4 B flat tubas – 1 E flat bass saxhorn – 2 bombardons – 3 contrabasses – cymbals – bass drum.
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The jury was composed of Georges Kästner, the German conductor Hans von Bülow (Son-in-law of Franz Liszt), the German musicologist Edouard Hanslick and the French composers Léo Delibes, Ambroise Tomas and Félicien David.

All the bands played the *Overture to Oberon* by Carl Maria von Weber which was the test piece, next to an own choice piece. The Belgian Grenadiers played *Mélanges sur Guillaume Tell* (Rossini).

The result of the contest seemed completely influenced by diplomatic precautions and dictated by political motives as the First Prize was equally attributed to the Band of the Paris Guard, the Prussian band and the Austrian band.

The Band of the Belgian Grenadiers Regiment had to share the fourth (joint) prize with the Spanish band.

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Joint First Prize:
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AUSTRIA: Regiment of the Duke of Württemberg.

PRUSSIA: Combined bands of the 2nd Royal Guard Regiment and the Grenadier Guards.

FRANCE: The Paris Guard.

Joint Second Prize:

FRANCE: The Imperial Guides.

RUSSIA: The Mounted Guards.

BAVARIA: The 1st Infantry Regiment.

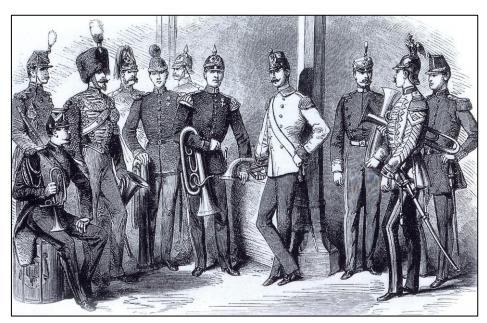
Joint Third Prize:

THE NETHERLANDS: Grenadiers and Chasseurs.

DUCHY OF BADEN: Grenadier Guards.

Joint Fourth Prize:

SPAIN: Engineers Regiment. BELGIUM: 1st Grenadiers Regiment.



The foreign military musicians - L'Illustration August 1867.

The French Press

A detailed 'literary' and rather subjective account by Émile Mathieu De Monter⁴⁴ was published in the *Revue et gazette musicale de Paris* and about the Belgian Band's performance one could read:

« Je ne vois pas d'inconvénient à réunir dans la même appréciation les grenadiers belges et les grenadiers hollandais. Ces deux corps de musique ont joué deux interminables arrangements de Guillaume Tell et de Faust. S'ils avaient pu allonger l'ouverture d'Oberon, nul doute qu'ils ne s'en soient mutuellement congratulés. Dans leur exécution, ils ont, les uns et les autres, de la circonspection, de la modération, de la tempérance, avec une sorte de réserve et de contrainte. Plus de fond que d'étalage, plus de dessin que de couleur, le trait du poinçon plutôt que celui du pinceau : c'est opaque et fermé. Nos musiques de la ligne ont de ces teintes grises et de ces nonchalances, mais elles n'analysent pas du tout; elles ne s'endorment pas sur leurs instruments, elles soufflent et elles marchent, et elles ne se font pas escorter de ces contrebasses sans lesquelles il semble, maintenant, que Hollandais et Belges ne puissent plus jouer le moindre morceau : la contrefaçon grossie de la France et de Louis XIV. On se souvient encore, aux rives de l'Escaut, que le royal danseur des ballets de Versailles faisait ouvrir la tranchée au son de ses vingt-quatre violons. Voilà pourquoi, sans doute, les musiques militaires belges ont des contrebasses. » ⁴⁵

[I don't mind to unite the Belgian and Dutch Grenadiers into one and the same appreciation. Both bands played two interminable arrangements of Guillaume Tell and of Faust. If they could have lengthened the overture to Oberon, they would certainly have congratulated one another about it. The performances of both bands boast circumspection, moderation and temperance, with a kind of reservation and compulsion. More foundation than display, more drawing than color, rather a stamp (punch) than a painting brush stroke: it is opaque and close. Our bands of the Line regiments have these grey shades and carelessness, but they do not analyze at all; they do not fall asleep on their instruments, they blow and they parade, and they are not escorted by these double basses without which it now seems that the Dutch and Belgians can no longer play the slightest piece: the blown-up counterfeit of France and Louis XIV, on the banks of the

⁴⁴ The French writer Émile Mathieu De Monter (1835-1881) was a regular contributor to the *Revue et Gazette Musicale*.

⁴⁵ Revue et gazette musicale de Paris, July 28, 1867, pp. 237-240.

Scheldt they still remember that the royal ballet dancer at Versailles had the trench dug to the sound of his "twenty-four violins". This is why, no doubt, Belgian military bands have double basses.]

The Belgian Press mentioned the complete result only briefly.⁴⁶

Yet in a Belgian newspaper we could read the following comment on the results by a French reporter (N) dated July 22:

« ... un quatrième prix à l'Espagne et à la Belgique. Evidemment, vos concitoyens pouvaient aspirer à mieux, mais on dit que leur exécution du morceau imposé s'est ressentie de la lassitude que leur avait causée une longue fantaisie sur Guillaume Tell, par laquelle ils ont débuté et qui n'a pas été fort goûtée. » ⁴⁷

[...a fourth prize for Spain and for Belgium. Obviously, your fellow citizens could hope better, but it is said that their performance of the test piece was influenced by the weariness caused by a long fantasy on *Guillaume Tell* they had started with and which had not been appreciated.]

In another paper one could read subsequently:

« La Belgique a honorablement tenu sa partie, mais elle a joué avant l'ouverture d'Obéron une fantaisie sur Guillaume tell d'une telle longueur que les exécutants finissaient par n'être guère moins fatigués que les auditeurs. »⁴⁸

[Belgium played its part honorably, but before the *Oberon* overture it played a fantasy on *Guillaume Tell* of such length that the performers ended up being little less tired than the listeners.]

« Les Belges se sont fait tort par le choix d'un morceau trop long, mais les qualités de leur excellente chapelle (sic) ont été appréciées par le public. » 49

[The Belgians were wrong by choosing a too long piece, but the qualities of their excellent band were appreciated by the public.]

Still in another paper a spectator witnessed:

« La musique belge vint ensuite. Le moment n'était peut-être pas très favorable, et puis elle a peut-être joué un peu trop longtemps: 35 minutes de variations! »⁵⁰

[Next came the Belgian band. The timing may not have been very favorable, and moreover the band may have played a little too long: 35 minutes of variations!]

Most of the bands stayed in Paris some days after the contest and played one or more concerts.

Saturday night, July 27, the winning bands played a concert at the Paris Opera, while the Belgian Grenadiers Band played a concert at the Casino⁵¹.

⁴⁶ Le Bien Public, July 24, 1867, p. 3 & L'Émancipation, July 24, 1867, p. 2

⁴⁷ *Journal de Bruxelles*, July 24, 1867, p. 2.

⁴⁸ L'Indépendance Belge, July 23, 1867, p. 2.

⁴⁹ L'Indépendance Belge, July 24, 1867, p. 2.

⁵⁰ Le Courrier de l'Escaut, July 26, 1867, p. 1

⁵¹ The 'Casino Cadet', 16 rue du Cadet not to be confounded with the actual Casino.

The comments in the Belgian press varied:

« La musique des grenadiers belges s'est fait entendre au Casino. Le succès a été beaucoup plus grand qu'au concours. Le programme était très-heureusement choisi, et plusieurs morceaux ont été applaudis énergiquement, entre autres une fantaisie sur des airs suisses. » 52

[The band of the Belgian grenadiers played at the Casino. The success was much greater than at the contest. The program had been chosen judiciously, and several pieces were applauded energetically, including a fantasy on Swiss tunes.]

« Avant de quitter Paris, les grenadiers belges, jaloux de protester contre la partialité du jury qui les avait relégués au dernier rang des musiques militaires de l'Europe, ont voulu donner un concert public. Ce concert a été donné samedi soir dans les salons du Casino de la rue Cadet. Le succès a été très grand, mais la recette n'a pas répondu aux espérances ». 53

[Before leaving Paris, the Belgian grenadiers, jealous of protesting against the partiality of the jury that had relegated them to the last rank of the military bands of Europe, wanted to give a public concert. This concert was given Saturday night in the lounges of the Casino at the Rue de Cadet. The success has been very tremendous, but the proceeds did not meet the expectations].

The Farewell Concert.

One week later, on Sunday July 28, there was a farewell concert performed by all foreign military bands that had participated in the international contest at the Palais de l'Industrie on Sunday July 28. In fact, as several newspapers announced, because of the enormous inflow of spectators, the Imperial Commission decided to organize an extra concert the next Sunday at the Palais de l'Industrie at 2 p.m. Those who could not get access on Sunday 21 could exchange their tickets.⁵⁴ Neukomm asserts that there were still some 30.000 listeners⁵⁵ at the Palais de l'Industrie. As the bands were set up in the middle of the hall, there were no riots.

The Belgian Grenadiers Band played the Overture to *Masaniello* (D.E. Auber) and *Fantasy on Les Huguenots* (G. Meyerbeer).

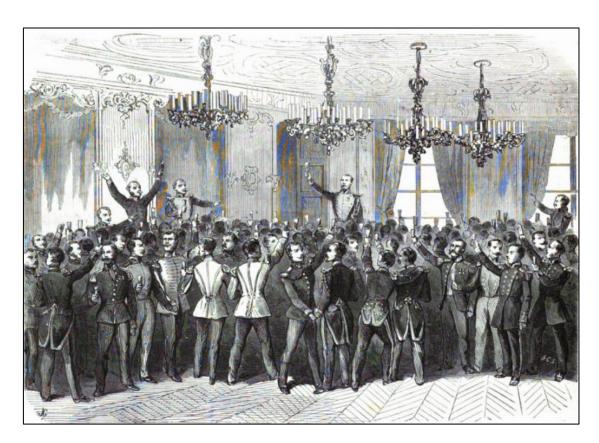
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⁵² L'Écho du Parlement, August 1, 1867, p. 2.

⁵³ L'Etoile Belge, August 8, 1867, p. 1.

⁵⁴ Courrier Français, July 23, 1867.

⁵⁵ Edmond Neukomm, *Histoire de la Musique Militaire*, Paris, 1889, p. 173.



Banquet offered by the Paris Guard Band to the foreign military musicians. L'Illustration August 3, 1867, p. 68.

The Belgian Grenadiers band left on Tuesday July 30 in the evening. In the afternoon the band had been introduced to the emperor who presented Mr. Bender with the 'médaille militaire' and the accompanying officer with the Légion d'Honneur Cross. All commentators were surprised by the emperor's fancy. The reporter of the Belgian newspaper wrote:

« Cette surprise est très naturelle. Je ne perçois pas bien quant à moi, le rapport qui peut exister entre l'exécution de l'ouverture de Guillaume Tell et la médaille militaire qui ne s'accorde que pour actions d'éclat sur le champ de bataille. Je suppose que l'Empereur, par cette distribution inattendue de médailles et de décorations, a voulu atténuer le mauvais effet produit par l'hétéroclite verdict du jury. La façon plus que singulière dont ce jury avait procédé dans la distribution de prix du festival était bien de nature à dégoûter à tout jamais les musiques de certains pays de venir prendre part à aucun concours à l'avenir. Mais du moment qu'à côté des déceptions du jury on décore les chefs de musique et les officiers de service, il n'y a pas à craindre qu'on s'abstienne dans l'avenir. »⁵⁶

[This surprise is very natural. As for me, I do not clearly perceive the relationship that may exist between the execution of the *Guillaume Tell* overture and the military medal which is granted only for brilliant actions on the battlefield. I suppose that the Emperor, by this unexpected distribution of medals and decorations, wanted to mitigate the bad effect produced by the heterogeneous verdict of the jury. The more than singular way in which this jury had proceeded in the distribution of prizes of the festival was likely to disgust forever the bands of certain countries to come and take part in any contests in the future. But as long as, next to the disappointments of the jury, with the conductors and the officers on duty are decorated, there is no need to fear that they will abstain in the future.]

⁵⁶ L'Etoile Belge August 8, 1867, p. 1.

One week later the band played concert at the Brussels Zoological Garden; the program consisted of:

société royale de zoologie, Quartier-Léopold (7 h. 1/2). — Lundi, 12, concert d'harmonie par
la musique du régiment des grenadiers. — Programme: 1. Marche (C. Bender). 2, Guittaume Tell,
ouverture (Rossini). 3. Les Huguenots, caprice (Snel).
4. Die Neurenburger, valse (Orlamunder). 5. Stradella, pot-pourri (Géret). 6. L'Echo, rondeau (Van
Calck). 7. Le Pré-aux-Clercs, fantaisie (Bender).
8. Le Colibri, polka (Sellenick).

The long-drawn *Mélanges sur Guillaume Tell* (C. Bender) performed at the Paris contest was played again at a concert in the Brussels Park on September 22, 1867.⁵⁷

The press constantly announced the Band's concerts in the zoological Gardens, the Temple des Augustins and the Brussels Park. The creation of a *Fantaisie Concertante pour divers instruments* by Constantin Bender on April 25, 1869 was announced in several newspapers.

The King and the Queen attended a concert by the Band at the Zoological Gardens on February 1, 1871.

On February 3, 1872 the Musique du Régiment des Grenadiers performed both as a wind band and a "symphonie" at a concert at the Grande Harmonie, Brussels organized by the Cercle des Philantropes of Laeken for the benefit of the Sainte Marie hospital.⁵⁸

On April 16, 1873, the band participated, without instruments, in the funeral procession of Valentin Bender, inspector of the military bands and uncle of Constantin Bender.

At a concert at the Zoological Gardens on July 27, 1875, the Band premiered a Marche Nuptiale Bridal March written by Constantin Bender and dedicated to H.M. The Queen on the occasion of the marriage of Princess Louise.⁵⁹

Programme du concert qui sera exécuté par la musique du régiment des grenadiers mardi 47 août: 4. Allegro militaire, (Kreutzer); 2. le Dieu et la Bayadère, ouverture, (Auber); 3. le Billet de Marguerite, mélange, (C. Bender); 4. Souvenir, valse (Eng. Brassine); 5. ouverture de Giralda, (Adam); 6. Mandolinata, (Paladhille); 7. Rigolletto, fantaisie, (C. Bender); 8. le Colibri, polka pour flûte, (Sélinick).

Concert program August 17, 1875.

France

In August 1876 the Grenadiers Band made a small concert tour in France. On August 9, 1876 the Band played two concerts at Valenciennes and the next day another concert at Amiens. ⁶⁰ In July 1877 the band returned to France to play a concert at the Jardin des Plantes at Douai. ⁶¹ In June 1878 the Grenadiers band played two concerts at Lille. On June 30 the band serenaded the local military commander and the mayor and played a concert at the Jardin Vauban. ⁶²

⁵⁷ L'Indépendance Belge, September 22, 1867, p. 3.

⁵⁸ L'Indépendance Belge, January 27, 1872, p. 2.

⁵⁹ L'Écho du Parlement, July 26, 1875, p. 2 & Journal de Bruxelles, July 27, 1875, p. 4.

⁶⁰ La Meuse, August 12, 1876, p. 2.

⁶¹ L'Écho du Parlement, July 19, 1877, p. 2, L'Émancipation, July 20, 1877, p. 2 & Journal de Bruxelles, July 20, 1877, p. 2.

⁶² L'Écho du Parlement, July 3, 1878, p. 2. and July 4, 1878, p. 2.

England

In October 1878, the King authorized the Musique du Régiment des Grenadiers to make a concert tour of eight days in England to play charity concerts for the benefit of the families of the shipwreck on the Thames⁶³ and the orphans and widows of the victims of the Abercarn colliery disaster.⁶⁴ The Band embarked at Ostend on Friday October 18, 1878.⁶⁵ There was a concert at the London Agricultural Hall on Saturday19 and another at the Brighton Aquarium on Monday 21.⁶⁶ The program included the *Guillaume Tell* overture and a Fantasy on *Faust*. A Belgian witness (F.B.) wrote:

« Des musiques anglaises ont pris part au concert, mais elles ont surtout contribué à faire ressortir l'éclatante supériorité des artistes belges. » ⁶⁷

[English bands also performed at the concert, but above all things they contributed to highlight the brilliant superiority of the Belgian artists.]

The Band left England on Saturday October 26, 1878.

On July 15, 1880 the band serenaded its conductor for his promotion to lieutenant (!) and presented him with his portrait painted by Pierre Tossin.⁶⁸

At the opening ceremony of the National Exhibition organized in the frame of the Jubilee Festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of Belgium's independence on June 16, 1880 the cantata *De Genius des Vaderlands* [The Genius of the Fatherland] by Peter Benoit, on a text by Julius De Geyter, was performed by 1.365 performers, conducted by the composer.

The Grenadiers Band participated next to some 1.000 choristers, the Band of the Carabineers, a large symphony orchestra (185 strong), 20 side drums, 8 kettledrummers and 12 aida trumpets.⁶⁹ The King and the Queen attended this opening ceremony. The piece was also called *Triomfmarsch* [Triumphal March] or *Feestmarsch* [Festive March]

France again.

On February 6, 1881 the Band participated in a music festival at **Douai** (France) for the benefit of the victims of the floods in Belgium and in Saint Omer; the Band played two concerts at the local theatre. 70

⁶³ The Princess Alice sank in the River Thames on September 3, 1878, killing 650 of ordinary Londoners returning home from a day trip to the seaside.

⁶⁴ The Abercarn colliery disaster was a catastrophic explosion within the Prince of Wales Colliery in the Welsh village of <u>Abercarn</u> (then in the county of <u>Monmouthshire</u>), on September 11, 1878, killing 268 men and boys. ⁶⁵ *Journal de Bruxelles*, October 16, 1878, p. 2.

⁶⁶ Journal de Bruxelles, October 22, 1877, p. 2, L'Émancipation, October 22, 1878, p. 2, L'Indépendance Belge, October 22, 1878, p. 2 & Le Guide Musical, October 24, 1878, p. 4.

⁶⁷ Journal de Bruxelles, October 23, 1877, p. 2.

⁶⁸ L'Écho du Parlement, July 18, 1880, p. 2.

⁶⁹ Le Guide Musical, June 10, 1880, p.4, L'Indépendance Belge, June 8, 1880, p. 2 and June 17, 1880, p. 1 & Journal de Bruxelles, June 17, 1880, p. 2.

⁷⁰ L'Indépendance Belge, February 13, 1881, p. 2, L'Écho du Parlement, February 12, 1881, p. 2 & Le Courrier de l'Escaut, February 13, 1881, p. 2.

. La musique du régiment des Grenadiers belges s'est rendue à Saint-Omer pour se faire entendre à un concert donné au profit des inondés de Belgique et de Saint-Omer. L'accueil a été des plus sympathiques tant de la part de la population que du côté des autorités civiles et militaires. Rien n'a manqué à cette fèle : discours, festin, une cantate en l'honneur de la Belgique, un cadeau offert à M. Bender, le chef de la musique des Grenadiers belges, etc. Quant aux morceaux exécutés en cette circonstance, dit le Mémorial artésien, « les artistes belges ont laissé voir jusqu'à quel point ils possédaient le sentiment complet des nuances, la verve, le brio, en même temps qu'un jeu large, nourri, un ensemble

parfait, tout cela uni, selon l'action musicale, à une douceur remarquable et à un moelleux charmant. Dans sa fantaisie concertante pour divers instruments, M. Bender a habilement mis en relief une partie de ses solistes et on a pu admirer tour à tour le talent du trombone, de la clarinette, de deux cornets à piston, de la petite flûte, du saxophone et du tuba. »

Le Guide Musical, February 17, 1881, p. 4.

On September 25, 1881 the Band participated in the **premiere performance** of Karel Miry's cantata *In Conscience's Tuin* [In the Garden of Conscience] during the homage ceremony celebrating the popular Flemish author Hendrik Conscience (1812-1883) in the gardens of the Wiertz museum in Brussels. This cantata, composed by the Flemish composer Karel Miry (1823-1889) on a text by the Flemish poet Emmanuel Hiel (1834-1899), was performed by the pupils of the school of Saint-Joost-ten-Node and Schaarbeek, numerous Brussels choral societies including Les Artisans Réunis, de Katholieke Kring, Benoit's Kring, Fidélité, Réunion Chorale, Sinte Gudula Kring and de Burgerkring and the Band of the Grenadiers.

Henri Warnots (1829-1893), director of the Sint Joost ten Node music school, conducted those 1.200 performers.⁷¹ The Grenadiers Band participated in the tribute to Conscience at the Bourse [Stock Exchange] and also accompanied the choirs during the evening concert on the Brussels Grand Place in the performance of several Flemish songs including *Hymnus* by Peter Benoit, conducted by the composer. It also performed Constantin Bender's triumphal march *Hulde aan Conscience*.⁷²

47° Anniversaire de l'inauguration du Casino.

Mardi 15 août 1882, à 6 1/2 heures du soir, grand concert donné par la musique du régiment des Grenadiers, sous la direction de M. Bender.

PROGRAMME DU CONCERT.

Première partie: 1. Maritana, ouverture (Wallace). —

2. Mélange sur des motifs de la Mascote (Audran). —

5. Rapsodie hongroise, n° 2, arrangée par C. Bender (Listz). —

4. Hérodiade, pot-pourri, arrangée par Christophe (Massenet):

Deuxlème partie: 1. Robin des bois, ouverture (C.-M. von Weber). — 2. L'Étoile du Nord, fantaisie arrangée par C. Bender (Meyerbeer). — 3. Bagatelle sur les motifs du Boccace (Suppe). — 4. Neue Wien (Strauss).

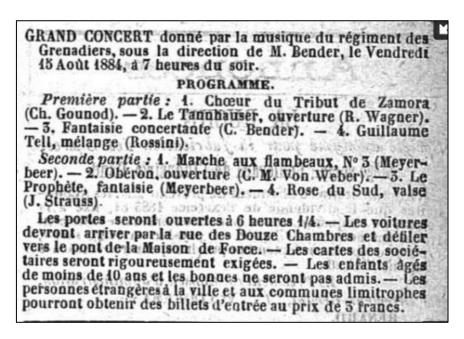
⁷¹ De Koophandel, September 15, 1881, p. 1 & September 25, 1881, p. 1, Het Handelsblad, September 24, 1881, p. 1, L'Indépendance Belge, September 26, 1881, p. 1, L'Écho du Parlement, September 27, 1881, p. 2, L'Émancipation, September 27, 1881, p. 2, Le Bien Public, September 26, 1881, p. 2 & Journal de Bruxelles, September 26, 1881, p. 2.

⁷² L'Écho du Parlement, September 27, 1881, p. 2& Le Courrier de l'Escaut, September 26, 1881, p. 3.

The Netherlands

The Band of the Belgian Grenadiers (62 strong) went by train to Amsterdam on Saturday September 22, 1883. It performed three charity concerts for the benefit of the victims of the catastrophe at Java, including a concert on Sunday September 23 at the Exhibition premises with the *Guillaume Tell* overture (Rossini), the *Sonate Pathétique* (van Beethoven) and the 2^{nd} *Hungarian Rhapsody* (Liszt/arr. Bender). There was a most laudatory comment in the local paper "Algemeen Handelsblad". ⁷⁴

1884.



Mind the restrictions as to the public admitted to this concert at the "Société royale d'Agriculture et de Botanique" at Ghent on August 15, 1884.⁷⁵

1885.

As part of the celebrations of the National Festival the Grenadiers Band played a concert (shared with the Orchestra of La Monnaie) at the Brussels Park with only compositions by Peter Benoit and conducted by the composer on August 17, 1885.⁷⁶ One of the pieces was Peter Benoit's *Kindercantate* [Children's Cantata]. The concert was attended by the King and the Oueen.⁷⁷

1886.

As the conductor Constantin Bender was on friendly terms with the composer Peter Benoit the latter's compositions were often performed by the Grenadiers Band. Besides the already mentioned pieces, fragments of the opera *Charlotte Corday* were played at the military camp of Beverlo on July 30, 1886.⁷⁸

⁷³ *Journal de Bruxelles*, September 23, 1883, p. 2.

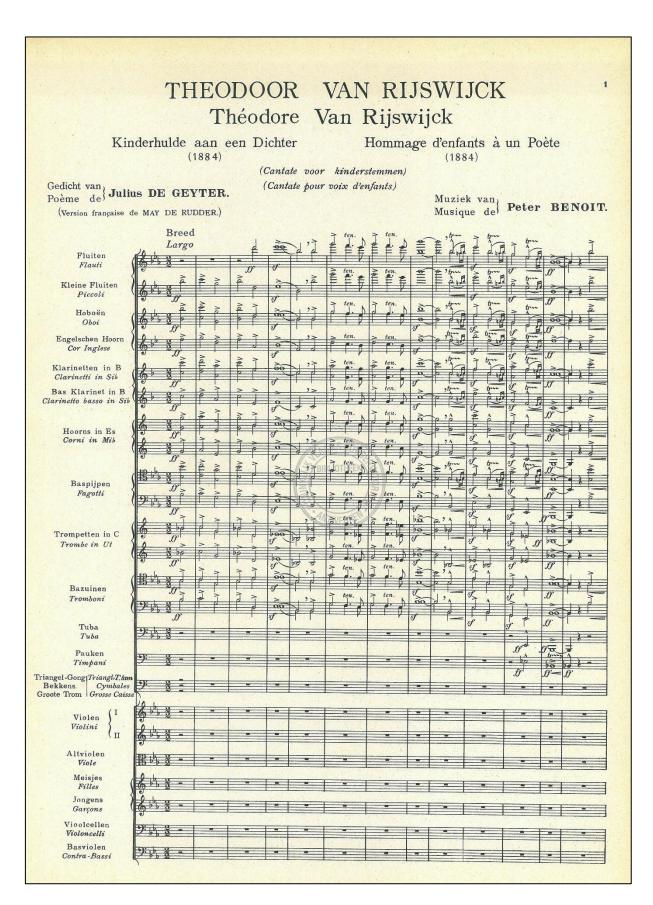
⁷⁴ Journal de Bruxelles, September 28, 1883, p. 2.

⁷⁵ Le Bien Public, August 11, 1884, p. 3.

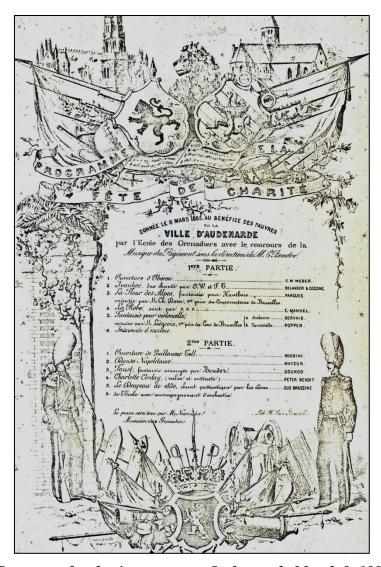
⁷⁶ L'Indépendance Belge, August 5, 1885, p. 2.

⁷⁷ L'Indépendance Belge, August 17, 1885, p. 2.

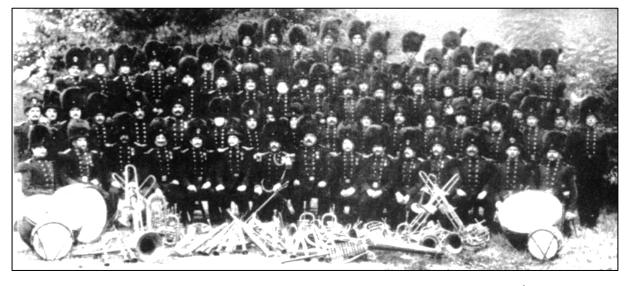
⁷⁸ L'Emancipation, August 2, 1886, p. 1 & La Meuse, August 3; 1886, p. 2.



Cantata by Peter Benoit.



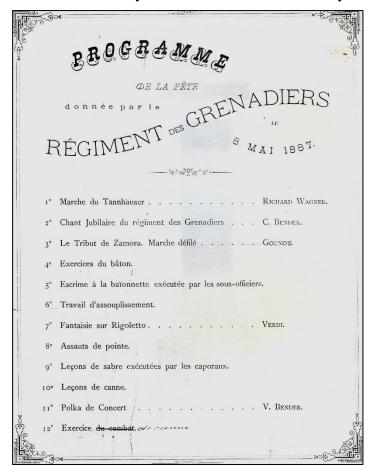
Program of a charity concert at Oudenaarde March 8, 1885.



Band of the Grenadiers Regiment at the camp of Beverlo - Second half 19th century.

1887.

At the festivities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Grenadiers Regiment at the Saint Elisabeth Barracks on May 9, 1887, the Band inclusive drummers, buglers and aida trumpets accompanied a huge choir in the performance of a military cantata *Chant Jubilaire du Régiment des Grenadiers* with music by Constantin Bender on a text by Lieutenant Hecq.⁷⁹



REFRAIN

Vieux serviteur de la Belgique Ferme et fidèle en tous les temps, Chante ton amour énergique, Ton grand amour de cinquante ans.

1er COUPLET.

Suis les traces d'un noble maitre, Forme de dignes héritiers Au régiment d'élite, ancêtre Du régiment des grenadiers, Que la famille souveraine Trouve un appui solide en toi. Vive le Roi! vive la Reine! Veille sur la Reine et le Roi.

2º COUPLET.

En la fougue dont tu frissonnes
Porte, éclatants comme un flambeau
Et les trois couleurs brabançonnes
Et le lion de ton drapeau.
De nos gloires nationales
Conserve ta part avec soin
Songe aux beaux noms de tes apuales
Léopold deux et Baudouin.

⁷⁹ L'Indépendance, May 8, 1887, p. 1, Le Courrier de l'Escaut, May 10, 1887, p. 2, La Réforme, May 9, 1887, p. 2 & L'Emancipation, May 10, 1887, p. 2.



Concert for the 50th anniversary of the Grenadiers Regiment at the officer's mess on November 15, 1892.

In an interesting comment on a concert at the Jardin d'Acclimatation at Liège on June 26, 1887 the reporter makes a comparison with the Band of the 1st Guides Regiment:

« Nous avons hâte de dire que la musique des grenadiers a fit presqu'autant de plaisir que celle des guides : même exécution soignée, même ensemble, et surtout même sentiment musical. La musique des guides possède peut-être un brio plus éclatant, une sûreté plus grande dans les attaques, mais les grenadiers ont, par contre, certains effets de délicatesse auxquels atteindraient difficilement les musiciens de M. Staps. »⁸⁰

[We can't wait to say that the music of the grenadiers almost pleased as much as that of the guides: the same careful execution, the same ensemble, and especially the same musical feeling. The band of the guides may have a more sparkling brilliance, a greater accuracy in the attacks, but the grenadiers have, on the other hand, certain effects of delicacy that the musicians of Mr. Staps would hardly reach.]

On June 29, 1887, the Band played a concert at **Middelburg** (The Netherlands)⁸¹

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⁸⁰ La Meuse, June 28, 1887, p. 2.

⁸¹ Journal de Bruxelles, June 30, 1887, p. 2.



Concert Program - Bandstand at the Kouter Ghent, July 8, 1888.

1889.

France

In May 1889 the Band of the Belgian Grenadiers was in **Paris** to perform at the International Exhibition including 1.700 Belgian exhibitors. The 67 musicians arrived in Paris on Tuesday May 7 and were housed at the École Militaire. The very same day the Band performed at a Banquet in the gardens of the Palais de l'Élysée, attended by President Carnot of France. On Wednesday they played a charity concert in the Gardens of the Palais Royal and in the evening the Band played a concert for the "Concert Lamoureux" at the Cirque d'Hiver. On Friday and Saturday it played a concert on the exhibition premises at the Champ de Mars. The Band played no less than 40 different pieces (10 at each concert) including many pieces by popular French composers. The Grenadiers returned to Brussels on Sunday May 12.⁸²

On Sunday June 30, 1889 the band played at a charity concert at the Parc de la Marine at **Dunkerque** (France). 83

In September 1889 Constantin Bender received the Croix de la Légion d'Honneur as a token of gratitude of the French Government for the musical performances at the Paris Exhibition.⁸⁴

A 8 heures du soir, Musique du Régiment des Grenadiers. — Première partie: 1. Le Tannhauser, ouverture (Wagner); 2. Une nuit au château, barcarolle (C. Bender); 3. Les Erennyes, danse argienne (Massenet); 4. L'Etoile du Nord, fantaisie (Meyerber); 5. Alida, polonaise (C. Bender).

Deuxième partie: 1. Guillaume Tell, ouverture (Rossini); 2. Fantaisie concertante (C. Bender); 3. Rapsodie hongroise (Litz's); 4. Cortège de Bacchus (L. Delibes); 5. Retraite militaire (C. Bender).

Immédiatement après, danses populaires.

Concert at Gosselies, June 29, 1890.

At the festivity, attended by the King and the Queen at the Brussels Palais de la Bourse on April 22, 1890, celebrating the return of the explorer Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904), the Grenadiers Band played the hymn *Hommage à Stanley*, composed for the circumstance by Constantin Bender.⁸⁵

83 Journal de Bruxelles, July 1, 1889, p. 2 & Le Soir, July 3, 1889, p. 2.

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⁸² Journal de Bruxelles, May 8, 1889, p. 2.

⁸⁴ Le Guide Musical, September 29, 1889, p. 5 & L'Indépendance, September 17, 1889, p. 2.

⁸⁵ La Nation, April 20, 1890, p. 1.

France

As a token of gratitude for the concert by the Garde Républicaine Band at the Brussels Alhambra Theatre on September 9, 1889, the King authorized in July the Belgian Grenadiers Band to travel to **Paris** to participate in a charity concert for the victims of the great fire⁸⁶ at Fort-de-France.⁸⁷ We couldn't however find any trace of this concert.

On Sunday August 17, 1890 the Band played a charity concert at Valenciennes, France.⁸⁸

1891.

The Netherlands

On July 4, 1891 the Band gave a most successful concert at Utrecht (The Netherlands) in the frame of the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the Utrecht University.⁸⁹

In La Meuse of August 15, 1891 one could read:

« La musique des grenadiers vient de s'augmenter de seize fifres, qui marcheront en tête du régiment avec les tambours. »

[The band of the grenadiers was augmented with sixteen fifers who will parade in front of the regiment with the drummers.]

The thirty-five years of Constantin Bender's conductorship of the Band of the Belgian Grenadiers Regiment was amply celebrated in November 1891. The celebration was even frontpage news in some newspapers, for example in Le Journal de Bruxelles of November 18, 1891. (cf. p. 27).

On Sunday November 15,1891 Bender was solemnly celebrated at a banquet at the Grenadiers' officers' mess and the next day the musicians paid their conductor homage at the Saint Elisabeth Barracks. His friend, the composer Peter Benoit, whose compositions Constantin Bender had arranged for wind band, gave an address and the poet Emmanuel Hiel also made a poetical speech. Peter Benoit had composed a song *Lied voor Constantin Bender*.

By a Royal Decree of March 26, 1892 Constantin Bender was appointed Inspector of the Belgian military bands⁹⁰, a function he would exercise up to December 8, 1897.

A charity concert for the benefit of the victims of the catastrophe at Anderlues, planned by the Grenadiers Band at the Monnaie Opera was cancelled because the rent of the opera hall and the fee of the guest artists was too high.⁹¹ The concert took place at the premises of La Grande Harmonie (cf. p. 29).⁹²

88 Le Courrier de l'Escaut, August 1, 1890, p. 2.

⁸⁶ On Sunday June 22, 1890 a terrible fire destroyed a large part of the town of Fort-de-France in Martinique.

⁸⁷ La Meuse, July 31, 1890, p. 2.

⁸⁹ L'Indépendance Belge, July 7, 1891, p. 2.

⁹⁰ Le Courrier de l'Escaut, March 27, 1892, p. 2, Gazette de Charleroi, March 27, 1892, p. 2, L'Emancipation, March 27, 1892, p. 2 & Het Handelsblad, February 18, 1892, p. 2.

⁹¹ La Nation, March 15, 1892, p. 2.

⁹² An explosion at the pit No. 3 of the colliery at Anderlues on March 11, 1892 killed 160 miners. After the firedamp blast, it was necessary to flood the mine to stop the fire which was heading dangerously towards shaft No. 2. The fire will last more than two years before extinguishing.

Le Journal de Bruxelles of November 18, 1891

UN CINQUANTENAIRE ARTISTIQUE

M. Constantin Bender, dont on vient de fêter le 50° anniversaire de son entrée dans la musique militaire belge, est une personnalité des pius sympathiques et des plus connues de Bruxeiles,

Les manifestations qui viennent d'avoir lieu ont révélé son âge à bien des gens qui ne se doutaient guère que le vaillant chof de la musique du régiment des grandiers fût né en 1827 et eût donc atteint l'âge de 64 ans. Mais M. Bender est une de ces antures vigoureuses chez qui la valeur n'a point attendu le nombre des années et chez qui les années n'ont point réussi à éteindre la flamme de l'enthousiasme artistique, il a commencé tôt, il continue tard, et bien téméraire serait celui qui fixerait la date, af éleignée de nous fût-alle encore, cù le vaillant are tiste déposers son bôton de directeur.

M. Rander fait la nique à son état aivil. Le structure est élégamment solide, le jarret est norveux, l'œil est vif sous le pinco-nez, la moustache est orânement retroussée, l'allure est éminement militaire. A le voir en civil, on lui donnerait à peine de 45 à 50 ars. A le voir en militaire, dirigeant ses musiclens d'élite, on ne lui en donnerait pas trente. Et, de fait, il a'occupe encore de son art et de ses artistes

comme lorsqu'il avait trente ans.

Avec cela, cerdial, bon enfant, l'esprit preste
et trouvant sans efforts des saillies pittoresques
et des mots caractéristiques, d'une grande
bonté de cœur sous des allures un peubrusques
et de relations très sûres, il a parcouru son
chemin en faisant naltre sur son passage un
nombre incalculables de franches camaraderies
et plusieurs précieuses amitiés.

Aussi les fêtes triomphales de son cinquantenaire, qui ont permis à toutes les sympathies de se manifester, ont-elles du être vraiment bonnes et réconfortantes pour ce très excellent homme et ce très méritant artiste. M.Constantin Bender a d'ailleurs de qui tenir; feu son oncle M.Valentin Bender et feu son père M. Jasques Fe ider se sont fait, commo compositeurs et comme chef d'orchestre, une réputation universelle.

Son père est venu en Belgique sous le gouvernement hollandais avec le régiment des Suisses, où il était chef de musique, Quand les Suisses furent licencies, il fut nomme chef de musique de la 45 aldeiine.

de la 1st afsteeling.

Il dirigea la musique du 4st régiment des guides sous Léopold 1st, qui l'avait désigné pour organiser les musiques militaires du pays, mais la direction de l'orchestre de la Grande Harmonie d'Anvers étant devenue vacante, il l'accopta et la conserva jusqu'à sa mortina 1844.

Ce fut lui qui enseigna è son fils Constantin les premiers éléments de l'art musical, quand, à 15 ans, il s'ergagez comme élève tambour au 10° régiment, où, un an plus tard, il faisait partie de la musique.

Le tambour ne satisfaisant pas complètement les appétits musicaux du jeune Bender, il s'adressa à un instrument plus compliqué, et à l'âge de 19 ans un arrêté ministériel le nommalt clarinette solo au 1º régiment de ligne.

En 1853, alors qu'il était en garnison à Liège, il suivit les cours d'harmoule de l'éminent directeur du conservatoire M. Dassoigne Méhul. Il était alors à cette époque un virtuose renommé de la clarinotte.

Mais le rôle de simple instrumentiste ne pouvait le satisfaire longtemps, et en 4860 il fut placé à la tête de la musique des grenadiers, dont il est encore le chef à l'heure actuelle. Il fit de ce corps de musique une des plus célèhres du continent, et il est l'auteur de nombreux arrangements et de plusieurs morecaux origineux qui sent joués partout avec succès, composition dont l'allure franche et les qualités d'art ont placé M. Bender à un rang des plus honorables parmi nos musiciens bulges.

Les distinctions honorifiques ne tut ont pas manqué. Il est décoré de plusieurs ordres importants, par mi lesquels il faut citer l'ordre de Léopold, l'ordre de la Légion d'honneur et celui de la médaille milituire française, qui, comme un la sait, n'est conférée à des étrangurs qu'an de très rares circonstances. En 1889, après plussieurs concerts donnés à l'exposition de Paris, il out l'honneur d'être prié par M. Carnot à donner un concert à l'Elysée.

Mai, your qui convait bien M. Bender, il est sûr qu'il place au-dessus des distinctions officielles, dont il est d'ailleurs légitlmement fier, les témoignages d'estime et d'amitié qui lui sont venus, en ces derniers jours, de tous les points

de l'Europe.

1892.

On April 17, 1892, the Band played a charity concert at **Lille** (France) for the benefit of the Union Orphéonique. The concert at the Palais Rameau was attended by 2.000 people.⁹³

- La musique des grenadiers sous la direction de M. Constantin Bender, qui célébrait récemment son cinquantenaire artistique et qui a été nommé inspecteur des musiques de l'armée belge, vient de remporter un succès triomphal à Lille, où cet excellent corps de musique est allé donner deux concerts au profit de l'Union orphéonique de Lille.
- « Rarement, pour ne pas dire jamais, écrit le chroniqueur du Nouvelliste, je n'ai vu à Lille pareil succès. Chacun des morceaux a donné lieu à de véritables ovations, mais il faut tirer hors de pair l'exécution de l'ouverture de Maximilien Robespierre, de Litolff; de la Rapsodie hongroise n° 3, de Liszt, et, par dessus tout, l'ouverture du Tannhauser, magistralement enlevée, avec une largeur étonnante, un fini merveilleux.
- » Signalons aussi un divertissement pour piston et bugle, de M. Bender, bissé d'enthousiasme, et dans lequel nous citerons très spécialement M. Michel, piston solo, et M. Neuntjens, bugle solo, deux artistes de grande valeur.
- » N'oublions pas non plus M. Dubois, sous-chef de la musique, trombone solo, très applaudi dans Faust (scène de l'église).
- » Par une attention des plus délicates pour nous, la musique des grenadiers a exécuté supérieurement la jolie valse l'Enchanteresse, de notre concitoyen Signaire-Divoir. Enfin la Marseillaise, très applaudie, et la Brabançonne, demandée et chaleureusement acclamée, ont clôturé le concert.
- » La musique des grenadiers, qui compte 62 exécutants, est arrivée au plus haut degré de la perfection, et le moelleux et le fondu de son exécution sont merveilleux; sa haute réputation a été une fois de plus consacrée par un succès des plus éclatants et des ovations sans nombre »

L'Echo du Nord n'est pas moins enthousiaste. Parlant des exécutions de la musique des grenadiers, il écrit :

« Il n'y a plus de place pour la critique, et l'auditoire reste sous le charme, empoigné par cette merveilleuse harmonie de sons. » Et il constate avec raison que M. Bender avait mis beaucoup de tact dans la composition du programme de son second concert, aussi attrayant pour les simples amateurs que pour les mélomanes les plus difficiles. Ne jouait-on pas, en effet, l'entraînante « Fête » de la Suite napolitaine, de Massenet, et le Cortige de Bacchus, de Léo Delibes, qui a été certainement le morceau le mieux enlevé du concert.

Avec cela, les principaux morceaux de Carmen, le chef-d'œuvre que l'on sait, puis l'ouverture de la Grotte de Fingal, une des belles ouvertures de Mendelssohn, ainsi qu'une fantaisie sur la Walkyrie, cette œuvre magistrale de Richard Wagner, si pleine d'héroïsme et de passion,

Le concert s'est terminé par la Marseillaise et l'hymne belge, qui furent applaudis à outrance.

Le Guide Musical, April 24, 1892, p. 5.

The concert at Charleroi on Sunday, July 3, 1892 gave rise to a most laudatory comment:

« ... nous avions le dessus du panier en fait d'harmonie, avec la maîtrise incontesté des chefs de musique militaires: M. Bender, avec ses 62 musiciens, dont une vingtaine de prix de Conservatoire; de vrais éléments de symphonie, dont ils donnent parfois l'illusion. On peut dire de leur chef qu'il les tient tous dans la main, et qu'il leur communique le sens exquis du rythme, cette admirable interprétation de la nuance, et cette impeccable justesse qui l'on tenu depuis toujours au haut de l'échelle artistique en Belgique. »⁹⁴

⁹³ Le Soir, April 9, 1892, p. 1, April 18, 1893, p. 2 and April 20, 1892, p. 1, L'Indépendance, April 18, 1892, p. 2, Le Courrier de l'Escaut, April 20, 1892, p. 3, Journal de Bruxelles, April 20, 1892, p. 2 & Het Handelsblad, April 19, 1892, p. 2.

⁹⁴ Gazette de Charleroi, July 4, 1892, p. 2.

[...we got the top of the bill as to wind band music, with the undisputed master of military conductors: M. Bender, with his 62 musicians, including twenty conservatory prizes; real symphonists, often creating the illusion of a symphony orchestra. It should be said of their leader that he has them all in hand, and that he conveys them the exquisite sense of rhythm, this admirable interpretation of nuance, and this impeccable accuracy that kept him since ever at the top of the artistic ladder in Belgium].



Charity concert for the victims of the Anderlues catastrophe.

musique du régiment des Grenadiers, sous la direction de M. C. Bender, inspecteur des musiques du royaume. — Programme: 1^{rs} partie. — 1. Ouverture de concours, œuvre posthume (V. Bender). — 2. Aïda, fantaisie dramatique (Verdi). — 3. A. Solo pour piston (Waldteuffel); B. Le Régiment qui passe (Eilenberg). — 4. Rapsodie hongroise n° 4 (Litz). — 2° partie. — Le Tannhauser, ouverture (E. Wagner). — 6. Fantaisie espagnole (Gevaert). — 7. Danse macabre (St-Saëns). — 8. Retraite militaire (C. Bender).

Concert program at Tournai September 18, 1892

A concert at the Park of Tournai on Sunday September 18, 1892 also engendered words of praise in the local press:

« L'excellente musique des Grenadiers, que dirige M. Bender, inspecteur-général des musiques du royaume, peut rivaliser, sans contredit, avec les plus célèbres corps de musique du continent, tels que la Garde Républicaine de Paris, la Garde Impériale de Vienne, les Bersaglieri de Rome et les Horse-Guards de Londres. Ce qui distingue particulièrement la musique des Grenadiers, c'est la finesse dans l'exécution, un souci des nuances dont la plupart de nos fanfares et harmonies n'ont cure. Nous attirons l'attention de celles-ci sur la douceur des instruments en cuivre qui, même dans les forte ne donnent jamais de sons criards, ni stridents. Il est vrai qu'il faut mettre à l'actif de ce corps bon nombre de premiers prix de Conservatoire! »95

[The excellent band of the Grenadiers, conducted by Mr. Bender, Inspector General of the military bands of the Kingdom, can no doubt rival with the most famous military bands on the continent, such as the Republican Guard in Paris, the Imperial Guard in Vienna, the Bersaglieri in Rome and the Horse-Guards in London. What particularly distinguishes the Band of the Grenadiers is the finesse in the execution, a concern for the nuances which most of our fanfare and wind bands do not care about. We draw their attention to the softness of the brass instruments which, even in the forte passages, never produce garish or shrill sounds. We should not forget that this band boasts numerous musicians supplied with many first prizes of our Conservatories!]

Mind that Aida trumpets were used both in the Aida Fantasy and the Tannhäuser Overture.

On November 7, 1892 the Band played at the oath-taking ceremony of Prince Albert at the Saint Elisabeth barracks.



The oath-taking of Prince Albert, November 7, 1892.

⁹⁵ Le Courrier de l'Escaut, September 21, 1892, p. 2.

1893.

At a concert at the Antwerp Zoological Gardens on July 23, 1893, attended by King Leopold II, the Band played Legends and Ballads by Peter Benoit.⁹⁶

A concert at *Bruxelles Attractions* on December 25, 1893, once again, engendered laudatory comments:

« Intéressant et très artistique le concert lundi dernier à Bruxelles Attractions. M. Bender, l'excellent chef de la musique des grenadiers avait élaboré un programme tout à fait choisi que sa remarquable phalange a exécuté avec une correction et un fini au-dessus de toute éloge. Tous les morceaux ont été chaleureusement applaudis et particulièrement la rapsodie hongroise de Liszt, jouée d'irréprochable façon. La musique des grenadiers, dont la réputation n'est plus à faire, progresse cependant encore de jour en jour : elle est arrivée à des interprétations vraiment superbes. » 97

[Last Monday's concert at Brussels Attractions was most interesting and very artistic. Mr. Bender, the excellent conductor of the grenadiers band, had made up a very eclectic program which his remarkable band performed with an exactitude and a finish above all praise. All the pieces were warmly applauded and especially Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody, played in an impeccable way. The band of the grenadiers, whose reputation is well established, is nevertheless still progressing day by day: it realizes really superb interpretations.]

1894.

The Grenadiers Band sometimes accompanied the successful soprano Constantine Bender, daughter of Constantin Bender as was the case at the two concerts at Blankenberge on August 19. 1894.⁹⁸

On October 29, 1894 the French composer Jules Massenet⁹⁹ attended a rehearsal of the Grenadiers Band. 100

« La caserne Sainte-Elisabeth a reçu, lundi, une visite à laquelle, certes, elle ne s'attendit pas. M. Massenet, accompagné de M. Constantin Bender, inspecteur général des musiques de l'armée, est venu assister à l'une des répétitions de la musique des Grenadiers, dont M. Bender est, depuis longtemps, le chef distingué. L'excellente bande militaire a exécuté plusieurs fragments d'œuvres du maître français. M. Massenet s'est déclaré enchanté de cette interprétation et il a vivement félicité le sympathique capellmeister et ses instrumentistes. »¹⁰¹

[The Saint-Elisabeth barracks received, Monday, a visit that, admittedly, it did not expect. Mr. Massenet, accompanied by Mr. Constantin Bender, Inspector General of the Army Bands, came to attend one of the rehearsals of the Band of the Grenadiers, of which Mr. Bender has long been the distinguished conductor. The excellent military band played several fragments of works by the French master. Mr. Massenet said he was delighted with this performance and warmly congratulated the friendly capellmeister and his instrumentalists].

Among the pieces by Massenet performed by the Grenadiers band in this period were Les Érynnies¹⁰² and Scènes Pittoresques¹⁰³.

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⁹⁶ L'Indépendance Belge, July 28, 1893, p. 2, La Meuse, July 21, 1893, p. 2 & Journal de Bruxelles, July 22, 1893,

p. 2.
⁹⁷ *Journal de Bruxelles*, December 28, 1893, p. 2

⁹⁸ L'Indépendance Belge, August 19, 1894, p. 2.

⁹⁹ Massenet was in Brussels to supervise the rehearsals of his opera *La Navarraise* at the Monnaie Opera.

¹⁰⁰ Journal de Bruxelles, October 30, 1894, p. 2 & Het Laatste Nieuws, October 31, 1894, p. 2.

¹⁰¹L'Indépendance Belge, October 31, 1894, p. 1 & Le Petit Bleu, October 30, 1984, p. 1.

¹⁰² Journal de Bruxelles, January 20, 1984, p. 2 & L'Indépendance Belge, January 15, 1984, p. 3. b

¹⁰³ La Meuse, April 26, 1895, p. 3.

1895.

The Band regularly extended its repertoire with new pieces as proved for instance at the concert at the Brussels Palais de la Bourse on October 20, 1895, including three first performances: *Grande marche des Prétoriens* (Corbin), *Fantasy on themes from Werther* (Massenet) and the overture *Les Héros de Gravelotte* for double orchestra (Bonel). ¹⁰⁴

At the opening ceremony of the Brussels Exhibition on May 10, 1897, the Grenadiers Band participated in the first performance of the *Cantate Inaugurale* composed by Paul Gilson. ¹⁰⁵

Concert program May 30, 1897 at the Brussels Exhibition

Bender's farewell.



On Sunday December 26, 1897, 'Bruxelles Attractions' organized at the Palais de la Bourse a farewell ceremony for Constantin Bender who was to go on retired pay on January 1, 1898. When Bender was to conduct the Grenadiers Band for the very last time he was welcomed with a standing ovation by a full house. Among the audience were the Mayor of Brussels, the composer **Peter Benoit**, numerous officers of the regiment, several military bandmasters and delegations of the various amateur bands Bender conducted. The program consisted mainly of compositions by Bender including *Marche Héroïque*, *Ouverture de Concours* and *Grande Marche Nationale*, dedicated to M. Buls, mayor of Brussels. ¹⁰⁶ His friend **Peter Benoit** gave a speech and was the only guest at the private party at Bender's home. ¹⁰⁷

Caricature of Bender in "Le Petit Bleu du Matin" 26 12 1897.

Constantin Bender died at Sint-Gillis (Brussels) on July 26, 1902 and his obituary was published on the front page of some newspapers. ¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ La Réforme, October 19, 1895, p. 3.

¹⁰⁵ L'Indépendance Belge, May 11, 1897, p. 1.

¹⁰⁶ L'Indépendance Belge, December 25, 1897, p.3 and December 28, 1897, p. 1 & Le Petit Bleu du Matin, December 26, 1897, p. 1.

¹⁰⁷ Het Laatste Nieuws, December 28, 1897, p. 4.

¹⁰⁸ La Meuse, July 28, 1902, p. 2 & La Réforme, July 28, 1902, p. 1.



Clovis Lecail (1898-1920)

When Constantin Bender retired he was succeeded on December 29, 1897 by Clovis Lecail who had been bandmaster of the 5th Regiment of the Line at Antwerp for fifteen years. ¹⁰⁹

Clovis Lecail was born at Mondrepuis (France) in a Belgian family on October 25, 1859. He studied at the Brussels Conservatory and graduated with First Prizes for trumpet (class of Hippolyte-Jean Duhem), harmony (class of Joseph Dupont) and counterpoint (class of Hubert-Ferdinand Kufferath). He became assistant trumpet teacher at the same institution and also a trumpet player with the orchestra of the opera La Monnaie, conducted by Joseph Dupont.

In 1882 he passed the exam for military bandmaster and was appointed conductor of the Band of the 5th Regiment of the Line at Antwerp.

He started composing for wind and fanfare band and wrote some 175 band compositions ranging from military marches to cantatas for huge choir and band/orchestra. His best-known band piece was the heroic overture *Belgica*.



His symphonic sketch *Kermesse Flamande* was chosen as test piece in the top division of the fanfare band contest at Lyon (France) in 1894.

Lecail composed the marches *Brabo*, *Hommage à Saint-Nicolas*, *March of the 5th Regiment of the Line* (1883), *Retour d'Afrique*, *En revenant de Bruxelles - Kermesse* Pas redoublé (1895), *Boula Matari* – Congolese march (1908) and *Bruxelles Exposition* (official march of the Brussels 1910 Exhibition).

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 $^{^{109}}$ Het Laatste Nieuws, November 20, 1897, p. 1, Gazette de Charleroi, November 20, 1897, p. 2 and Le Journal de Bruxelles, January 3, 1898, p. 1.

For wind and/or fanfare band he also wrote Valse des Chasseurs (1890), the gavotte Hyménée (1896), the dramatic overture *Helvetia* (test piece at the 1902 International Band Contest at Geneva, Switzerland), Cortège Byzantin (1904), Concerto romantique for cornet and wind band (1908). Babil d'oiseaux, bluette, for 3 flutes and wind band (1911), Fantaisie concertante for alto saxophone or clarinet and band (1911), Rapsodie Congolaise (1912), Une Patrouille au camp (1912), Pax et bellum overture (1914), Fantaisie sur des Thèmes Russes, Fête à Budapest, Danse Bohémienne, Divertissement à la Hongroise, Aventure de carnaval valse-caprice, Concertino, Légende Moscovite, and the overtures Belgica, La Bataille des Éperons d'or and Les gladiateurs (also test piece at the Geneva contest in 1902)¹¹⁰.

Lecail was conductor of the Grenadiers Band from December 29, 1897 up to March 29, 1920.

In the *Journal de Bruxelles* one could read:

« L'avènement de M. Lecail à la direction de cette phalange d'élite était tout indiqué. Ancien lauréat des classes de MM. Dupont et Kufferath au Conservatoire royal de Bruxelles, M. Lecail a fourni à Anvers, où l'émulation est grande et où des bonnes musiques ne manquent pas, une carrière des plus brillantes comme chef d'orchestre et comme compositeur. Il a rendu son nom populaire à Anvers par plusieurs transcriptions très heureuses de fragments d'œuvres de Peter Benoit, pour lesquelles le maître s'est plu à lui transmettre ses plus vives félicitations. L'honneur artistique et la réputation de la musique du régiment des grenadiers sont transmis en de bonnes mains. Les Anversois perdent, par le départ de M. Lecail, un excellent chef qui avait toutes leurs sympathies; les Bruxellois y gagnent un musicien dont ils apprécieront bientôt la valeur. »¹¹¹

The advent of Mr. Lecail to the leadership of this élite band was quite appropriate. A former laureate of the classes of Mr. Dupont and Mr. Kufferath at the Conservatory Royal in Brussels, Mr. Lecail has provided Antwerp, where emulation is great and where good bands are numerous, with one of the most brilliant careers as a conductor and composer. He made his name popular in Antwerp with several very fine transcriptions of fragments of compositions by **Peter Benoit**, for which the master gladly conveyed to him his warmest congratulations. The artistic honor and reputation of the Band of the Grenadier Regiment is entrusted in good hands. With the departure of Mr. Lecail the people of Antwerp lose an excellent bandleader who had all their sympathies; the people of Brussels gain a musician whose value they will soon appreciate.]

1898.

Lecail conducted his first concert with the Grenadiers Band on Sunday February 6, 1898 at the Palais de la Bourse. 112 The program included the premiere performance of Lecail's composition Rapsodie Congolaise which had to be encored. 113

The concert of the Grenadiers Band at the Brussels Market Square on September 26, 1898 concluded with a performance by the Band and three choirs (L'Écho du Peuple, L'Orphéon and Les Artisans) of the Artevelde Cantata, composed by François-Auguste Gevaert. 114

¹¹⁰ Le Petit Bleu du Matin, June 15, 1902, p. 1 & La Réforme, June 17, 1902, p. 2.

¹¹¹ Le Journal de Bruxelles, January 3, 1898, p. 1.

¹¹² Le Journal de Bruxelles, February 3, 1898, p. 3 and February 6, 1898, p. 3, L'Indépendance Belge, February 3, 1898, p. 3 & Le Vingtième Siècle, February 6, 1898, p. 1.

¹¹³ *L'Étoile Belge*, February 8, 1898, p. 3.

¹¹⁴ Le Peuple, September 28, 1898, p. 1, Het Laatste Nieuws, September 27, 1898, p. 1 & Het Nieuws van den Dag, September 28, 1898, p. 1.

VILLE DE COURTRAI.

GRAND'PLACE-ATTRACTION.

GRAND CONCE

DONNÉ LE DIMANCHE 3 SEPTEMBRE 1899, A 8 1/2 HEURES DU SOIR,

PAR LA MUSIQUE DU,

GRENADIERS RÉGIMENT

(Musique de S. M. La Reine des Belges,) sous la direction de M. C. Lecail.

PROGRAMME

PREMIÈRE PARTIE.
1. Les Guerriers Franks, marche triomphale
2. La Bataille des Eperons d'Or, ouverture épisodique C. Lecail.
3. Fantaisie sur des motifs Espagnols JA. Gevaert.
4. Polka Concertante, pour deux petites flûtes E. Damaré. exécutée par MM. Massay et Van Hoegaerden —
5. CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA, fantaisie sur l'opéra de P. MASCAGNI.
PEUXIÈME PARTIE.
6. Ouverture de l'opéra « Tannhaüser » R. Wagner.
7. Kermesse Flamande. fantaisie descriptive * * *
a) Le matin. — b) Angelus. — c) Sortie de l'église et Danse. —
d) Orage. — e) Cortège des Ménétriers. — f) Idylle. — g) Ronde
flamande. — h) Parade de Charlatans et finale.
8. La Chanson des Nids, Idylle printannière V. Buot.
Solistes: MM. De Werdt. Dujardin et Massay —
9. Transcription du ballet "MILENKA" JAN BLOCKX.
10. La Housarde, valse militaire L. Ganne.

LA COMMISSION :

Vice-Président, J. MASQUELIER. Président d'Honneur, A. PATTOU.

Président, J. DAMMAN.

Trésorier, G. DECANCQ. Secrétaires.

J. VERRUE et E. VAN LERBERGHE.

Membres: G. Baekelandt, H. Bossaert, J. Laigneil, L. Vermeulen, A. Van Réable.



Clovis Lecail.

1900.

Quite evidently, Lecail often put one or more of his on composition on the concert programs of the Grenadiers Band. That was, for instance the case with a concert at Liège which got laudatory comments in the press. 115



Concert program Liège September 16, 1900.

At a concert at Huy in August 1900, the Band played no less than five compositions by Richard Wagner, including excerpts from Lohengrin and Tannhäuser. 116

Clovis Lecail composed a cantata on the occasion of the marriage of Prince Albert and Princess Elisabeth of Bavaria in Munich on October 2, 1900. The cantata was performed by the Band and the Choral Society of the Grenadiers Regiment at the Saint Elisabeth Barracks on October 2. The cantata was performed again by 500 choristers and musicians conducted by L. Ansiaux at Dinant, Prince Albert attending, on September 19, 1901. 117

¹¹⁵ La Meuse, September 17, 1900, p. 2.

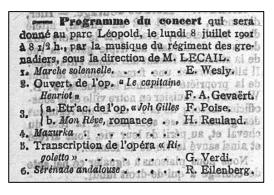
¹¹⁶ La Meuse, August 17, 1900, p. 2.

¹¹⁷ La Réforme, September 24, 1900, p.2 and September 30, 1900, p. 1.

The Band gave numerous regular concerts at various Brussels locations including different Parks.



- Programme du concert qui sera donné au parc Léopold, le mercredi 3 juillet 1901 à 8 1/2 h., par la musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction de M. LECAIL. 4. Parade militaire, A. Reuschel. 2. Lohengrin (transcription de C. Lecail),
3. Bluette pour petite flûte et
hautbois,
4. Fantaissie sur les principaux R. Wagner. Ad. Sellenick. motifs de l'opéra La Bohéme, B. Raketen-Walzer, 6. Ouverture de l'opéra Tann-G. Puccini. M. Freyd. R. Wagner.







donné au parc Léopold, le lundi 9 juillet 1901 à 8 1/2 h., par la musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction de M. LECAIL. 1. Une Fête à Buda-Pesth (Cortège aux flambeaux).

2. Les Noces de Figaro, (ouverture)

3. Fragments du ballet « Milenka »

4. La chanson des nids, bluette

5. Fantaisie sur les principaux motifs de l'opéra « Cavalleria Rusticana » Lecail. Mozart. Jean Block. V. Buot.

- Programme du concert qui sera

P. Mascagni R. Wagner.

G. Rossini.

-- Programme du concert qui sera donné au parc Léopold, le mercredi 10 juillet 1901 à 8 1/2 h., par la musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction de M. LECAIL. Fest-Marsch.
Guillaume Tell, ouverture. Ed. Lassen.

6. La chevauchée des Walkyries

3. Danse Hongroise, (transcrite par C. Lecail). A. Timmermans. 4. Fantaisie, thème et variations J. Muldermans. pour saxophone alto. Véronique, fant. sur l'opér. La Retraite Tartare. A. Messager. Ad. Sellenich.

- Programme du concert qui sera donné au parc Léopold, le vendredi 12 juillet 1901 à 8 1/2 h., par la musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction de M. LECAIL. 1. Retour d'Afrique, marche mili-C. Lecail. taire . Le Roi des Aulnes, ouverture, (transcrite par C. Lecail),
 La Bohême, fantaisie sur l'op. Peter Benoit. P. Mascagni. P. Wachs. R. Wagner. 4. Menuet Pompadour. 5. Sélection sur « La Walhyrie » Raketen-Walzer.



The Belgian Grenadiers Band was, next to the famous Guides Band, one of the very first Belgian military bands to record music on 78 rpm discs. The first (acoustical) records were made for the Zonophone label and were recorded in Brussels late 1901 and early 1902, Clovis Lecail conducting. (cf. Appendix 1).

1903.

A concert at Charleroi on Sunday July 12, 1903 got a large and laudatory comment in the local press:

- « ...Placé depuis six ans sous la direction du chef, qui, avec sa Kermesse Flamande, a pu figurer très honorablement au programme au côté des Titans de la musique, l'orchestre de grenadiers maintient avec avantage une réputation consacrée depuis longtemps par la critique mondiale. Son programme de dimanche comportait trois de principales pages de Wagner, encadrées par de ravissantes fantaisies. Les unes et les autres ont reçu une exécution vraiment magistrale... »¹¹⁸
- [...Conducted for six years by their musical director, who, with his *Kermesse Flamande*, has been able to appear very honorably on a program alongside the Titans of music, the Grenadiers Band largely maintains a reputation granted since long by the music critics worldwide. Its Sunday program featured three of Wagner's main compositions, framed by delightful fantasies. Both received a truly masterful execution...]

1. La Feria, suite espagnole	
nº 1 Los Toros — nº 2 La Reja — nº 3 La Zarzuela.	P. LACOME.
2. Lohengrin (transcription de	F. LACOME.
J. Dupont).	R. WAGNER.
3. Bluette, pour pelite flute et	Att. II AUSTERI
hauthois. Solistes : MM.	
Massay et Permezaen.	AD. SELDENICK.
4. Kermesse Flamande, fantai-	
sie descriptive A) Le	and the second
Matin, B) Angelus, c) Sor-	
tie de l'église et danse,	
D) Orage, E) Corlège des	60 P 10 100
Ménétriers, F) Idylle, G)	State of the state
Ronde flamande, n) Pa-	
rade de charlatan et finale.	C. LECAIL.
DEUXIÈME PAR	TIE
5. La Chevauchee des Walky- rles (transcription de D.	Mail set to the
Daguelies).	R. WAGNER.
6. Dans le Sud, célèbre esquisse	30 1 19
américaine A) Danse	the state of the
du sable, B) Gigue des	
grosses bottes, c) Cake-	
walk.	WH. MYDDLE
7. La Navarraise, fantaisie sur	The same of the sa
l'opéra.	J. MASSENET.
8. Tannhaüser, ouverture.	R. WAGNER.

¹¹⁸ Gazette de Charleroi, July 14, 1903, p. 2.

In 1904 the records by the Belgian Grenadiers Band, issued on the Zonophone label, were advertised in the newspaper *La Réforme*. 119



1905.

Programme du Concert qui sera donné au kiosque du Parc, ce samedi 27 mai, à 20 1/2 heures, par la musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction de M. C. Lecail. 1. Vater-Rhein, marche, P. Lincke; 2. Ouverture de l'Opéra « Guillaume Tell », G. Rossini; 3. Valse des Chasseurs, C. Lecail; 4. Le Son du Cormorceau caractéristique, V. Gandner; 5. Fantaisie sur Hänsel et Gretel, Humperdinck; 6. Polka guerrière, A Neufcour.

Concert program Brussels May 27, 1905.

¹¹⁹ La Réforme, weekly from May 1904 to April 1906.



Concert program Brussels June 3, 1905.

Clovis Lecail was called on for several musical aspects of the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Belgium's independence, the 1905 National Jubilee. He shared the care for the music of the huge historical cortege with the composers Paul Gilson and Emile Agniez (1859-1909). He orchestrated several pieces performed by the (historical) groups of wind players including aida trumpets, brass ensembles and even conches. The Grenadiers Band was also actively involved in festivities all over the country. ¹²⁰

In 1905 the Regiment of the Grenadiers moved from the Saint Elisabeth Barracks to the Prince Albert Barracks.



Saint Elisabeth Barracks

¹²⁰ A. Rouvez, *Le Jubilé National de 1905*, Brussels, 1905.



Prince Albert Barracks

The Grenadiers Band got a rehearsal room on the top floor of the Prince Albert barracks.

1907.

PREMIERE P	ARTIE
1 Marche-Cortège	Gilson
2: Jubel-Ouverture	CM. Von Web
3 Aventure de carnaval,	
valse fantaisie,	C. Lecail.
4 L'Africaine (Transcrip)-
tion de Sender	Meyerbeer.
DEUXIEME P.	ARTIE
Cavalleria Rusticana, fanta	isie
sur l'Opéra	Mascagni
Czardas nº IV	Michiels
Les Deux Pigeons, ballet	Messager
Sérénade andalouse	Eilenberg.

Concert program Brussels January 12, 1907.

la musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction de M. C. Lecail:

Première partie. — Marche hongroise de la Damnation de Faust (Berlioz); Airs de ballet de Cendrillon (Massenet); Réverie d'automne (Wesly); Fantaisie sur l'opéra Aida (Verdi).

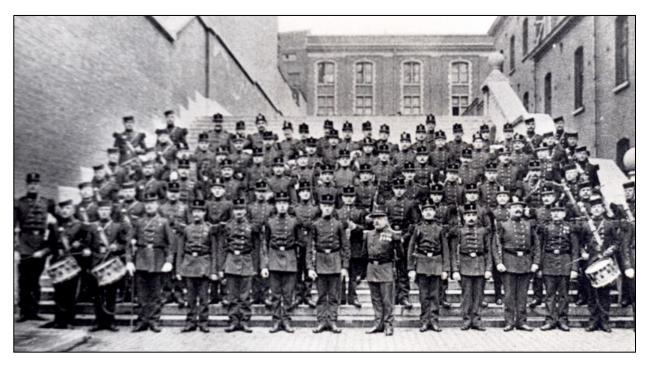
Deuxième partie. — Le Vaisseau Fantôme (Wagner); Rigaudon de l'opéra Dardanus (Rameau); Rhapsodie congolaise (Lecail); La Féria, suite espagnole: a) Les Taureaux, entrée marche; b) La Reja, sérénade; c)

Concert program Brussels January 22, 1907.

La Zarzuela, valse.

On October 6, 1907, the Band accompanied some 500 choristers in the performance of Paul Gilson's *Cantate Inaugurale* at the inauguration ceremony of a new school building at Schaarbeek. ¹²¹ The Band had participated in the premiere performance ten years earlier (cf. p. 32).

In August 1907, Lecail was celebrated by the regiment on the occasion of his 25 years as military band conductor. 122



Band of the Grenadiers, conductor Lecail 1907.

I. Parade militaire (Massenei). — II. Ouverture de la Muette de Portici (Auber). — III. A. Chanson du Rouet (C. Lecail). B. Galant menuet (C. Lecail). — IV. Préludes symphoniques (Liszt). — V. Chevauchée des Walkyries (Wagner). — VI. Concerto romantique (C. Lecail). — VIII. Ballet antique (Guillemant). — VIII. Fantaisie Espagnole (Gevaert).

Concert program Brussels January 29, 1909.

Cortège byzantin, C. Lecail; 2. La Muette de Portici, ouv. de l'opéra, D. Auber;
 Jean qui pleure et Jean qui rit, bluette p. deux cornets, H. Labet;
 La Bohème, fin. du 3° acre, G. Puccini;
 Rapsodie, P. Gilson;
 Sérénade, M. Moszkowski;
 Tannhaüser, ouv. R. Wagner.

Concert program Brussels June 22, 1910.

¹²¹ Le Petit Bleu du Matin, October 5, 1907, p. 3 & L'Indépendance Belge, October 8, 1907, p. 2. ¹²² L'Étoile Belge, August 22, 1907, p. 4.

On May 9, 1911, the Band played at the gala dinner for the French president Fallières¹²³ at the Royal Palace Brussels.

1. Marche extraite de la cantate De Klokke Roeland, d'Edgar Tinel; 2. Ouverture
de l'opéra «La Dame Blanche» (A. Boleldieu); 3. Souvenir de Rome; le menuet de
«Manon» (Massenet); 4. «Mireille», transcription (C. Gounod); 6. Entr'acte de l'opéra «Joli Gilles» (F. Poisc); 6. Tableau symphonique d'après la tragédie «Polyeucte», de
P. Corneille, No 3: Fête dans le temple
de Jupiter (Edgar Tine); 7. Faunes et Bacchantes, idylle (C. Lecail); 8. Symphonie
fantastique, 2e partie: un bal (H. Berlioz);
9. Aubade à Ninon (P. Lacombe); 10. Valse
lente et Pizzicati du ballet «Sylvia» (Léo Delibes).

On June 30, 1912 the Band accompanied 2.500 children in the performance of the cantate *Gloria Flori* by **August De Boeck** on a text by Norbert de Tière at Anderlecht. It also played the *Rubens March* and the overture *Le roi des Aulnes* by **Peter Benoit**. 124

Part of the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Grenadiers Regiment in 1912, the Band played a concert, shared with the Orphéon choir, at the Brussels market square on June 24 with the following program¹²⁵:

Première partie :

(Musique du régiment des grenadiers)

1. « Marche du régiment » (C. Bender); 2.
Le Chant du Guerrier », ouverture dramaique (A. Deppe) : A. Appels et marche au ombat; B. Sentiments qui assiègent le cœur lu guerrier; C. La prière, le devoir, un sourenir d'amour; D. Mèlée et chant de viccoire; 3. « Rhapsodie congolaise » (C. Lecail); 4. « La danse des épècs » (P. Lacôme).

Deuxième partie :

(Société royale L'Orphéon et musique des grenadiers)

5. « Ode au régiment des grenadiers », poème et musique de C. Lecail (solistes : MM. Lits et Louis Van Looch); 6. « Hymne au Drapeau » (J. Berleur) (orchestration de C. Lecail); 7. « La Brabançonne » (F. Van Campenhout) (arrangement d'Ed. Bauwens).

The Royal Decree nr.1567 of 1913 stipulated the following composition for the Grenadiers Band:

7 musicians 1st class
8 musicians 2nd class
14 musicians 3rd class
8 musicians 4th class
8 musicians 5th class
Total: 45 musicians

All musicians were assimilated with the rank of sergeant.

43

¹²³ Armand Fallières (1841-1931) was president of France from 1906 to 1913.

¹²⁴ Le Soir, June 29, 1912, p. 1.

¹²⁵ Le Peuple, June 23, 1912, p. 2

WORLD WAR I (1914-1918)

France

Since 1915 the Belgian National Day on July 21 was celebrated in France. The Band of the Belgian Grenadiers Regiment, conducted by Clovis Lecail, played a concert at the Théâtre de la Verdure of the Tuileries Gardens on Friday July 21, 1916. The concert included pieces by Delibes, Massenet and Lecail and concluded with the national anthems of all the allied countries. The next day the band played a joint concert with the Garde Républicaine Band at a gala concert in the gardens of the Palace of Versailles. André Allard (1874-1938) from the Paris Opera sang both national hymns accompanied by the massed bands (cf. picture p. 45). The concert was repeated the next day. The Belgian Grenadiers Band also performed at Le Havre 128.



Poster announcing the concert by the Belgian Grenadiers Band on July 21, 1916.



Poster announcing the joint concert of the bands of the Belgian Grenadier Guards and the Garde Républicaine at Versailles on July 22 and 23, 1916.

¹²⁶ Le Gaulois, Paris, July 22, 1919, p.1.

¹²⁷ Le Petit Parisien, July 23, 1916, p.2 and July 24, p. 2 & Le Vingtième Siècle, July 19, 1916, p. 1 and July 23, 1916, p. 3.

¹²⁸ During World War I as Belgium was almost completely occupied by the Germans. Sainte-Adresse, a suburb of Le Havre, was the administrative capital of the Kingdom, under temporary lease for the duration of the hostilities in order to avoid a government in exile.



The newspaper "Excelsior" of July 21, 1916.



Joint concert of the Garde Républicaine band and the Belgian Grenadiers Band, Versailles July 23, 1916.





The Belgian Grenadiers Band in front of the Grand Palais, Paris 1916.



England

In November 1916, the Grenadiers band went to Great Britain and played concerts in Manchester, Bradford, Leeds and Harrogate. At Bradford it played for the wounded British soldiers at Saint Luke's Hospital. The Band played two concerts at the Palace Theatre in Manchester on November 5 and 6. On November 7 the Band played concert at the Military War Hospital of Bradford and the next day, November 8, a concert at a similar hospital in Leeds and an evening concert at the Leeds Town Hall. On November 9 there was concert at Saint George's Hall in Bradford. On Friday November 10 there was a concert at the Kursaal of Harrogate. The Band was in London.

London.

On Sunday November 12 the Band played a concert at the Alhambra Theatre in London for the King's Feast. This concert was attended by Princess Clémentine, the youngest daughter of late King Leopold II; among the soloists was the soprano Emilia Conti. Besides several marches, including *Sambre et Meuse*, the Band played ballet music from *Les deux pigeons* (Massenet), *Dernier jour de la Terreur* (Litolff), *Rhapsodie Congolaise* (Lecail) and the overture *La Muette de Portici* (Auber). On Monday November 13 the Band was in Twickenham and then moved to Richmond where it visited the Pélabon Works and played a concert. On Wednesday November the Belgian Grenadiers Band paraded with the British Guards Bands through the main streets of London. On November 15 the Band played the national hymns of Great Britain and Belgium at the Te Deum for the King's Feast at Westminster Cathedral in London. The Band left London on November 18 for Folkestone where it also played a concert. 134



The Band of the Belgian Grenadiers at the Pélabon works, Richmond, November 13, 1916.

¹²⁹ L'Indépendance Belge (edited in Great Britain), November 10, p. 2 & November 20, 1916, p. 5.

¹³⁰ L'Indépendance Belge (edited in Great Britain), November 4, 1916, p. 2.

¹³¹ L'Indépendance Belge (edited in Great Britain), November 14, 1906, p. 2.

¹³² Pélabon Works at Richmond (Surrey) manufactured ammunitions for the Belgian army.

¹³³ L'Indépendance Belge (edited in Great Britain); November 15, 1916, p.2.

¹³⁴ L'Indépendance Belge (edited in Great Britain), November 18, 1916, p. 2.

LA MUSIQUE DES GRENADIERS.

Voici le programme du séjour de la musique des Grenadiers à Londres du 11 au 16 courant :

Samedi 11 novembre : 9 h. 30 soir, arrivée. Logement, 44, Grosvenor Place.

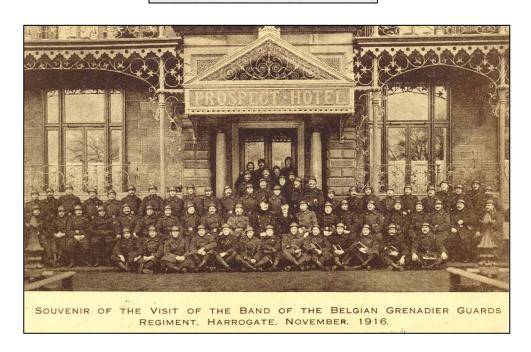
Dimanche 12 novembre: Matinée libre; 12 h. 30, départ en bus du logement; 1h., lunch au British Club, offert par le Comité des Vacances du Soldat; 3 h., grand concert à l'Alhambra; 6 h. 30, diner au British Club, offert par le Comité des Vacances du Soldat; 8 h., "At Home" par invitations, offert par le British Club for Belgian Soldiers.

Lundi 13 novembre: 9 h., promenade en autobus aux monuments de Londres; à 10 h. 45, réunion des Grenadiers à Hyde Park Corner, d'où se fera le départ pour Richmond; 12 h., lunch à Richmond; 1 h., audition populaire; 2 h. 30, visite des Usines Pélabon; 4 h., thé; 5 h., audition populaire (collecte ou prix d'entrée); 6 h., souper; 8 h., théâtre à Londres.

Mardi, 14 nov.: 10 h. 30, visite Parlement; 11 h. 30, répétition cathédrale; 12.30, lunch au Cecil, offert par le "Belgian Artistes' Committee"; 2 h. 30, promenade militaire avec les Guards anglais, viâ Aldwych, Strand, Trafalgar Square, Regent Street, Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner; 4, thé offert par le comité exécutif de réception; 7 h., souper; 8 h., théâtre.

Mercredi, 15 nov.: 11 h., Te Deum à la cathédrale de Westminster; 1 h., lunch, 44, Grosvenor Place; 2 h., départ pour Earl's Court; 2 h. 30, audition populaire au camp; 4 h. 30, thé au camp; 6 h. 30, souper d'adieu offert par le comité exécutif; soirée libre. Cinéma.

Jeudi, 16 nov.: Retour, viâ Folkestone; 9 h. 5., matin, Charing Cross Station.

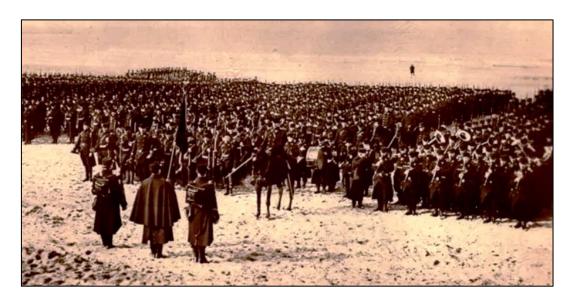


A concert tour in Italy was announced in the scarce Belgian press¹³⁵ in 1917 but did not take place.

During the complete war, the Grenadiers Band also played numerous concerts for the resting soldiers behind the frontlines.



The Grenadiers Band at a farm at Weegschede (Alveringem).



Colonel Lefébure inspects the Grenadier Regiment at De Panne in April 1915.

Paris

On Sunday November 18, 1917 the Belgian Grenadiers Band played at the Te Deum for the King's Feast at the Church of the Belgian Mission, rue de Charonne 181 in Paris and in the afternoon played a concert at the concert hall of the mission. ¹³⁶

¹³⁵ L'Indépendance Belge (edited in Great Britain), April 13, 1917, p. 3 & Le Vingtième Siècle, April 1, 1917, p. 2. ¹³⁶ Le Vingtième Siècle, November 17, 1917, p. 2, Journal des Débats, July 23, 1917, p. 3 & L'Action Française, November 19, 1917, p. 1.

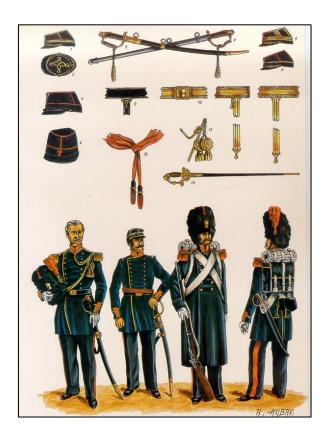
Le Havre

The Band also played several concerts at Le Havre (France) as the Belgian government was in exile at Sainte Adresse. Most concerts were played at hospitals where wounded soldiers were taken care of, but the Band also played at the local opera house. The local press paid attention to the performances of the Belgian Grenadiers Band in Le Havre. Several concert programs were published and even the names of several soloists as was the case in this article published in *Le Petit Havre* of August 5, 1918.



Le Petit Havre, Monday August 5, 1918 p. 2.

¹³⁷ Following the German invasion of Belgium at the beginning of the First World War, in August 1914, the Belgian government decided to go into exile. In consultation with the French State, the city of Sainte-Adresse was designated to welcome the members of this government and allow them to continue to manage their country.



The Band participated in the ceremonies and festivities welcoming the King back in Brussels on November 22, 1918.

On December 20, 1918 the Band played a concert, including many national anthems, at the Brussels town hall. 138

When Clovis Lecail retired on March 29, 1920 and was succeeded by Valéry Bury as conductor of the Belgian Grenadiers Band this was mentioned in several newspapers. ¹³⁹ It was also mentioned that Lecail kept the function of Inspector of all Military Bands.

Only the newspaper *L'Étoile Belge* paid a tribute to Lecail:

[Mr. Lecail has recently been nominated officer in the Order of Leopold with a most praising mention recalling his record and exemplary behavior during the complete wartime The former conductor of the Grenadiers Band will be remembered by the amateurs of good music as a conscientious and honest artist. One remembers the brilliant military band concerts he conducted at the 1910 Exhibition and lately at the unforgettable warriors' festival at the Brussels Grand-Place. Being a gifted composer, Mr. Lecail wrote numerous compositions, mostly for military band, which can be found on the repertoire of the wind bands in Belgium and abroad.]¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸ *De Standaard*, December 22, 1918, p. 1.

 ¹³⁹ Le Soir, April 22, 1920, p. 1, L'Indépendance Belge, April 22, 1920, p. 2, Journal de Bruxelles, April 23, 1920, p. 2, Le Vingtième Siècle, April 23, 1920, p. 2 & Le Courrier de l'Escaut, April 23, 1920, p. 3.
 ¹⁴⁰ L'Étoile Belge, April 4, 1920 p. 2.

M. Lecail a été récemment promu au grade d'officier de l'Ordre de Léopold, avec une citation des plus élogieuses, rappelant ses étate de service et sa belle conduite pendant toute la durée de la guerre. L'ancien chef de la musique des grenadiers laissera parmi les amateurs de bonne musique le souvenir d'un artiste consciencieux et probe. On se souvient des bril-lant auditions musicales militaires données sous sa direction, notamment lors de l'Exposition de 1910 et tout récemment à l'inoubliable fête des combattants à la Grand'Place. Compositeur de talent, M. Lecail est l'auteur d'œuvres nombreuses, principalement pour musiques militaires, et qui, d'ailleurs, figurent au répertoire des musiques d'harmonie et de fanfare du pays et de l'étran-

The French music magazine *Le Ménestrel* wrote in an article "Musiques Militaires Belges" in 1920:

« Le 1^{er} Grenadiers – 'régiment du Roi',- comporte 55 musiciens, ce qui est déjà fort honnête. Parlons un peu de ce dernier, puisqu'il est à la tête de l'infanterie. Sa remarquable musique avait pour chef, jusqu'en ces derniers temps, un excellent musicien, M. Lecail, récemment retraité, mais maintenu par faveur spéciale dans ses fonctions d'inspecteur,-en récompense de sa belle conduite au front. Car la musique du 1^{er} Grenadiers s'y fit remarquer à tous égards ; plusieurs de ses membres furent tués, dont cinq à la fois par une bombe d'avion! »¹⁴¹

[The 1st Grenadiers - "The King's Regiment" - boasts 55 musicians, which is fairly honest. Let's talk a little about the latter, since it dominates the infantry. Its remarkable band was conducted, until recently, by an excellent musician, Mr. Lecail who lately retired, but was maintained by special favor in his functions as inspector, as a reward for his fine conduct at the front. For the band of the 1st Grenadiers was remarkable in all respects; several of its members were killed, five of them at once by an airplane bomb!]

Clovis Lecail died at Brussels on April 6, 1932. 142



¹⁴¹ Le Ménestrel, 401-82° Année, September 3, 1920, p. 1.

142 La Nation Belge, April 8, 1932, p. 3, Le Peuple, April 13, 1932, p. 4.

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Valéry Bury (1920-1932)

The magazine Le Ménestrel introduced Lecail's successor Valéry Bury :

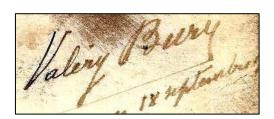
« M. Valéry Bury, qui remplace M. Lecail, a bien mérité cet honneur. Depuis vingt-et-un ans il s'est acquis, dans ses fonctions de chef de musique, une réputation très justifiée. Très particulièrement il a conquis notre sympathie en propageant les œuvres de nos compatriotes et notamment pendant les dernières campagnes. Ajoutons qu'il fut blessé dès le début de la guerre, a été l'objet de deux citations des plus élogieuses et a reçu diverses décorations, parmi lesquelles la croix de guerre. L'homme en lui vaut l'artiste. ». 143

[Mr. Valéry Bury, who replaces Mr. Lecail, has well deserved this honor. For twenty-one years he has acquired, in his functions as a conductor, a very justified reputation. In particular, he won our sympathy by spreading the works of our compatriots and especially during the last campaigns. Let us add that he was wounded from the beginning of the war, was awarded two most laudatory citations and received various decorations, including the Croix de Guerre. Both man and artist are equal meritorious.]

Valéry Bury was born on June 112, 1878 at Binche. He studied at the Royal Brussels Conservatory of Music and obtained first prizes for oboe and harmony and joined the Band of the 1st Guides Regiment. He passed the examination for military bandmaster but was too young to take the function. In 1899, only aged twenty, he was appointed bandmaster of the Band of the 3rd Lancers stationed at Bruges and in 1906 moved in that function to the 4th Regiment of the Line in the same town. During World War I, Bury got wounded at the front in Pervijze in 1914. He succeeded Clovis Lecail as conductor of the Grenadiers Band in 1920. He also succeed Lecail as inspector of the Belgian Military Bands on September 26, 1927 and exercised this function until he retired in June 1932.

Bury composed numerous works for wind (military) band including

several marches: the March of the 13th Regiment of the Line, March of the 24th Regiment of the Line, March of the 3rd Regiment of Riflemen on Foot, Marche des Rubanniers, Charles Maton, Le Montagnard, Le Chef de Corps, La vieille Garde, Boum ça y est, Souvenir de Ten Brielen, Prince Léopold, Marche des Footballistes and Grande Marche Inaugurale, next to the overture Confraternité. Bury conducted several amateur wind bands: Fanfare Royale des Charbonnages du Bois-du-Luc, Royale Lyrique Harmonie de Braine-le-Conte and Fanfare Royale 1870 of Leval-Trahegnies. With these bands he won several prizes at national and international band contests.





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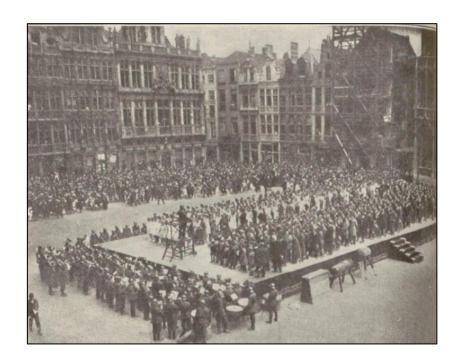
1921

On January 15 and 16, 1921 the Grenadiers Band played a charity concert at Nancy (France) 144

The 25th anniversary of Valéry Bury as military band conductor was celebrated with a music festival gathering the four amateur bands conducted by Bury and the Grenadiers Band at Manage on June 22, 1924. ¹⁴⁵ This was front page news for *L'Étoile*. ¹⁴⁶

On August 14 and 15, 1921 the Band played at **Condé-sur-l'Escaut** (France) in the frame of the Josquin des Prez festival. 147

On August 19, 1921 the Band accompanied massed choirs of schoolchildren at a charity concert for the benefit of the war orphans at the Brussels Market Square (cf. picture below). 148



1923

In **1923** René De Ceuninck left the Band of the 4th Carabineers Regiment as bandmaster and was added to the Band of the Grenadiers, as second bandmaster, assistant of Bury. He conducted many concerts of the Grenadiers Band. On September 22 and 23, 1923 the band was again in **Nancy** (France) and played two concerts. ¹⁴⁹

Due to the dissolution of 12 military bands in 1923, the Grenadiers Band was augmented with 17 musicians and boasted now 62 musicians.

¹⁴⁷ La Libre Belgique, August 16, 1921, p. 2 & Le Soir, August 16, 1921, p. 2.

 ¹⁴⁴ La Meuse, January 11, 1921, p. 6, La Libre Belgique, January 16, 1921, p. 3, Le Matin, January 16, 1921, p. 2, Journal de Bruxelles, January 16, 1921, p. 2 & La Nation Belge, January 16, 1921, p. 2 and January 17, 1921, p. 2.
 ¹⁴⁵ Gazette de Charleroi, June 23, 1924, p. 3, Le Soir, June 24, 1924, p. 6, Le Peuple, June 24, 1924, p. 3 & La Libre Belgique, June 24, 1924, p. 5.

¹⁴⁶ *L'Étoile*, June 20, p. 1, 1924.

¹⁴⁸ Le Soir, June 9, 1921, p. 4 and June 18, 1921, p. 1.

¹⁴⁹ Le Peuple, September 20, 1923, p. 2 & La Nation Belge, September 23, 1923, p. 2.

1925

On May 26, 1925 the Band played at a Belgian military ceremony in **Rome** (Italy). ¹⁵⁰ The Band played a concert at the Place d'Armes of **Luxemburg** City (Grand Duchy of Luxemburg) on August 16, 1925. ¹⁵¹

1926

At the inauguration of the Woeste Monument in Brussels on October 17, 1926 the Grenadiers Band accompanied 500 children in the cantata *Patrie Radieuse*, composed by Clovis Lecail. ¹⁵²

La musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant R. De Ceuninck. Première partie : 1. Corcia, marche, de G. Erlanger; 2. Helvétia, ouverture, de C. Lecail; 3. Pasquinade, de A. De Boeck; 4. Freischutz, fantaisie arrangée par V. Bury, de von Weber.

Deuxième partie : 1. Ballet d'Isoline, suite d'orchestre, de A. Messager; 6. Le Rendez-vous de chasse, fantaisie descriptive, de L. Langlois; 7. Historiette, de P. Lagasse; 8. L'Arlésienne, 2me suite d'orchestre, de G. Bizet.

Concert at the 20th Brussels Automobile Fair December 18, 1926.

1927

Les concerts du Parc. — Jeudi 12 mai, à 15 heures, concert par la musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine V. Bury. Programme: 1, «Sigurd Jorsalfar», marche (Grieg); 2. «Le Carnaval Romain», ouverture (H. Berlioz); 3. a) «Ball scène», entracte pour les clarinettes (Hellmesberger); b) «Babil d'Oiseaux», bluette pour les flûtes (Cl. Lecail); 4, «Louise», fantaisie sur l'opéra (Charpentier); 5. «Messidor», poème symphonique (A. Bruneau); 6. «La Walkyrie», fantaisie sur l'opera (R. Wagner); 7. «Suite Algérienne» (C. Saint-Saëns): 1) Prélude; 2) Rapsodie Mauresque; 3) Rêverie; 4. Marche militaire française; 8. «Guillaume Tell», ouverture de l'opéra (Rossini).

Concert at the Brussels Park, May 12, 1927.

On June 10, 1927, 1.500 pupils of the Brussels schools attended a rehearsal of the Grenadiers Band at the Waux-Hall open air theatre, as an initiation into music. The program included *Dreaming* from Schumann's 'Kinderszenen', the first movement of Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*, von Weber's *Freischütz Overture*, César Franck's *Redemption*, Paul Gilson's *Rapsodie Hawaïenne* and Bernaert's *Marche Solennelle*. ¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ La Nation Belge, May 26, 1925, p. 3 & L'Indépendance Belge, May 27, 1926, p, 2.

¹⁵¹ Le Vingtième Siècle, August 18, 1925, p. 3.

¹⁵² Le Soir, October 14, 1926, p. 1.

¹⁵³ L'Étoile Belge, June 11, 1927, p. 3 & La Dernière Heure, June 11, 1927, p. 1.

The Grenadiers Band participated in (its first?) **broadcast concert** on "Station de Bruxelles" (805 m. 50)¹⁵⁴ on Tuesday June 14, 1927. The concert included two compositions by René De Ceuninck.¹⁵⁵





Au Bois. — Programme du concert qui sera donné au Bois de la Cambre, le dimanche 28 août, à 15 h., par la Musique des Grenadiers direction De Ceuninek :

1. Steenstraete, marche, de L. Gasia; 2. Ouverture de Bienzi, de B. Wagner; 3. Rapsodie Hawaienne, de P. Gilson; 4. Scènes Pittoresques, de J. Massenet : a) Marche; b) Air de Ballet; c) Angelus; d) Fête Bohême; 5. Patrouille au Camp, de C. Lecail; 6. Les Pécheurs de Perles, de G. Bizet (fantaisie); 7. La Phalène, suite tirée du ballet, de A. De Boeck : a) Prélude; b) Valse; c) Adagio; d) Marche; 8. Les joyeuses commères de Windsor, ouverture, de E. Nicolay.

Concert at the Brussels 'Bois de la Cambre' Park, August 28, 1927.

1928

Sometimes the Band also played a concert with a particular theme. That's was for instance the case with the concert of Latvian music, including *Two Preludes* (Jānis Mediņš) and *Polonaise* and *Religious March* (Jāzeps Vītols) at the Brussels Army Museum on March 25, 1928. ¹⁵⁶ Another thematic concert, called "Italian Music Festival", took place at the Flora cinema in Ixelles (Brussels) on April 20, 1928. ¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁴ Radio Station inaugurated on November 24, 1923.

¹⁵⁷ La Libre Belgique, April 17, 1928, p. 4.

¹⁵⁵ Le Vingtième Siècle, June 14, 1927, p. 4, La Libre Belgique, June 14, 1927, p. 5 & Journal de Charleroi, June 11, 1927, p. 3 and June 14, 1927, p. 3.

¹⁵⁶ Le Peuple, March 27, 1928, p.5 & Gazette de Charleroi, March 26, 1928, p. 1.

1. Hugues de Somerghem, ouverture (F. A. Gevaert).

2. Esquisses caucasiennes (I. Ivanov) a) Dans le défilé; b) Dans l'Asule; c) Cortège du Serdare.

3. Rapsodie (P. Gilson).

4. Symphonie Fantastique (H. Berlioz) a) Rèveries, Passions; b) Un bal; c) Scène aux champs; d) Marche du supplice; e) Songe d'une nuit de Sabbat.

5. Caprice italien (Tchaikowsky).

6. La musique des grenadiers avec tambours et clairons : a) Marche du 2e régiment des grenadiers.

Ce concert sera dirigé par le lieutenant chef de musique R. De Ceuninck.

Concert at Jette (Brussels), May 6, 1928.

— Au Parc. — Programme du concert donné demain jeudi, à 15 h., par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant-chef de musique R. De Ceuninck:

1. « Grande marche solennelle », Beernaert; 2. Ouverture de « Euryanthe », Weber; 3. « Le Chevalier à la Rose », Strauss; 4. Danses du « Prince Igor », Borodine; 5. « Rapsodie slave », Dvorak; 6. « Première valse symphonique », Gilson; 7. Deuxième suite de « Peer Gynt », Grieg; 8 « Deuxième rapsodie hongroise », Liszt.

Concert at the Brussels Park, September 21, 1928.

On December 4, 1928 the Grenadiers Band played another radio concert broadcast by Radio Belgique (also on 805 m. 50).

21 h. 15: Diffusion du concert donné en le Salle de l'Union Coloniale (Marche des Grenadiers; Chansons de nos soldats d'hier et d'aujourd'hui): Sous l'uniforme (sera créé par M. Pouillart) (F. Boland); La Belgienne (créé par M. Kohlen, avec accomp de la musique des Grenadiers) (R. de Ceuninck); L'Union des Belges (sera créé par 'M. Pouillart) (M. Spoel), av. accomp de la musique des Grenadiers); Sous le ciel de la Belgique (sera créé par M. Dereppe) (F. Boland): Le S. S. (Service Salutaire) (F. Boland) (sera créé par M. Pouillart); Cœurs virils (sera créé par M. Kohlen) (M. Spoel), av. accomp. de la musique des Grenadiers; Un castar de Belgique (sera créé par M. Pouillart) (M. Spoel); Tu t'en souviens, soldat, sans dou'e (F. Boland), sera créé par M. Dereppe) (M. Spoel); A nos Morts glorieux (seta créé par M. Kohlen, av. accomp. de la musique des Grenadiers) (R. de Ceuninck).

1929

On March 26, 1929 the Band of the Belgian Grenadiers participated in the funeral ceremonies for Marshal Foch in **Paris** (France). 158



¹⁵⁸ Le Peuple, March 21, 1929, p. 3, Journal de Charleroi, March 27, 1929, p. 1 & Le Soir, March 27, 1929, p. 3.

Concerts du Parc. — La musique des Grenadiers sous la direction du lieutenant chef de musique B. De Ceuninck se fera entendre au Parc ce dimanche à 14 heures. Programme: 1. Ouverture de « La Princesse Jaune » de St-Saëns. 2. 2e Suite de Peer Gynt, de Grieg. 3. Rapsodie Dahonienne, de De Boeck. 4. Esquisses Caucassiennes, de Ippolitov-Ivanov. 5. Siegfried, les murmures de la Forêt, de Wagner. 6. Jeux d'enfants, de Bizet. 7. Coprice italien, de Tschaikowsky.

Concert at the Brussels Park, May 5, 1929.

On May 19, 1929 the Grenadiers Band played a concert at the main square of **Lille** (France). ¹⁵⁹ This concert was broadcast live by Radio Lille (P.T.T.)- 245 m. ¹⁶⁰

— Au Parc. — Programme du concert dorné par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant-chef de musique R. De Ceuninck, demain dimanche, à 15 h.: 1. « Marche Joyeuse », E. Chabrier; 2. « Le Marchand de Venise », P. Gilson; 3. « Rhapsodie wallonne », P. Marchand; 4. « Entrée des Dieux au Walhalia », R. Wagner; 5. « Impressions d'Italie », G. Charpentier; 6. « Air de Chérubin », W. Merzit; 7. Ballet d'« Isoline », A. Messager; 8. « Capriccio Espagnol », Rimsky Korsakov.

Concert at the Brussels Park, June 10, 1929.

Au Waux-Hall. — Le mardi 2 juillet, à 20 h. 30, concert militaire par la musique des grenadiers (direction V. Bury) avec le concours de Mme Elisabeth Simons, cantatrice du Kursaal d'Ostende. Program em: 1. Le Freischutz, ouverture (Ch. M. Weber); 2. Esquisses caucasiennes, suite d'orchetre appol Ivanow); 3. Le Jongleur de Notre-Dame (Massenet), fantaisie arr. par Fr. De Coninck; 4. Air de Lia(de l'Enfant Prouigue) (Debussy); Mme Elisabeth Simons; 5. Paysages wallons (Alex. De Taye); 6. La Juive, Mme Elisabeth Simons; 7. Danses du ballet « Prince Igor » (A. Borodine).

Concert at the Wauxhall, Brussels, July 2, 1929.

¹⁵⁹ La Nation Belge, May 20, 1929, p. 3, Le Soir, May 21, 1929, p. 5, Le Vingtième Siècle, May 20, 1929, p. 2 & La Libre Belgique, May 21, 1929, p. 1.

¹⁶⁰ Le Vingtième Siècle, May 19, 1929, p. 8 & Gazette de Charleroi, May 19, 1929, p. 5.

On September 1, 1929, the Band played a concert at Marcinelle which got a laudatory comment in the Gazette de Charleroi with a picture of the conductor. The program included pieces by Ketèlbey, Wagner, Bizet and Puccini. 161

Les concerts du Parc. — Programme du concert qui sera donné au Parc de Bruxelles ce dimanche 15 à 15 heures par la musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant chef de musique. R. de Ceuninck. — 1. «Ouverture d'Euryanthe Weber; 2. «Entrée des Dieux au Walhalla» Wagner; 3. «L'Arlésienne, 2e suite» Bizet; 4. «Werther» Massenet; 5. «Transcriptions Humoristiques« orch.; 6. «Ballet des Heures» Ponchielli; 7. «1812, Ouverture solennelle». Tschaikowsky.



Concert at the Brussels Park, September 15, 1929.

On October 19, 1929 a concert with the Grenadiers Band was broadcast by Radio Schaerbeek (246 m).

RADIO-SCHAERBEER (Bruxelles) 2-16 m.

20 h. 30: Radio-diffusion de la soirée artistique organisée en la salle de la Madeleine de Bruxelles, par la Fraternelle des Grenadiers combattants 14-18, avec le concours de la musique du 1er grenadiers, direction capitaine Bury, d'artistes du Théatre royal de la Monnale, et de l'orchestre symphonique sous la direction de M. R. de Ceunnick:

1. « Euryanthe », ouverture (Weber); 2. Esquisses caucasiennes (Ippolitow-Ivanov), par la musique des grenadiers; 3. Artistes du chant. Orchestre symphonique sous la direction de M. De Ceuninck; 4. Danse russe (Springair); 5. Valse de « Coppélia » (L. Delibes); 6. Le cygne (Saint-Saëns). — Entracte: Musique enregistrée. — 7. Musique des grenadiers: A travers l'œuvre de Peter Benoit; 8. Marche des grenadiers (C. Bender).

1930

Paris again. On January 18, 1930 the Band played at a charity concert for the benefit of the blind disabled ex-war soldiers at the **Paris** Opera. The program included the overture *The Merchant of Venice* by Paul Gilson and *Caucasian Sketches* by Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov. There was also a reception at the Town Hall. ¹⁶²

The band participated in numerous ceremonies and festivals celebrating the centenary of Belgium's independence.

On August 5, 1930 a Concert by the Grenadiers Band at the Brussels Waux-hall was broadcast by Radio Schaerbeek (246 m). 163

Station de Radio-Diffusion de SCHAERBEEK-BRUXELLES 246 m. 20 h. 30: Radio-diffusion du concert donné au Waux-Hail de Bruxelles, avec le concours de la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine Bury. — Pendant l'interruption, chronique humoristique par Faustus.

¹⁶³ Le Soir, August 5, 1930, p. 5.

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¹⁶¹ Gazette de Charleroi, September 3, 1929, p. 3.

¹⁶² Le Soir, January 20, 1930, p. 2.

An international concert at the Brussels Cinquantenaire Park, gathering the Grenadiers Band (Valéry Bury), the Military Band of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg (Fernand Mertens), the Brussels Town Band and the Choral Society of La Bouverie was broadcast live by Radio Belgique (500 m.) on August 9, 1930. The Grenadiers played compositions by Rimsky-Korsakov, Paul Gilson, Gevaert, Benoit and *Humoresque* by Marcel Poot. 164

16 heures: Radio-diffusion du concert donné à l'occasion du grand cycle musical national et international, au parc du Cinquantenaire, par la Musique militaire du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, sous la direction de M. Mertens; la musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine Valéry Bury, inspecteur des musiques militaires; l'Harmonie communale et Société des Chœurs de La Bouverie.

Neuvième Symphonie avec chœurs, de Beetho-

Neuvième Symphonie avec chœurs, de Beethoven. Principaux solistes des grands théâtres de Paris et du Théâtre royal de la Monnaie. — 550 exécutants sous la direction du lieutenant R. De Ceuninck.



Back from the camp - La Dernière Heure, August 21, 1930.

Lieutenant René De Ceuninck was responsible for the performances and arrangements of the music, often played on reconstructions of ancient musical instruments, used in the historical parade "Ommeghang", which took place in the summer of 1930.¹⁶⁵



¹⁶⁴ Le Soir, August 9, 1930, p. 5 & La Libre Belgique, August 10, 1930, p. 3.

¹⁶⁵ La Libre Belgique, June 22, 1930, p. 3.

Les concerts du Parc. — Programme du concert qui sera donné au Parc de Bruxelles le jeudi 7 mai 1931, par la musique du régiment des grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine V. Bury: 1. Grande marche inaugurale (V. Bury); 2. Ouverture héroique (Lucien Niverd); 3. Paysages wallons, grande suite orch. (Alex de Taye); 4. La Mer (P. Gilson), chante et anses des matelots; 5. Fantaisie sur Louise (G. Charpentier), cornet solo F. Coppez; 6. Variations en forme de danses (Marcel Poot); 7. Esquisses caucasiennes (M. Ippoliton Ivanov); 8. Rapsodie hongroise (F. Liszt), transcr. V. Bury.

Concert Program Brussels Park, May 7, 1931.

On May 15, 1931 the Band participated in the funeral procession of violinist Eugène Ysaye. ¹⁶⁶ On May 17, 1931 the Grenadiers Band played a concert at **Roubaix** (France) for the 50th anniversary of the local choir "Nadaud" with which it had shared the scene at the Paris opera on January 18, 1930. ¹⁶⁷

LE CONCERT DES GRENADIERS. — Voici le programme du concert qui sera donné par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine V. Bury, inspecteur des musiques de l'armée, au Jardin d'Acclimatation, le dimanche 31 mai, à 16 heures :

1) Marche militaire sur le « Valeureux Liégeois » ; 2) Le Carnaval Romain, ouverture ; 3) Souvenir d'Amérique, grande fantaisie pour clarinette : soliste M. B. Piette, sous-chef ; 4) Suite « Esquisses Caucasiennes », en trois parties ; 5) Deuxième Rhapsodie hongroise de Liszt ; 6) A travers l'œuvre de «Peter Benoît», avec trompettes thébaines et carillon ; 7) Marche des Grenadiers, avec tambours et clairons.

Concert program Brussels, May 31, 1931.

LES CONCERTS

4- Au Bols. — Programme du concert donné dimanche 7 juin, à 13 heures, par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant R. De Ceuninck: 1. « Jowa » (marche). L. Meeus; 2. « La Nation Belge » (ouverture), P. Benoît; 3. « Hyde Park » (suite d'orchestre), Roger Jalowicz; 4. Valse caprice sur « Faust », Gounod (arrag. par J.-E. Strauwen); 5. « Les Joyeuses commères de Windsor » (ouverture), Nicolai; 6. « Fantaisie espagnole », F.-A. Gevaert; 7. « Die Siegler », L. Elbel; 8. « Rendez-vous de chasse », Rossini.

Concert Program Brussels, June 7, 1931.

¹⁶⁶ L'Indépendance Belge, May 15/16, 1931, p. 2.

¹⁶⁷ Le Soir, May 19, 1931, p. 1 & Le Peuple, May 19, 1931, p. 3.

A concert by the Band at the Josaphat Park in Brussels was broadcast live by Radio Schaerbeek (245, 9 m.) on June 27, 1931. 168

20 h. 30: Radio-diffusion de la soirée artistique offèrte au parc Josaphat, à Schaerbeek, par les « Journées Coloniales » de Schaerbeek, avec le concours de la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant de Ceuninck;

1. Grande Mârche inaugurale (V. Bury); 2.
« Le Roi d'Ys », ouverture (E. Lalo); 3. « Le Jongleur de Notre-Dame » (J. Massenet); 4. Danses polowtsiennes du « Prince Igor » (A. Borodine).

Au repos: Chronique humoristique par Faustus.
6. Caprice italien (P. Tschaikowsky); 7. He Rhap-Suite du concert: 5. Valse-schezo (P. Gilson); sodie hongroise (F. Liszt); 8. « Vers l'Avenir » (A. Gevaert); 9. « La Brabançonne » (F. Van Campenhout).

Broadcast Concert June 27, 1931.

1932



La musique des Grenadiers est venue, dimanche, donner à Liège un concert qui a eu le plus vis succès. Voici l'arrivée de la musique, pre cédée de la clique et, d'autre part, le tambour-major qui mesure queique deux mètres, causant avec un type populaire liégeois, l'« échassier », qui, pour la circonstance, s'est affuble de l'ancien uniforme des Grenadiers. (Photos MEUSE, clichés PIM).

La Meuse, June 6, 1932

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¹⁶⁸ *Le Soir*, June 27, 1931, p. 7.

When Valéry Bury retired as conductor of the Grenadiers Band in June 1932, Paul Gilson wrote a fine article (signed SERTUASEL) in the *Revue Musicale Belge* of June 20:

année. — N° 12. 1 franc le numéro. 20 juin 1932.

LA REVUE MUSICALE BELGE

menter le repos des guerriers en claironnant des airs de combat! Les disciples d'Orphée, serviteurs de Mars aussi, possèdent leur funèbre tableau d'honneur. Bury, lui-même, n'échappa point au danger. Il perdit une tranche de ce qu'on appelle la partie la moins noble du corps humain.

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Outre un chevron de blessure, une citation à l'ordre du jour le classe parmi ceux qui firent autre chose que de la musique. Bury resta pendant cinquante mois au front.

Mais de ces choses, il ne parle jamais. Et puis, malgré le respect que l'on doit à un glorieux soldat, et nonobstant la belle prestance d'officier de notre héros, nous considérons ici surtout le musicien. Musicien il l'est profondément. Tout le monde connaît la finesse de ses interprétations. Rien n'est laissé au hasard. Lorsqu'il fait étudier une œuvre il l'explore jusque dans ses moindres recoins. Certes, il composa, mais il ne fit point de la composition une spécialité, estimant, à juste raison, qu'on ne chasse pas deux lièvres à la fois. Comme vous et moi il aurait pu signer des sonates, des symphonies ou des opéras. Il préféra diriger des harmonies et des fanfares, et tout le monde se plaît à reconnaître qu'il exerce ce métier avec une parfaite maîtrise. Tout le monde ne peut pas diriger la Philharmonique de Berlin ou l'orchestre de l'« Ancienne Belgique »! Bury dirigea donc les Grenadiers, ce qui, dans le monde des amateurs de musique populaire, est considéré comme un insigne honneur. Nul musicien n'a été plus acclamé que lui. Ceux qui n'ont pas entendu la pittoresque fantaisie « A travers l'œuvre de Peter Benoît », exécutée par l'orchestre de Bury, ne se doutent pas du merveilleux effet de la musique sur la foule lorsqu'un conducteur enthousiaste l'anime.

C'est que Bury aime et comprend la musique. Chose plus rare, il s'y intéresse. En vérité il est peu de musiciens qui s'intéressent à leur art. Ils font de la musique comme le charcutier des saucissons. Ils donnent leurs cours, grattent du violon et lisent leur journal avant de se coucher. Ceux qui se piquent de littérature lisent le « Jean-Cristophe » de Romain Rolland et se croient à la page. Mais la plupart ignorent tout de la vie musicale.

Il est des exceptions. Valéry Bury en est une. On le voit à tous les concerts; il suit régulièrement les premières de la Monnaie; il s'intéresse vivement à la production musicale. Ce qui ne l'empêche pas de faire sa belotte ou son bridge et de se payer de temps en temps un «bon verre», et davantage.

Il prend la vie du bon côté. Pas plus joyeux convirque Valère Bury. On écrit Valéry, mais on prononce Valère. Il apprécie un bon Chambertin et, tout es sittlant légèrement les s, conte des anecdotes savoureuses et authentiques — du moins il l'assure ponctuées de nombreux « nondedom » (j'ai dit que Bury fit une longue villégiature en Flandre, là ce bon Wallon s'initia aux vocables flamands).

Je vous ai entretenu de Bury, du militaire, de musicien, de l'artiste, de l'ami. Il reste à parler de l'homme des sociétés. Il a dirigé de belles et puis santes phalanges. A présent encore il se trouve à la tête de la Fanfare Royale des Charbonnages du Bois du-Luc, de la Royale Lyrique Harmonie de Braine le-Comte, la Fanfare Royale 1870 de Leval-Trahegnies. Il ne se passe pas d'année où il ne se présente avec l'une ou l'autre société à un concours ou tournoi. Toujours il se distingue de la manière la plus brillante. L'homme pourrait glorieusement se repo ser sur ses lauriers, mais il aime l'activité, la lutte. Et c'est tant mieux pour l'art musical populaire dont il est l'une des plus belles, des plus sympathique figures.

Bury est l'idole de ses sociétés. On l'admire, on le respecte, on le vénère. Cette admiration se traduit par des gestes magnanimes et sublimes. N'allait-on pas, tout récemment, j'asqu'à lui offrir un kiosque monumental! Un énorme kiosque qui porte sur le fronton le nom du chef aimé. Evidemment, tout d'abord Bury se trouva légèrement interloqué. Un kiosque est un cadeau plutôt encombrant et qui ne se place pas sur la commode de la salle à manger. Le kiosque demeura donc dans le parc du donateur. Bury y donne des auditions, des auditions qui enchantent son auditoire. Celui-ci acclame son Dieu, son idole, avec un exultant enthousiasme.

Valère Bury est un homme heureux. Il est compris, il est admiré, il est respecté. Aujourd'hui il quitte l'armée. Plus que jamais il pourra défendre la cause de ses chères sociétés de musique; plus que jamais il pourra se consacrer à l'art populaire, à l'art qui parle au cœur des humbles et de ceux qui ne considèrent pas la musique comme un moyen de lucre ou un sujet de snobisme. Aujourd'hui Valéry Bury commence une nouvelle étape de sa carrière: puisse-t-elle être longue, très longue et jalonnée de satisfactions artistiques et de succès nombreux!



Valéry Bury's retirement was announced in advance in the press. ¹⁶⁹ He conducted his last concert with the Grenadiers Band at the Waux-Hall open air theatre on June 28, 1932. The program consisted entirely of Belgian compositions ¹⁷⁰:

Fête dans le Temple de Jupiter – from 'Polyeucte'Edgar TinelLe Marchand de Venise – overturePaul GilsonSur le Lac Léman - barcarolleClovis LecailVariations en forme de danseMarcel PootA travers l'œuvre de Peter BenoitPeter BenoitMarche du 1er Régiment des GrenadiersConstantin BenderMarche du 2ème Régiment des GrenadiersFélix Degrez

The concert was followed by a ceremony paying tribute to the conductor at which the composer Marcel Poot gave a laudatory speech. ¹⁷¹





La dernière Heure, June 30, 1932

Le Peuple, June 28, 1932, p. 1.

 ¹⁶⁹ La Meuse, June 17, 1932, p. 6, Le Soir, June 18, 1932, p.2, Le Vingtième Siècle, June 18, 1932, p. 2, L'Étoile Belge, June 18, 1932, p. 3 & L'Indépendance Belge, June 19, 1932, p. 1
 ¹⁷⁰ Le Soir, June 30, 1932 p. 4.

¹⁷¹ Le Soir, June 22, 1932, p. 2, La Nation Belge, June 29, 1932, p. 4, Le Peuple, June 29, 1932, p. 6, La Dernière Heure, June 30, 1932, p. 1, L'Étoile Belge, June 30, 1932, p. 6, Gazette de Charleroi, June 30, 1932, p. 2, L'Indépendance Belge, July 1, 1932, p. 5 & Het Nieuws van den Dag, June 30, 1932, p. 1.

Chez le capitaine Bury,

chef de la musique des Grenadiers, inspecteur général des musiques de l'Armée

Après 34 ans de service, le capitaine Bury, inspecteur général des musiques de l'armée, chef de la musique des Granadiers, abandonne ses fonctions, etteint par la limite d'âge qui, pour les officiers de son grade, devance, et le beaucoup le temps du repos prescrit par la nature.

par la nature.

Le règlement est le règlement, et il n'y a qu'à s'incliner. En soldat discipliné, le capitaine Bury a reçu l'ordre de passer la main. Mais on devine combien la soumission lui a été crueile quand on considère sa prestance de gagée, et tous les signes qui, sur son



Le capitaine BURY visage aux traits accentués, décèlent une activité intacte.

Avant qu'il ne subisse le feu roulant des discours, nous l'avons soumis au tir de l'interview.

Il nous reçoit dans la salle de la musique installée au dernier étage de in caserne des Grenadiers, pendant que le clairen de garde s'époumonne dans la cour. Ce sont les dernières sonneries qu'il entend. Eiles appellent tantôt le sergent de semaine, tantôt les consignés, tantôt les hommes à la soupe. Pour lui ce ne sont que variations du même air : celui de la retraite. Et son regard, malgré la jovialité des propos qui s'échangent entre nous, trahit parro's la mélancolie qui l'étreint.

Comme nous faisons allusion aux sentiments qui l'agitent en cet instant:

— C'est vrai, avoue-t-il. Ce n'est pas de plein gré que je dépouille l'uniforme et que f'abandonne mes musiciens, na musique, mon régiment. J'ai eu trop tôt 5\(\pm\$ ans! Il me restera pour m'en consoler, la direction des trois phalanges de prevince dont je m'occupe de puis plusieurs années et les joies de la composition aurquelles favais du renoncer presque complètement par défaut de loisirs.

A part, les adaputions qui consti-

A part, les adapt tions qui constituent notre pain quotidien, et quelques marches militaires, dont la marche officielle du 21t de ligne, mon bagage musical se réduit a peu de chose. Je vais rattraper le temps perdu et celle pensée compense un peu le regret que férouve à quitier la vie militaire.

Le capitaine Bury egrène alors quelques dates de sa carrière presque révolue. Il débuta comme chef de la musique du 3e Lanciers. Puis il passa au 4e de ligne et c'est dans les rangs de son état-major qu'il fut blessé à Pervyse, en 1914, par un éclat de shrapnell. A. lendemain de la guerre, il prit la succession de Leceil à la tête de la musique des Grenadiers. Enfin, en 1927, il était nommó inspecteur général des musiques de l'armée. — Vous êtes d'une famille de musiciens? lui demandons-nous.

— De musiciens amateurs. Mon père était fou de musique et il s'était mis en tête d'apprendre un instrument different à ses enfants. L'un jouait de la flûte, l'autre du hautbois. Quant à lui, il s'adonn..it de préférence à la trompette.

A 6 1/2 ans je donnais mon premier concert de hauthois. Et à douze, j'en-levals des morçau... que, conscient de mon audace, je n'abordais pas sans appréhensions après avoir remporté mon premier prix au conservatoire.

— Ou fites-vous vos débuts à l'armée ?

— A la musique des Guides où je tenais une partie de hauthois. Je n'y restai d'alleurs pas longtemps, car un
concours ayant été ouvert à Bruges
pour pourvoir au remplacement du
chef de musique du se Lanciers, je me
mis sur les rangs et décrochai le numéro I au grand étonnement de mon
père qui, informé de mon projet, m'nvait encouragé par ces mots. «Qu'estce que vous aller foire là-bas! Un gumin comme vous....»

- Quel age aviez-vous donc?

- Vingt ans & poine.

- Et vous fûtes nommé ?

— Ovi. Mais non saus peine. D'abord fétais handicapé par ma jeunesse. Un chef de musique de 20 ans, cela ne s'était jamais vu. Et puis, fétais cavalier de deuxième classe et ma nomination me conférait automatiquement le grade d'adjudant. Un avancement aussi rapide, cela ne s'était jamais vu non plus. Ensuite fava's pris part au concours sans m'être mini des autorisations nécessitres. Enfin. quoique cavalier dans un régiment d'élite, fétais complétement novice dans l'art de

Tout s'arrangea cependant. Mais je dois une fière chandelle à mon chevul. Sans cette « brave » bête, qui obéissait aux sonneries avec docilité exemplaire, faurais échoué à l'épreuve préliminaire et faurais perdu la face lors de ma première sortie, quelques jours plus tard, à la tête du régiment mobilisé pour la procession du Saint-Sang.

Mais le capitaine Bury s'arrête sur la pente des souvenirs. Déjà il estime avoir trop parlé de lui. Et le voici parti dans un vif éloge de son successeur, le lieutenant De Ceuninck qu'il voudrait, en cette circonstance, hisser sur le pavois. Le lieutenant De Ceuninck est un brave qui a fait la guerre comme soldat au 2e Carabiniers. Il a été blessé au cours de la campagne. Nommé chef de musique du 4e Carabiniers, ont il a composé la marche off cielle, il a été adjoint au chef de la musique des Grenadiers à la dissolution de ce régiment. La succession est assurée.

LIONEL

La Nation Belge, June 28, 1932, p. 2.

¹⁷² La Nation Belge, June 28, 1932, p. 2.



Farewell ceremony June 28, 1932- Het Nieuws van den Dag, June 30.

Major Bury was succeeded as musical director by his assistant René De Ceuninck who had seconded him since 1923.

RENÉ DE CEUNINCK (1932-1940)

René De Ceuninck was born at Fontaine-l'Évêque on January 9, 1893. Aged fourteen he entered the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and only two years later he graduated with First Prizes for solfeggio, transposition and flute. The same year, in 1909, he joined the orchestra of the Brussels opera "La Monnaie" as a flautist and became soloist of this orchestra in 1913. In the meantime he had first studied harmony and counterpoint with composer Martin Lunssens and then composition with Paul Gilson. He joined the army and participated in the Yser Campaign in 1914 as a member of the Band of the 2nd Carabineers. On October 30, 1914 he got injured at the shoulder at Stuivenskerke and was evacuated to Great Britain. Once recovered, De Ceuninck was reintegrated in the front line. He passed the examination for military band conductor and had to set up the Band of the 4th Carabineers Regiment which he conducted from 1917 until it was disbanded in 1923. De Ceuninck wrote the march of the regiment. When the Band of the 4th Carabineers Regiment was dissolved De Ceuninck was appointed deputy conductor of the Band of the Grenadiers Regiment as assistant to Valéry Bury whom he succeeded in 1932



In 1940 Commander De Ceuninck was made a prisoner of war at Ninove and he was deported to the camp of Tibor Oflag III in Poland together with numerous Walloon and Brussels prisoners. The situation was rather critical as the temperature often went down to minus 15° Celsius. He was liberated on February 20, 1941 and was put at the disposal of the "Service des Travaux" of the demobilized army. De Ceuninck got back to Belgium and took up again the conductorship of the Grenadiers band from November 9 to December 1944.

When Arthur Prevost retired De Ceuninck was selected to lead the Band of the Guides which he conducted from December 1944 to the end of January 1946. In this very short period he maintained the exceptional level of the Guides Band.

De Ceuninck also conducted several amateur wind bands including the *Royale Lyrique* of Fontaine-l'Evêque (1925-1939) and the *Royale Harmonie* of la Bouverie (1926-39) and (1944-46). When he retired on January 31, 1946, he settled in Switzerland with his family. Over there he conducted the amateur wind bands *Les Armes Réunies* at La Chaux-de-Fonds (until 1970) and *L'Union Instrumentale* at Locle (Neuchâtel). René De Ceuninck died on August 9, 1973. De Ceuninck has composed several wind band pieces, including military marches and he wrote also some very interesting fine transcriptions. We mention the military marches *Centenaire des Grenadiers, Grenadiers Toujours, Marche du Service de Santé Belge, Marche des Croix de l'Yser, Marche du 6ème Régiment d'Artillerie, Marche du 14ème Régiment d'Artillerie, Marche du 15 ème Régiment d'Artillerie, Marche du 4ème Régiment de Carabiniers and Marche du 1er Corps* and the funeral march *A nos Morts glorieux* (on a text by Rodan). He also wrote several concert pieces such as the overture *Du Sang sur nos Lauriers* (premiered at La Chaux de Fonds on March 30, 1947), *Sept Pièces religieuses pour Fanfare, Variations Symphoniques sur un Thème basque* and the cantata *Epopée* next to about one hundred transcriptions. He also composed an opera *Yolande ou l'Aventure Enchantée.* 173

20.00: Concert par la musique du régiment des Grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant René De Ceuinck:

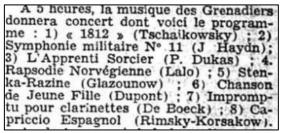
« La Brabançonne » (Van Campenhout); Le Marchand de Venise ouverture d'après Shakespears, (Paul Glison); L'Apprenti-Sorcier, poème symphonique sous forme de scherzo. Illustration de la Ballade de Goethe (Paul Dukas); Ballet des Heures de « La Gloconda » (Ponchielli).

Broadcast I.N.R. October 12, 1932.

1933

The Band continued the tradition to play concerts at the Brussels Park, both on the bandstand and at the Waux-Hall open air theatre. (21 and 28 May, 8 and 25 June, 4 July ...)

A concert at Fontaine l'Évêque, De Ceunink's birthplace, on June 11, 1933 got much attention in the press. ¹⁷⁴



¹⁷³ Francis Pieters, *The Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides. A legendary wind band*, Brussels 2018, pp. 236-237.

¹⁷⁴ Gazette de Charleroi, June 14, 1933, p. 3.

Concert militaire au Waux-Hall. — Ce mardi, à 20 h. 30, un concert militaire sera donné par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du lieutenant De Ceuninck. Au programme:

1. La Princesse Jaune, de Saint-Saëns;

2. Symphonie Militaire N. 11, de J. Haydn;

3. L'Amour Sorcier, de M. de Falla;

4. Suite « Esquisses Caucasi nnes », de M. Ippolitov-Ivanov;

5. Siegfried, Les Murmures de la Forét, de R. Wagner;

6. Tartarin de Tarascon, de M. Poot;

7. Boléro, de M. Rava;

8. Ballet des Heures, de H. Ponchielli.

Concert at the Waux-Hall, July 4, 1933.

On July 30, 1933 the Grenadiers Band played the incidental music of Bizet's L'Arlésienne at a performance of Daudet's play by the choir 'L'Union Wallonne' of Uccle (Brussels) at the Wolvendael open air theatre of Uccle. ¹⁷⁵

1934

→ Au Waux-Hall. — Programme du concert donné le 29 mai par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du Heutenant-chef de musique R. De Ceuninck: 1. Ouverture des «Maîtres Chanteurs (R. Wagner); 2. « Symphonie militaire N° 11: 1) andante-allegro, 2) allegretto, 3) menuetto, 4) finale (J. Haydn); 3. « Rapsodie norvégienne» (E. Lalo); 4. «Fantaisie sur deux airs populaires angevins» (G. Lekeu); 5. « Ballet des Heures » de l'opèra « La Gioconda » (H. Pouchielli); 6. « Versailles », suite symphonique: 1) Révérences, 2) Voyage à Cythère, 3) Le Hameau Marie-Antoinette, 4) Gigue (E. Guillaume); 7. « Feu d'artifice » (M. Schoemaker).

Concert program Waux Hall Brussels, May 29,

In June 1934 the Band was back in Paris to take part in the International Military Music Festival organized by the newspaper *L'Intransigeant*. Next to the Belgian Grenadiers Band, eight other military bands participated in the festival: The Landwehr (Switzerland), The Band of the Carabinieri (Italy), the Grand-Ducal Band (Luxemburg), the Royal Sussex Regiment (Great Britain), Pipes and Drums of the Irish Guards (Great Britain), the Garde Républicaine (France), the Fanfare du 4° Spahis (Morocco) and the Musique de la Flotte de Toulon (France). The Grenadiers Band arrived in Paris on Thursday June 21. It participated in three concerts.

At the concert at the Palais des Sports, the Grenadiers played *A travers l'œuvre de Peter Benoit*.

¹⁷⁵ L'Étoile Belge, July 31, 1933, p. 4 & La Meuse, August 1, 1933, p. 3.

¹⁷⁶ Le Soir, June 24, 12934, p. 3.





L'Intransigeant June 22, 1934 p. 10 La Dernière Heure, June 23, 1934, p. 3.

Le Soir, June 23, 1934, p. 3 Le Vingtième Siècle, p. 2.

The whole Festival was extensively reported in the organizing newspaper L'Intransigeant. 177



¹⁷⁷ L'Intransigeant, June 22, 23, 24 & 25, 1934.



La merique de Royal Statent Regiment défin our la place de la Construe

Las s Pipers » de l'Irish Guards, de Landres, déffient sur le past de la Concerde



Les trampettes de la Gardo républicaine, qui suverginet le défité, possent sur les Champe-litroine



La murique du Rayal Sussex Regiment pares devant la Madeleise

During the same weekend, the Belgian war-veterans association 'Fraternelles de l'Armée de Campagne' paid a visit to its French sister association in Paris. The Grenadiers Band participated in several official celebrations.¹⁷⁸



Le Patriote Illustré, Juillet 1, 1934, p. 28.

On September 14, 1934 the Grenadiers Band played during the 44th *Tribune Radiophonique du Combattant* broadcast by the I.N.R. The program included the **first performance** of the official *Marche de l'Exposition* de Bruxelles by Pieter Leemans.¹⁷⁹

l'I. N. R. : 20 heures: A) Concert donné par la musique des grenadiers, sous la direction du capi-taine-chef de musique De Ceuninck, avec le concours de Mme Naus, cantatrice, à Bruxelles. 1. La Brabançonne (Van Campenhout); 2. La Prin (Saint-Saëns); Princesse Jaune, ouverture 3. Intermède de chant par Mme Naus a) Après un réve (Faure); b) Air des larmes de « Werther » (Massenet);
4. Impressions d'Italie (Charpentier);
5. Marche officielle de l'Exposition de Bruxelles 1935 (Leemans); 6. Marche du 3º chasseurs à pied (XXX). 21 heures : A) Causerie par M. le comte A. van der Burch, président de l'Amicale des Officiers de la campagne 1914-1918. Su-jet : L'officier de la campagne 1914-18; B) Communications pour les invalides et les combattants. 21 h. 15: Reprise du concert : 6. Rapsodie hongroise (F. Liszt); 7. Menuet (Boccherini); 8. Intermède de chant par Mme Naus Air de Louise (Charpentier); 9. Le Beau Danube bleu (Strauss); 10. Marche du 1er grenadiers (Bender)

¹⁷⁹ Le Vingtième Siècle, September 4, 1934, p. 8 & Journal de Charleroi, September 2, 1934, p. 9.

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¹⁷⁸ L'Intransigeant, June 25, 1934, p. 3 & Le Soir, June 25, 1934, p. 4.

1935

On March 8, 1935 the Grenadiers Band played a broadcast concert for the 'Tribune Radiophonique' with a program of music composed by Belgian military bandmasters.



Dessin de M. Massonet.	
8 MARS 1935	
20 heures:	
57º Tribune radiophonique du combattant	-D
A) Concert d'œuvres de chefs de musique de	
l'armée belge, présenté par M. Eugène	
COLIN, chef de bureau aux Archives de la	
Ville de Bruxelles, exécuté par la musique et les clairons du 1er régiment de grenadiers	
et par le quintette vocal du Musée roya	
de l'Armée, sous la direction du capitaine	
chef de musique DE CEUNINCK.	
1. Marche belge nº 2	. WANGERMEE
2. Airs nationaux flamands, mis en suite e	
orchestrés par	
(M. KERSCHAVER.)	. CORNEZ
4. La 112º demi-brigade	. WAUCAMPT
5. Hommage à Delmée	»
6. Le Colonel	
7. 1930 (paroles de Rodan)	. ETIENNE
	. DE PESTEL
9. La Chanson du Génie (paroles de Rodan	
(M. COPPOIS.)	
10. Carnaval russe, scènes et danses	HENDRIX
11. La Fiestra	. » »
21 h. 25 :	
	HONNAY
13. Défilé national	"
	E CEUNINCK
15. Marche des Chasseurs ardennais (détache-	
	OLAND
	»
17. Ça ira (paroles de Rodan) B	URY
(M. le capitaine LAMBRECHT.)	
D) Reprise du concert par la musique et les clairons du 1er régiment de grenadiers. 12. Introuwen vast J. 13. Défilé national 14. A nos Morts glorieux (paroles de Rodan) D (Mme URBAN.) 15. Marche des Chasseurs ardennais (détachement de Bastogne) Be	» E CEUNINCK OLAND

The Band played several concerts at the premises of the 1935 Brussels International Exposition. On August 8 it performed at the 'Vieux Bruxelles', on August 28 at the International Hall and on September 7 it played a program of Belgium music at the I.N.R. pavilion.

¹⁸⁰ The Brussels International Exposition of 1935 (French: *Exposition Universelle et Internationale Bruxelles de 1935*) was a World's fair held between April 27 and November 6, 1935.

On August 18, 1935 the Band played again the incidental music by Bizet accompanying Daudet's play *L'Arlésienne* as it had done on July 30, 1933 (cf. p. 68), but his time within the premises of the International Exhibition. ¹⁸¹

1936

The Band was broadcast several times on the national channels N.I.R. and I.N.R. The concert on January 6 was entirely devoted to Belgian compositions:

LA MUSIQUE DES GRENADIERS A L'I. N. R. Le lundi 6 janvier, à 20 heures, la musique du

Le lundi 6 janvier, à 20 heures, la musique du régiment des grenadiers, dirigée par le capitaine chef de musique De Ceuninck, donners un concert sur l'onde française de l'I. N. R.

Ce concert sera consacré uniquement à des œuvres de compositeurs beiges. Nous trouvons au programme les noms de Paul Gilson, Jean Absil, Auguste Dupont, Auguste De Boeck, Albert Dupuis et Gevaert.

Bref, une séance de qualité dont l'annonce sera particulièrement bien accueille par de très nombreux auditeurs.

19,30 : Journal ; Chron. — 20,00 : Concert par la Musique des Grenadiers, dir. de Ceuninck : La Brabançonne ; Suite bruxelloise par Albert Guislain (A savoir l'histoire de Bruxelles racontée aux petits et aux grands en plusieurs actes sonores et parlails) avec Mmes Stella Korb Ceylan, Anne-Marie Ferrières ; MM. Hebert Willy, Genicot, Fasbender. — 21,00 Reprise du concert : Le Marchand de Venise (Gilson) ; Rapsodie sur des thèmes populaires flamands (Absil) ; Chanson de jeune fille (Dupont) ; Impromptu pour les clarinettes (De Boeck) : La Victoire (Dupais) ; Prélude et danse, fant sur des motifs espagnols (Gevaert). —

Program Broadcast concert January 6, 1935.

21.20: Concert par la Musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine chef de musique R. De Ceuninck: Jeux d'enfants (Georges Bizet) a) L'escarpolette, rêverie; b) La touple, impromptu; c) La poupée, berceuse; d) Trompettes et tambours, marche; e) Les quatre coins, esquisre; f) Colin-maillard, nocturne; g)Petit mari, petite femme, duo; h) Les chevaux de bois, scherzo Intermède de chant par Mme et M. Cardon-

Leslie: a) C'est le Dicu de la jeunesse, duo de « Lakmé » (Delibes); b) Duo de la rencentre, de « Manon » (Massenet); c) Mol jolic... Duo des « Dragons de Villars » (Maillard); Chant mystique (Théo Dejoncker) première exécution; Danse espagnole, de « La Vie brève » (de Falla); Vers l'Avenir (Ge aert).

Broadcast concert April 24, 1935. 89th Tribune Radiophonique du Combattant.

 $^{^{\}it 181}$ Le Soir, August 11, 1935, p. 2 & La Libre Belgique, August 18, 1935, p. 7.

On May 8, 1935 the Band played eight marches selected for the contest for the official *Marche des Croix de Feu*. The jury, including Paul Gilson, Theo Mahy, Valéry Bury, Edgard Leclercq and René Lyr, chose the march composed by Franz Wangermée, bandmaster of the 7th Regiment of the Line. The Grenadiers Band premiered the march during the parade of the Croix de Feu¹⁸² on May 10.¹⁸³



Liège June 14, 1936.

There were more broadcasts concerts on July 5 (N.I.R.) and September 10 (I.N.R.).

12,00 Muziek der Grenadiers: Koloniale marsch, Martin; Marsch der verbindingstroepen; Marsch der luchtvaart; Voetballermarsch, Bury. The Band' records were also broadcast on the Belgian radio channels, as e.g. on Radio Kortrijk on October 8, 1936.

On November 10, 1936 the Band was in **Le Havre** (France) for the celebrations of the anniversary of the armistice of World War II. 184

1937

On February 21, 1937 the Band went to **Cannes** (France) to participate in the annual "Fête des Mimosas". The drummers and the drum-major wore historical uniforms. The next day the Grenadiers played during a mass commemorating King Albert and gave an open air concert¹⁸⁵

20.00: 124e TRIBUNE RADIOPHONIQUE DU COMBATTANT. — Concert par la musique du régiment des Grenadiers, dir. Capitaine chef de musique De Ceuninck; La Brabançonne; Soltau, marche des prisonniers de guerre (Canva); Vie de prisonniers. Pages choisies, lues par M. Génicot. — Intermède de chant par Mme Cartry, cantatrice du Théatre royal de la Monnaie: Chanson de « La Fille du Tambour-Major », de l'opérette du même nom (Offenbach); Couplets de Marie, de « La Fille du Régiment » (Donizetti). — Marche des anciens de l'Yser (De Ceuninck). — Vie de prisonniers. Pages choisies, lues par M. Génicot. — Marche du 1er chasseurs & cheval (XX.): Marche du 22e de ligne (XX.).

Broadcast concert April 9, 1937.

¹⁸⁴ Le Vingtième Siècle, November 11, 1936, p. 7.

¹⁸² The **Croix du Feu 1914-1918** (*Dutch: Vuurkruis 1914-1918*) is a Belgian decoration for veterans, military or civilian of 14-18 awarded to all holders of the "fire card", awarded to all those who spent at least 32 months at the front during the First World War.

¹⁸³ *La Nation Belge*, May 9, 1936, p. 2.

¹⁸⁵ *La Nation Belge*, February 20, 1937, p. 6 and February 25, 1937, p. 9, *Le Vingtième Siècle*, February 21, 1937, p. 2, *Le Soir*, February 21, 1937, p. 1 & *De Gentenaar*, February 21, 1937, p.1.

In July 1937 the Grenadiers Band participated in Massed Bands Spectacular gathering all twenty Belgian Military Bands (700 musicians and 180 drummers/buglers) in a display at the **Paris** World Exhibition. The show was rehearsed in the Hall of the Palais du Centenaire at Brussels on Saturday July 17.¹⁸⁶



Massed bands rehearsal July 17, Brussels.

The next day the musicians traveled to Paris by train and started their performances with a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe and a parade on the Champs-Élysées.



The massed Belgian military bands on the Champs-Élysées, July 18, 1937.

¹⁸⁶ Le Vingtième Siècle, July 19, 1937, p. 2 & De Legerbode, 1937, p. 189.

The massed bands spectacular at the Paris Grand Palais was a huge success. The massed bands played a selection of marches ranging from the period of Jeanne d'Arc to the period of Marshall Foch.¹⁸⁷

There was also a broadcast concert on November 6 on the N.I.R. channel.

1938

10 h. h.: Concert donné par la Musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du Capitaine De Ceu-ninck. Musique belge: La Brabançonne (Van Cam-penhout); Trois danses flamandes (J. Blockx); Danses vilageoises (Grétry); La bière du pays (Clesse).

10 h.: Récital de chant par Mme Berger.

10 h. 45 : Reprise du concert donné par la Musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du Capitaine De Ceuninck : Marche militaire française (Camille Saint-Saens); Jeux d'eniants (Georges Bizet); Marche des petits soldats de plomb (G. Pierné); Marche lorraine (Louis Genne).

11 h. 15 : Récital de piano par Mme Schmidt-Geeraert : Concerto italien (Bach); Ballade en la bémol majeur (Chopin).

11 h. 30 : Reprise du concert donné par la Musique des Grenadiers, Musique italienne : L'Italienne à Alger (Rossini); Valse de la Suite Sicilienne (Marinuzzi); Ballet des heures de La Gioconda (A. Ponchielli); La légende de la Piave (E. Mario); Littoria Marcia (Marchesini).

Broadcast Concert April 3, 1938.

20 h. 30: Journée de l'Infanterie. Concert donné en la salle du Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles, par les chœurs de l'I. N. R., dir. M. Maur. Weynandt, par la musique des Grenadiers, dir. Cap. De Ceuninck, et avec le concours de Mme Renée Claude et de M. Georges Villier.

Joyeuse Entrée (G. Parès), mus. des Grenadiers; Le jeune conscrit (Kucken): La fille de Lyon, pour baryton et chœur (V. d'Indy): La chanson du tambourineur (M. Weynradt), chœur's et M. Villier. - Patria Belgica (Labory), mus. des Grenadiers Adieu du soldat (M. Weynandt), pour soprano, baryton et chœur; C'est à boire... (X.), chœu. Bruxelles (Zlica): Florentiner (Fucik), mus. des Grenadiers; S'il faut que je parte (X.), chœur; Souvenirs d'un vieux militaire (Debraux), baryton; Dans les gardes françaises (X.), pour soprano et chœur. Avec aplomb (Vollstedt), mus. des Grenadiers; J'entends ce minuit (Closson), pour soprano et chœur. 20 h. 30 : Journée de l'Infanterie. Concert donné

Broadcast concert from the Brussels Conservatory May 5, 1938.

20.00: 160° Tribune Radiophonique du Combattant — Concert donné par la Musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine De Ceuninck, avec le concours de M. Géodel, baryton:

1. La Brabançonne (Van Campenhout); 2. Marche hérolque de la Tribune (Paul Gilson); 3. Marche de la Garde Consulaire à Marengo (XX.); 4. Marche du Premier Consul (XX.); 5. Marché des Grenadiers de la Garde à Austerlitz (XX.); 6. Marche des Bonnets à polis (XX.); 7. Marché des Pupilles de la Garde (Cherubini).

20.15: « La visite du Premier Consul à Liége», évocation historique de Maurice Degey, montage radiophonique de Francis Charpentier. Distribution: Reporter (M. Josz, Maire (M. Willy), Gé-20.00: 160° Tribune Radiophonique du Comévocation historique de Maurice Degey, montage radiophonique de Francis Charpentier. Distribution: Reporter (M. Josz, Maire (M. Willy), Général Loyson (M. Fernand Demorange), Chestret (M. Christian Houzeau), Loncin (M. Alberty), Foule (MM. Gerrebois, Hardy, Joiret).

20.45: Reprise du concert donné par la Muzique des Grenadiers: 8. Marche de la Vieille Garde à Leipzig (XX.); 9. Les Grenadiers de la Vieille Garde à Waterloo (XX.); 10. Veillons au Salut de l'Empire (XX.); 11. Le Chant du Retour (Méhul); 12. La Victoire est à nous (Grétry).

21.00 : Interview de M. Franck, administrateur

de « Pro Juvente ».

21.15: Reprise du concert donné par la Musique des Grenadiers, sous la direction du capitaine De Ceuminck, avec le concours de M. Géodel, baryton:

1. La Garde passe (Grétry); 2. Danses villageoises (Grétry-Prévost): a) Ballet rustique de Richard Cœur-de-Lion; b) Gigue légère de Céphale et Procris; c) Gavotte de Céphale et Procris; d) Gavotte de « Colinette à la Cour »; e) Danse en rond, de « Colinette à la Cour »; e) Danse en rond, de « Colinette à la Cour »; f) L'épreuve villageoise); g) Entr'acte de « La Rosière de Salency »; h) Gavotte et Musette de « La Rosière de Salency »; j) Cramignon Liégets; 3. Intermède de chant par M. Géodel, baryon (avec orchestre): a) Fanchon (Lasalle); b) Le grand roi des Uhians (XX.); c) Potpourri (XX.); d) Le (hant du Départ (Méhui); 4. La Fille du Tambour-Major, marche (Offenbach-Degrez); 5. Auprès de ma blonde, marche (Vidal); 6. Vers l'Avenir (Gevaert). de « Pro Juvente »

Broadcast concert June 24, 1938.

76

¹⁸⁷ L'Étoile Belge, July 20, 1937, p. 5 & La Nation Belge, July 21, 1937, p. 5.

Paris again.



In the streets of Paris, October 1938.



In October the Grenadiers Band was in **Paris** for the Inauguration of the monument for King Albert I.

The Band arrived in Paris on Tuesday October 11 and was welcomed at the office of the newspaper "L'Intransigeant". The Band played an aubade on the nearby square which was broadcast live by "Radio 37" and in the afternoon the Band played a concert at the Tuileries gardens which was also broadcast live by "Radio 37".

Sambre et Meuse Marche Lorraine La Muette de Portiol, ouverbire	Planquette-Ray Carno Auber
5. Marche de la Marine Royale Mulienne	Miller
G. L'Auberge ou Cheval Blanc (Fantaiste our l'opératre)	Boneteki
7. Le Chant du Départ 8. Auprès de ma Biende	Minul-Allier Vidal
O. Quand Madelon	Messager Robert-Allier
12. Defile de la Garde Républicaire	Judge Wattge
18. Munche des Granadiere 14. Les hymnes nationaux français et beigs.	Bender

Program of the Concert at the Tuileries gardens.

18 h. 5. RADIO-37 : Aubade donnée à Radio-37 par la Musique royale des Grenadiers belges. In the evening the band played a concert at the Luna-Park attended by 25.000 listeners.



Program of the Concert at the Luna-Park.



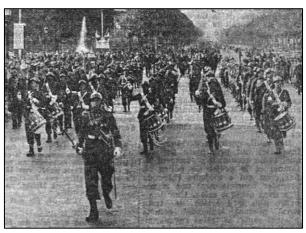
Frontpage of L'Intransigeant October 12, 1938.

« En kaki, avec leurs ceintures blanches et leurs fourragères violettes, les tambours et clairons coiffés du calot à pompon, les musiciens en casquette, furent accueillis par un tonnerre d'applaudissements et d'acclamations. » 188

[Dressed in khaki, with their white belts and purple fourragères, the drummers and buglers wearing a garrison cap with tuft, the musicians wearing kepis, were greeted by a thunderous applause and cheers.]

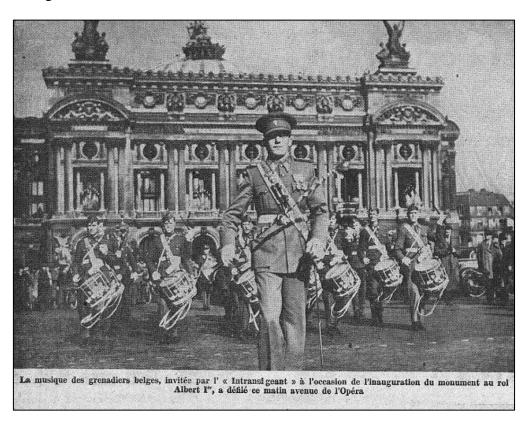
¹⁸⁸ L'Intransigeant, October 12, 1938, p. 1.

On Wednesday October 11, the Band, wearing helmets, first played an aubade at the Paris Town Hall and then at the Unknown Soldier and Eternal Flame site at the Arc de Triomphe for a ceremony with Belgian war veterans. The Band then paraded down the Champs Élysées towards the new monument near to the Place de la Concorde for the inauguration ceremony attended by King Leopold III and his mother Queen Elisabeth, widow of King Albert.



Champs-Elysées, Paris October 1938.

In the late afternoon the Band played another small concert at the Champ-Élysées gardens, before leaving for Brussels. ¹⁸⁹



1940.

After the capitulation due to the German invasion in May 1940, the Belgian army was demobilized. All military bands were disbanded and the musicians who were not made prisoner were sent home.

¹⁸⁹ La Nation Belge, October 13, 1938, pp. 1-4 & Le Soir, October 7, 1938, p. 1, October 9, 1938, p. 2, October 12, 1938, p.2 and October 13, 1938, p. 2 & L'Intransigeant, October 11, 1938, p. 5,

First rebirth.

The Band of the Belgian Grenadiers was officially re-composed in Brussels on September 4, 1944 and René De Ceuninck conducted the Band until December 5, 1944. The Band, called *Muziekkorps van het 1*^{ste} *Grenadiers regiment / Musique du 1*^{er} *Régiment de Grenadiers* was composed of musicians of the former bands of the 1st Carabineers Regiment, the 1st Grenadiers Regiment and the 9th Regiment of the Line all three previously stationed at Brussels.



First parade in Brussels on September 6, 1944.

On November 11, 1944 the Grenadiers Band participated in the military parade in Brussels commemorating the Armistice in 1918.

1945

René De Ceuninck was succeeded by Simon Poulain.

Simon Poulain (1945-1948)



Simon Poulain was born at La Louvière on January 1906. Aged nine, he went to the local music school of Bouvy, a suburb of La Louvière, to study solfeggio and cornet with Arthur Forgeron and some years later he obtained a First Prize for cornet at the music academy of La Louvière. Then he went to the Royal Conservatory of Music of Mons and graduated in 1924 with First Prizes for solfeggio, cornet, music history and harmony. In 1926, he joined the Band of the Guides as first cornet player. In the meantime he continued his musical education at the Brussels Royal Conservatory and obtained in 1928 a First Prize for trumpet in the class of Alphonse Goeyens, a First Prize for transposition and sometime later for counterpoint with composer Raymond Moulaert. He also studied the fugue with composer Joseph Jongen. In 1934, he succeeded as first ranked in the exam for military band conductor and was appointed bandmaster of the Band of the 2nd Regiment of the Line at Ghent. In 1937 we was appointed conductor of the Band of the Carabineers Prince Baudouin Regiment in Brussels with the rank of second lieutenant.

When the war broke out Poulain participated with the Band in the 18 days campaign. After World War II, he was first appointed conductor of the Band of the Grenadiers Regiment in Brussels with the rank of lieutenant in 1945.

On January 1, 1948, he was appointed conductor of the Band of the Guides as successor to Franz Wangermée. Simon Poulain retired on March 31, 1957. He immediately became director of the conservatory of his native town La Louvière which he conducted until 1975. Poulain conducted several amateur winds and he continued to do so while he was active in the military music and after he retired from the army. Simon Poulain died on March 3, 2004, aged 98. Poulain is also remembered as the composer of a series of beautiful marches and because of his great skill as an arranger of symphonic music for wind band. 190

The Grenadiers band played at numerous official reception ceremonies such as those welcoming Winston Churchill, Marshal Montgomery and General De Gaulle.

On April 8, 1945 the Band participated in the *Festival des Musiques Militaires Alliées* at the Brussels Palais des Sports, next to the Garde Républicaine Band (F. Forêt), the 443rd U.S. Army Services Band (J. Santo), the Band of the Royal Welsh Fusileers (Purdue), the A.T.S. Band (R. Merrion), the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (C.T. Beare) and the Belgian Guides Band (R. De Ceuninck). The three hours lasting program included music by Chopin, Grieg, Borodin, d'Indy, Chabrier and Marcel Poot. 191 The Grenadiers Band welcomed each band at its arrival in Brussels. In the press one could read:



« Quant à la musique des Grenadiers, qui vient de renaître. qui, etsous l'impulsion de son excellent chef, le lieutenant Poulain, conquis déjà des lauriers dans la plupart cantonnements, elle retrouvera – soyons-en sûrs – toute la popularité dont elle jouissait avant la guerre ». 192

[As for the Band of the Grenadiers, which has just been reborn, and which has, under the impetus of its excellent leader, Lieutenant Poulain, already conquered laurels in most regions, it will boast again – let us be sure – all the popularity it enjoyed before the war.]

Front page of La Dernière Heure, April 10, 1945.

¹⁹⁰ Francis Pieters, *The Royal Symphonic band of the Belgian Guides. A legendary wind band*, Brussels 2018, pp. 238-240.

¹⁹¹ La Nation Belge, April 10, 1945, p. 2.

¹⁹² La Libre Belgique, April 5, 1945, p. 1, La Dernière Heure, April 5, 1945, p.1 & La Nation Belge, April 5, 1945, p. 1.

In 1946, the Band played two concerts broadcast by the I.N.R. respectively on January 6 and February 3.

From April 1 to 8, the band made a concert tour in Germany visiting the military clubs of the area of the headquarters of the Belgian occupying troops. 193



In May 1946 the Grenadiers Band was added to the 4th Brigade (Steenstraete) (created on March 1, 1946) at Bruges¹⁹⁴ and moved to Oelde (Germany) as **Band of the 4th Infantry Brigade**. It moved to Bonn and later to Bad Driburg (Germany)

1947

One of the last concerts was probably that at the gala of the "Union de la Presse" at the Brussels Cinema Métropole on January 23, 1947. 195

A parade of the 4th Brigade through the streets of Liège on March 22, 1947 was announced as the last parade of the **Band of the Belgian Grenadiers** which was to be dissolved very soon. 196

Indeed the Belgian Grenadiers band was dissolved on April 1, 1947.

The musicians and the conductor Poulain joined the **Band of the 3rd Infantry Brigade** conducted by Simon Poulain up to December 31, 1947. This Band had previously (from October 1, 1946 to April 1, 1947) been conducted by Leopold Schroeven. This band was successively garrisoned in Bonn, Bad Driburg and Soest.

THE TRADITION CONTINUED

1948

When Simon Poulain left for the Band of the Guides the Band of the 3^{rd} Infantry Brigade was re-named **Band of the 4^{th} Infantry Brigade** conducted by Leopold Schroeven

Leopold Schroeven (1948-1951)



Leopold Schroeven was born in Walem on August 2, 1911. He graduated from the Mechlin Conservatory for solfeggio, the violon, the clarinet and harmony. He also studied privately counterpoint, fugue, orchestration and conducting with Godfried Devreese and Arthur Prevost. He joined the army in 1934 and was accepted three years later as violinist and clarinettist with the Band of the Guides Regiment. In 1939 he was appointed bandmaster of the Band of the 23rd Regiment of the Line. After many years of captivity in Germany he was successively conductor of the bands of the 3rd and 4th Brigade in Germany and the Band of the Interior Forces at Charleroi. He retired in 1963 and conducted amateur wind bands in Boom and

Hamme. He died at Montignies-sur-Sambre on December 7,1995 Schroeven composed several marches including two official military marches March of the 3rd Infantry Brigade and March of the Interior Forces.

¹⁹³ La Lanterne, April 6, 1946, p. 2 & Le Soir, April 8, 1946, p. 1

¹⁹⁴ La Dernière Heure, May 17, 1946, p. 3.

¹⁹⁵ Le Peuple, January 25, 1947, p. 6.

¹⁹⁶ La Meuse, March 22, 21947, p. 4.

1951

On August 1, 1951 lieutenant Schroeven was succeeded by Gaston Devenijns.

Gaston Devenijns (1951-1957)

Gaston Devenijns was born in Gentbrugge on August 23, 1913. He joined an amateur wind band in Ledeberg and studied the clarinet with Geo Deroo. At the Royal Conservatory of Ghent he obtained a First Prize for the clarinet with Maurice Van Guchte in 1936. One year later, he joined the Band of the 3rd Regiment of the Line in Ostend while also obtaining a First prize for saxophone in the meantime. During the war, he also obtained First Prizes for harmony, counterpoint and fugue. In 1946 Devenijns joined The Band of the Guides Regiment in Brussels. In 1947 he became assistant bandmaster and was successively active with the Band of the 3rd Belgian Brigade (1947), the Band of the Belgian Air



Force (1948) and the Band of the Guides Regiment (1949). In 1951 he was appointed bandmaster with the Band of the 4th Belgian Brigade. In 1957 he created the G.T.A. Band¹⁹⁷ in Brussels; this band being disbanded in 1960 he joined the Belgian Air Force Band as conductor. He retired in 1961 and two years later he succeeded De Roeck as conductor of the Brussels Police Band. Devenijns died at Gentbrugge on June 28, 1999. He composed several marches including the official *March of 14th Artillery Regiment*.¹⁹⁸

1957

In 1957 the name of the band, now stationed at Soest (Germany) changed into **Band of the 1**st **Division**. Conductor was Yvon Ducène.

Yvon Ducène (1957-1960)

Yvon Ducène was born at Souvret on January 25, 1928. At the Royal Brussels Conservatory he obtained First Prizes for clarinet, chamber music, harmony and counterpoint. He also studied fugue and composition with Jean Absil. In 1957, he was appointed bandmaster with the Band of the 1st Division at Soest. In 1961, he was appointed bandmaster of the Band of the 16th Division at Antwerp and in 1962 he was put in charge of Belgium's premier military band, the Band of the 1st Guides Regiment in Brussels. During the 23 years he led this outstanding band and conducted over 1.000 concerts in Belgium and abroad. Major Ducène retired from the army on February 1, 1985, however he kept his chair at the Royal Brussels Conservatory up to



1994. Yvon Ducène died at Gosselies on April 10, 2014. He composed the *March of the 75th Artillery Regiment*, the *March of the Second Lieutenant School* and the *March of the 4th Guides regiment*. ¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁷ Garde Territoriale Anti-aérienne [Territorial Anti-Aircraft Guard]

¹⁹⁸ Francis Pieters, *The Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides. A legendary wind band*, Brussels 2018, pp. 252-253

¹⁹⁹ Francis Pieters, *The Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides. A legendary wind band*, Brussels 2018, pp. 241-242

On July 20, 1957 the Band of the 1st Infantry Division participated in a massed bands display at the Brussels Grand-Place.

On September 3 and 4, 1960 The Band of the 1st Division participated in the NATO Musikfest at Mönchengladbach (Germany) next to seven military bands from six nations. (Cf. Appendix 1)



1960

In April 1960, the Band of the 1^{st} Infantry Division moved to Ossendorf , near Cologne, and its name was changed into **Band of the 1^{st} Belgian Corps**.

Yvon Ducène was succeeded by Mario Carion.

Mario Carion (1961-1973)



Mario Carion was born in Wasmes on July 9, 1927. He studied at the local music school and became a member of the wind orchestra. He obtained a First Prize for clarinet at the Royal Conservatory of Mons and First Prizes for harmony, fugue and music history at the Royal Conservatory of Liège. He also studied piano at the Conservatory of Verviers and composition at the Musikhochschule in Cologne (Germany). In 1948, he joined the Band of the 1st Belgian Brigade at Bonn as a clarinettist. In 1952 he was appointed second bandmaster of the Band of the 10th Brigade in Liège. He successively conducted the Bands of the 7th Brigade, the 1st Corps, the 16th Tank Division and the 1st Division. From 1973 to 1979 he led the Band of the Interior

Forces at Arlon. He conducted the "cercle Culturel" of Habaye-la-Neuve and was director of the music schools of Bouillon (1973-1976) and Ath 1976-1977).

Carion composed several marches and wind band pieces.



The Band participated in several international military band festivals in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands (Midddelburg, Nijmegen) and Italy. In 1964, the Band participated in the international tattoo "Festival Internazionale delle bande Militari" at Bari (Italy).

There were numerous performances in Germany including The Four Nations Festival at Kassel, the NATO Music Festivals at Mainz, Mönchengladbach, Bremerhaven, Stuttgart, München, Kaiserslautern and Oldenburg, the German Police Festivals at Cologne, Münster, Kassel and Wuppertal and gala concerts at Bonn, Cologne and Kassel.

The Band consisted of 40 musicians, 4 drummers and 8 buglers.













From 1964 to 1974 the Band wore a historical uniform.





On July 21, 1978 the Band paraded in a brand new gala uniform.

Jacques Watesse (1973-1974) was bandmaster ad-interim.

André Vergauwen (1974-1976)



André Vergauwen was born on July 23, 1930 in Sint-Gillis-Waas. At the Royal Flemish Conservatory of Antwerp, he graduated for solfeggio, chamber music, harmony and the clarinet. He studied counterpoint and fugue with Albert Delvaux. Vergauwen became a military musician and after having served for seven years as assistant bandmaster he became bandmaster and conducted successively the Army (Ground Forces) Band in Liege, the Band of the 1st Belgian Corps in Cologne (1974-1976) and finally The Band of the Belgian Air Force. He retired from the army in 1981. From 1973 to his retirement, he was director of the Music Academy of Sint-Martens-Voeren. He composed several marches and a lot of concert pieces for wind band. André Vergauwen died at Tongeren on May 26, 2021.

The Band recorded a 45 rmp vinyl record (cf. Appendix 1).

Jean-Marie Cornez (1977-1983)

On January 14, 1977, Vergauwen was replaced (ad interim) by chief assistant bandmaster Jean-Marie Cornez.

Jean-Marie Cornez was born at Frameries on May 9, 1934. He studied t the Royal Conservatory of Mons and joined the Band of the 1st (BE) Corps as a double bass player in 1957. In 1966 he moved to the Band of the Interior Forces and was appointed chief assistant bandmaster of the Band of the 1st (BE) Corps on September 1978. This fine organist became bandmaster ad interim of this band on January 1977. The interim lasted up to 1983.

The Band boasted 40 musicians and a drum and bugle corps of 12 musicians.



Norbert Nozy (1984)

Cornez was succeeded by Norbert Nozy.

Norbert Nozy was born at Halen on September 9, 1952. He started learning the saxophone with Raoul Vanattenhoven at the music school of Diest. He studied at the Royal Brussels Conservatory of Music and the Lemmens Institute at Leuven and obtained First Prizes for solfeggio, transposition, percussion, chamber music, harmony, counterpoint as well as the Superior Diploma for saxophone. Nozy studied conducting with André Vandernoot, Léonce Gras, Yvon Ducène and with Jean-Sébastien Béreau at the Paris Conservatory. Composer Victor Legley was his teacher for fugue and became his mentor. Nozy became one of the most famous representatives of the Belgian Saxophone School. In 1975, he joined the Great Symphonic



Band of the Belgian Guides as a saxophonist. In 1984, he brilliantly passed the military band conductor examination and was appointed bandmaster of the Band of the *First Belgian Corps* in Cologne (Germany).

In February 1985 he was appointed Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Royal Symphonic Band of the Guides which he conducted till September 2003. 200

²⁰⁰ Francis Pieters, *The Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides. A legendary wind band*, Brussels 2018, pp. 242-244.

Eddy Geeraerts (1984 -)

Norbert Nozy was succeeded by Eddy Geeraerts in December 1984.



Eddy Geeraerts was born on May 17, 1951 in Keerbergen. He studied trumpet with François van de Kerckhoven at the Municipal Conservatory of Music in Mechelen and obtained the Government Medal. At the Royal Flemish Conservatory of Antwerp he obtained first Prizes for solfeggio, transposition, chamber music, harmony and trumpet (class of Émile Maes). At the Royal Conservatory of Brussels he obtained a First Prize for counterpoint. He became a trumpet player with the Band of the 1st (BE) Corps and later with the Band of the Belgian Air Force. In 1982 he became a candidate bandmaster and studied under the direction of Yvon Ducène with the Band of the Guides. In December 1984 he was appointed bandmaster of the Band of 1st (BE° Corps in Cologne Ossendorf (Germany). The Band got its

original name of **Band of the Grenadiers** back on October 1, 1986 and returned to Belgium. On November 19, 1988, Geeraerts became bandmaster of the **Band of the Belgian Gendarmerie**. When this band was dissolved at the end of 1994, Eddy Geeraerts joined the Band of the Air Force as second (officer) conductor where he remained up to September 1998. He joined the staff of Belgian military music and drew up an inventory of all Belgian military marches. He died at Bonheiden on December 15, 2020.

Eddy Geeraerts composed several marches including *Belgian Parade*, *Festive March for the Belgian Bands*, *Four Nations One Purpose*, *Mars van het Competentiecentrum Steunmateriaal en Producten, Mars van de Koninklijke Technische School, Mars van de Infanterieschool 2^{de} Cyclisten, Mars van de Artillerieschool 6^{de} Artillerie, Mars van het 1^{ste} Logistiek Centrum and Mars van het 20^{ste} Bataljon Logistiek.*

SECOND REBIRTH.

On October 1, 1986 the Band was removed to the Field Artillery School at Brasschaat, near Antwerp and got its original name **Band of the Grenadiers** back.

The Band immediately played an important role in the Antwerp area and participated in numerous military ceremonies. The first highlight was a Gala Concert at the Brasschaat Cultural Center in March 1987, followed by a second on March 24, 1988.





Among the musicians were 8 conscripts all of them having obtained First Prizes at one of the Royal Conservatories, including three members of the Antwerp Philharmonic.

The Band also participated in music festivals and tattoos (Tournai).

Typical was also that all musicians were Dutch-speaking.

In November 1988 Eddy Geeraerts was appointed bandmaster of the Band of the Belgian Gendarmerie and was succeeded by Peter Snellinckx who was promoted second lieutenant bandmaster with the Grenadiers Band on September 26, 1988.

Peter Snellinckx (1988-1989).

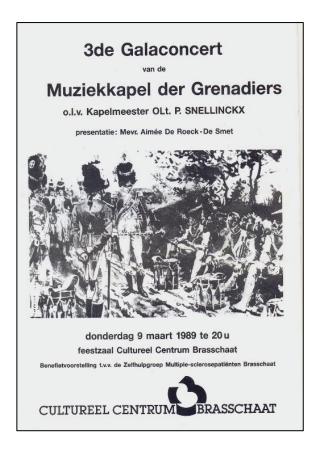
Peter Snellinckx as born on October 3, 1956 at Temse. He studied the clarinet at the music academy of Sint Niklaas. In 1976 he won the Pro Civitate Prize. At the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp he graduated with First Prizes for solfeggio, clarinet, chamber music, transposition and harmony and at the Royal Brussels Conservatory he got a First Prize for counterpoint with Rafaël D'haene. In 1975 he joined the Band of the "Chasseurs Ardenais" (Ardennes Hunters) at Arlon. In 1977 he was appointed clarinet teacher at the music academy of Sint Niklaas and in the

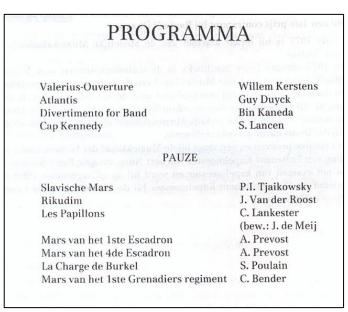


meantime moved to the Band of the Belgian Navy at Ostend. With Guy Duijck, conductor of the Navy Band he studied wind band conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Ghent. He followed a bandmaster training period with Norbert Nozy and the Band of the Guides and successfully passed the bandmaster exams.

Late in 1988 the Band got a splendid new gala uniform, inspired by the historical Grenadiers uniform with the bearskin cap. Unfortunately this uniform was not used a complete year!

Snellinckx conducted the 3rd gala Concert at the Brasschaat Cultural Center on March 9, 1989.







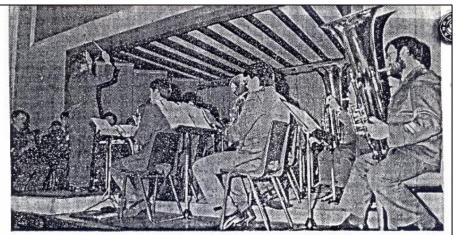
Unfortunately, in the meantime, the government announced the dissolution of four military bands, including the Grenadiers Band, in July 1989.



On April 15, 1989, The Grenadiers Band, conducted by Peter Snellinckx and led by drum-major Eddy Van De Wal participated in the 6th *Militär Musikshow* at the Philipshalle at Düsseldorf (Germany), next to bands from Ireland, Scotland, France, The Netherlands and Germany.

The project of the Minister of Defense Guy Coëme to abolish four (of the five remaining) military bands provoked a huge amount of protest and not only with the world of music. Numerous articles in the press (both French-speaking and Dutch-speaking) were spent to the operation.

One article in *De Gazet van Antwerpen* dealt specifically with the Grenadiers Band.



De meeste leden van het muziekkorps zijn jonge afgestudeerden van het conservatorium/ Foto Meyers

Muzikanten van Grenadiers bang voor opdoeken van hun kapel

BRASSCHAAT — De plannen van minister voor Landsverdediging Guy Coëme om de meeste militaire muziekkapellen op te doeken veroorzaakten ook onrust in het militair kamp van Brasschaat. Daar is nl. de harmonie van de Grenadiers gevestigd.

Deze muziekkapel was voor enkele jaren nog in Duitsland gekazerneerd. Toen hij naar Brasschaat werd overgebracht, werd hij volledig Nederlandstalig. De Franssprekende muzikanten gingen over naar andere muziekkapellen.

In de omgeving van het muziekkorps van de Grenadiers, thans spelend onder de leiding van kapelmeester, onderluitenant Peter Snellinckx, werd vernomen dat de plannen van de minister bijzonder hard aankomen. Bij de Grenadiers zijn er thans nog een zevental muzikanten, die nog de Duitse periode meemaakten.

Het merendeel van de 50 leden van het muziekkorps zijn jongeren, allen afgestudeerden van het conservatorium waar zij een of meerdere eerste prijzen behaal den. Een aantal volgt momenteel nog vervolmakingslessen.

«De maatregel», aldus één van de jongsten van de muziekkapel, «hangt als een zwaard boven ons hoofd. Een zevental jongeren heeft nog maar een voorlopig contract, zodat thans de vrees bestaat, dat ze na een proefperio

de van twee jaar niet vast zullen



Onderluitenant Peter Snellinckx, kapelmeester bij de Grenadiers/ Foto Meyers

worden aangeworven.»

Voorts wordt geargumenteerd dat alle leden een dienstcontract kregen als muzikanten, zodat het moeilijk denkbaar is dat deze militairen weldra voor andere jobs zullen aangeduid worden.

Liever dan les geven

Werk zoeken buiten het leger is niet zo eenvoudig. Er is niet onmiddellijk plaats in de bestaande orkesten. Daarom ook koos een aantal muzikanten voor een loopbaan in het leger. Liever dan les te geven, verkozen zij muziek te maken. Bij de Grenadiers zijn er trouwens veel activiteiten. Zo wordt gemiddeld driemaal per week ergens een concert verzorgd.

De muzickkapel treedt niet alleen in België op, maar ook bij militaire plechtigheden in Duitsland wordt vaak een beroep gedaan op de Grenadiers. Daarnaast zijn er nog een aantal gastoptredens in andere landen.

Nog een belangrijk argument, dat wij in Brasschaat konden vernemen, is dat de militaire muziekkapellen in ons land de enige echte harmonieorkesten zijn. En wat nog zeldzamer is: ze bestaan alleen uit Belgen. —W.H.

All protest, including a national demonstration in Brussels on June 11, was in vain. In July 1989 the Band of the Belgian Grenadiers Regiment (together with the Band of the Ardennes Hunters) disappeared definitively.

No doubt, it has witten some very nice pages in the history book of the Belgian Military Music.

APPENDIX I: DISCOGRAPHY

The Belgian Grenadiers Band was, next to the famous Guides Band, one of the very first Belgian military bands to record music on 78 rpm discs. The first records were made for the Zonophone label and were recorded in Brussels in 1901, **Clovis Lecail** conducting.

The ZONOPHONE records (February 1901)

The Band was mentioned on the record labels as *Musique des Grenadiers Belges* and in the catalogue as *Grenadiers Belges Régiment Bruxelles* (C-military).

7-inch acoustical recordings.

- 745 Marche des Carabiniers Belges
- 746 Marche des Grenadiers Belges (Bender)
- 747 Marche de Bruxelles-Kermesse²⁰¹
- 748 La Brabançonne (François van Campenhout/Charles Rogier)
- 749 Marche des Grenadiers Belges (Bender)
- 750 Avec aplomb Marche (Vollstedt)²⁰²
- 751 Marche du 8^{ème} Chasseurs
- 752 Osman Pacha Marche²⁰³
- 753 Rose-Mousseuse Schottisch
- 754 Bleu d'azur Valse
- 755 Violetta Polka-Mazurka

10-inch

- X-281 Marche des Carabiniers Belges
- X-282 Avec aplomb Marche (Vollstedt)
- X-283 Marche des Grenadiers Belges (Bender)
- X-284 Marche des Guides (A.Quinet)
- X-285 Marche de Bruxelles-Kermesse
- X-287 Rose-Mousseuse Schottisch
- X-288 Bleu d'azur Valse
- X-289 Polka-Carnaval



²⁰¹ The *Marche Officielle de Bruxlles-Kermesse 1897* was composed by Pietro Lanciani (Ravenna, 1857 – Brussels, 1912.)

²⁰² The German composer Robert Vollstedt (1854-1919) composed this march originally called *Schneidig*.

²⁰³ The *Osman Pascha Marche* was composed by the Italian bandmaster and composer Callisto Guatelli (Parma, 1819 – Istanbul, 1899), called Pascha Guatelli.

The ODEON records (May 1929)

The Band was mentioned on the record labels as *Musique Royale des Grenadiers Belges*, direction Capitaine V. Bury, Inspecteur des Musiques de l'Armée.

10 inch. Double-sided

A 163581a Marche du 4° Régiment de Ligne (Muldermans) A 163581b Marche du 5° Régiment de Ligne (Lecail)





A 163474a 3° Fantaisie (P. Benoit) A 163474b Rubens Marche (P. Benoit) Orchestre Odeon





A 163549a Pax (J.-E. Strauwen) A 163549b 1930 (O. Filsfils)

A 163576a Marche des Troupes de Transmission (Gasia) - avec clairons A 163576b Marche de l'Aéronautique (H. Rimbaut) – avec clairons





A 163574A Marche du 24° Régiment de Ligne (V. Bury)

A 163574b Marche du 1° Régiment de Chasseurs à Pied (K. Muldermans)

A 163577a Marche du 22^{ème} Régiment de Ligne (X) – avec clairons et tambours A 163577b Marche du 6^{ème} Régiment de Chasseurs à Pied (Graindorge)





A 163578a Marche du 4° Régiment des Carabiniers – avec clairons (R. De Ceuninck) A 163578b Marche du 3° Régiment des Carabiniers – avec clairons (E. Walnier)

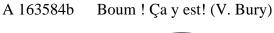




A 163580a Marche du 4° Chasseurs à Pied (F. Aveau) A 165580b Marche du 20° Régiment de Ligne (Verhaeghe)

A 1055000 Marche du 20 Regiment de Lighe (Vernaeghe

A 163584a Marche du 23° Régiment de Ligne (Moreau)







A 163625a Marche des Rubaniers (V. Bury) A 163625b Marche du 22° Régiment de Chasseurs à Pied (Humblet)





A 165655a Patria Belgica – Marche patriotique (Labory) A 165655b Vers l'Avenir (F.A. Gevaert)





A 165656a Le Trompette Amoureux -Polka marche (L. Walpot) A 165656b Ma Marche des Guides (V. Bender)





A 165657a Rêverie "3ème Fantasia" (Peter Benoit)
A 165657b Sabre et Lance – Valse pour 2 trompettes (F. Andrieu)





A 165658a Prince Léopold – Marche Militaire (V. Bury) A 165658b Marche du Régiment des Grenadiers (C. Bender)





A 165659a Souvenir d'Amérique -Morceau pour clarinette (Assemeyer)

- Soliste: M. Piette.

A 165659b Le Rossignol de l'Opéra – pour flûte (E. Damaré) – Soliste : M. Lambrée.

A 165662a Les Mitrailleurs (V. Bury) – avec clairons A 165662b Marche de la Marine Royale Italienne – avec trompettes





A 165663a Marche des Carabiniers (V. Turine) – avec clairons A 165663b Passchendael – Marche Militaire (Gasia)





A 165664a Les Grenadiers de la Vieille Garde de Waterloo – tambours et clairons (C. Eustace)

A 165664b Marengo – Marche de la Garde Consulaire – tambours et clairons (Furgeot)





A 165667a Revue des Régiments de la Garnison de Bruxelles (Ledent-Malay) La cavalerie/L'artillerie

A 165667a Revue des Régiments de la Garnison de Bruxelles (Ledent-Malay) 9° de Ligne – Carabiniers - Grenadiers





PYRAL

25cm (9,84") electrical recording²⁰⁴

Py205 Inauguration de la statue d'Albert 1^{er} à Paris.

Musiciens du 1^{er} régiment des grenadiers belges, aux Tuileries, à Luna Park, jouent la Marche des Grenadiers et d'autres marches.

[Inauguration of the statue of King Albert I at Paris. Musicians of the 1^{ste} Belgian Grenadiers Regiment, at the Tuileries, at the Luna Park, play the March of the Grenadiers and other marches.]

This was a "live" recording of the Band of the Belgian Grenadiers, conducted by Captain **René Deceuninck**, in Paris in 1938.²⁰⁵

STUDIO DISQUES

SD 109 Marche des Croix de l'Yser (R De Ceuninck)

Conductor René De Ceuninck

DECCA

Marche du 1er Régiment de Chasseurs Ardenais (Wilmet)

Marche de l'Armée Secrète (Genott)

Conductor: Simon Poulain

Musique de la 1ère Division / Muziekkapel 1ste Divisie

NATO-MUSIKFEST Mönchengladbach 1960

7 Kapellen spielen Märsch aus 7 Nationen (Live recording)

Conductor: Yvon Ducène

- First Belgian Brigade (Simon Poulain)
- 1st Guides Regiment (JeanValentin Bender)

Long Playing ODEON 83225







²⁰⁴ Pyral was the brand name of the French manufacturer "La Societé des Vernis Pyrolac", later renamed to "Pyral S.A.R.L.", which also produced records Disques Pyral "L'Écho du Monde". In 1934, Pyrolac invented the nitrocellulose lacquer-coated disc for the production of vinyl records.

²⁰⁵ http://www.phonobase.org/audio/AD-2019/20190417100737.mp3.

Musique du 1er (BE) Corps / Muziekkapel van het 1^{ste} (BE) Korps

Conductor: André Vergauwen

- Marche de l'Athénée Royal de Rosrath (José Piron)
- Marche du Stalag VIII A (Fernand Carion)

45 rpm POFFE JP 010





APPENDIX II :THE DRUM-MAJOR & THE DRUMMERS

THE DRUM-MAJORS

All Belgian Infantry Bands boasted a drum-major, yet the drum-major of the Grenadiers was the people's favorite. The imposing uniform of the Elite Regiment was definitely very popular and the Grenadiers Regiment always carefully selected the most fit candidate.

Some of them were extremely well-known and appreciated by the Brussels lookers-on.

Antoine Charlier (Philippeville, 1807-1867), 1,92 m. tall, carried out this function from 1833 to 1838 and became even an officer afterwards.

His successor **Pierre Van Doren** (Brussels, 1811) was active as drum-major with the Band from January 1, 1839 to December 25, 1858.

A Royal Decree of November 20, 1850 determined that only the drum-major was still allowed to wear the complete uniform with bearskin-cap.

The third drum-major, **Charles Devos** (Izegem, 1822) was the most prestigious in the Band's history and even in the history of the Belgian military music. In November 1848, Devos became instructor of the drummers of the Grenadiers Regiment and in 1858 was appointed drum-major. Devos was a real innovator. All mace movements had been regulated for over two centuries and had been kept very scanty. Each change of direction, rhythm or drumbeat was indicated by means of elementary mace signals as oral commandments were very rare. The mace tossing and twirling were rather intended for the musicians. The style of Devos's mace signals was particularly elegant. Devos retired when the drummers were abolished with the infantry in 1871. However, in 1885 the drummers were re-introduced with Infantry bands and Devos was consulted. He suggested a certain **Demuynck** as instructor and drum-major.



Charles Devos in gala-uniform



Désiré Deweire

Demuynck, 1, 85 m. tall, trained the buglers as drummers. The first parade with the restored drum and buglers corps on February 26, 1886 was a real sensation for the Brussels public. Demuynck retired after the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Grenadiers Regiment in 1887.

Demuynck was succeeded by **Denis** who was rather a failure. So, conductor Constant Bender realized the importance of the choice of a drum-major who definitely had to boast a lot of qualities next to the necessary musical qualifications. **Chère** (Tournai, 1849), another pupil of Devos, appeared to be the ideal drum instructor and drum-major, though he was only 1, 77 m. tall. According to legend, he tossed his mace all over the Namur Gate [*Porte de Namur*].

In 1902 Chère was succeeded by **Désiré Deweweire** (Merelbeke 1881), an imposing character 1.95 m. tall.

When there were rumors about another dissolution of all infantry drum corps, Deweweire imposed a tough regime to obtain an utmost quality of his drum corps. He even had his pupils rehearse with bearskin cap and rucksack...

According to an anecdote, Deweweire could hardly stay in upright position of attention to understand the instructions of the conductor Clovis Lecail who was only 1,60 m. tall and spoke very softly.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the bearskin cap disappeared and even the drum-major had to wear a khaki uniform with helmet .

In 1923 Deweweire was succeeded by **Victor Cools** (Sint Genesius Rode, 1893) also imposing with a stature of 1,90 m. The same year, the drums were once more re-introduced in the Grenadiers Regiment. Cools was succeeded by a certain **Burlion**.



Painted portrait of a drum-major of the Grenadiers - Royal Army Museum Brussels.

On the occasion of the centenary of the Grenadiers Regiment King Leopold III presented the drum and bugle corps (La Clique) of the Grenadiers Band with a drum-major mace. In *La Libre Belgique* one could read :

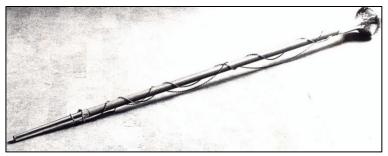


« Le Roi fait don d'une canne à la clique des grenadiers.

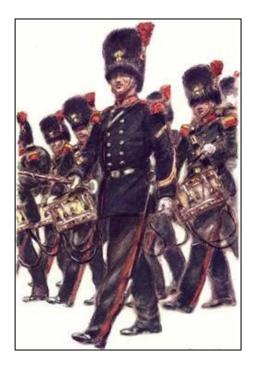
Peu après la création du régiment d'élite « des grenadiers », le roi Léopold Ier fit don au régiment d'une canne en argent destinée au tambour-major. Jusqu'en 1914, cette canne fut conservée avec le plus grand soin, mais à la mobilisation il a bien fallu la remettre au musée régimentaire. Les Allemands s'en emparèrent. Le roi Léopold III, à l'occasion du centenaire du régiment a bien voulu répéter le geste de son aïeul en donnant une canne de tambour-major semblable à celle offerte par le roi Léopold Ier. »²⁰⁶

" The King presents the Grenadier drum and bugle corps with a drum-major mace.

Shortly after the creation of the elite "grenadier regiment", King Leopold I donated a silver mace to the regiment for the drum major. Until 1914, this mace was preserved with the greatest care, but at the mobilization it had to be handed over to the regimental museum. The Germans seized it. King Leopold III, on the occasion of the centenary of the regiment, was kind enough to repeat the gesture of his grandfather by giving a drum major mace similar to that offered by King Leopold I . "



When the Grenadiers Band participated in the Fête des Mimosa at **Cannes** (France) on February 21, 1937 (f. p. 74), the drummers and the drum-major wore historical uniforms.



 $^{^{206}}$ La Libre Belgique, April 20, 1936, p. 1 & La Nation Belge, April 19, 1936, p. 5.

THE DRUMMERS

As all infantry regiments, the Grenadiers Regiment boasted drummers and buglers, often a double function. The Band was (almost) always preceded by twelve buglers or drummers.





In April 1871 the government decided to do away with the drummers with all infantry bands and replace them by buglers as "the blown signals were better audible and drum heads sounded dull in rainy weather and burst in the heat". All drums and accessories were piled up in stores. A circular dated March 2, 1874 even suggested to transform drum straps into bayonet holders.

On October 8, 1875 a new type of bugle, made out of red copper, was introduced with Infantry regiments.

In 1880 the military authorities decided to abolish the regimental drummers of the Grenadiers Regiment..

In 1886 the Minister of Defense (State Secretary of War) Pontus decided to introduce the drums again. After a probationary period of some months with the Grenadiers Regiment, the drums were re-introduced with all 14 infantry regiments (of the Line). The size of the drums was modified: the height was reduced by 12,5 cm to 22,5 cm. Each regiment could boast up to 36 drums decorated with the national colors. Yet those copper drums weighed 3 kilogram and in 1901 new much lighter drums made of aluminum were introduced.

²⁰⁷ Royal Decree of January 29, 1871 & Law of August 25, 1875.

At the outbreak of World War I all drums were delivered up. After the war, the group regimental drummers of the Grenadiers Regiment disappeared in default of instruments.

Late in 1927, several old drums were found, cleaned and renovated. When the regimental officers requested to use drums again, the authorities explicitly said not to be interested nor willing to buy new drums. The officers paid the drums with the regimental cash-box. The drums were only used once, as the cavalry regiments protested and the Grenadiers had to relegate their drums.

Valéry Bury, both Inspector of Military Bands and first conductor of the Grenadiers band, authorized the regiment to use drums again. ²⁰⁸

On January 13, 1928 the Grenadiers Band, parading through the streets of Brussels, was no longer only preceded by buglers but got also a group of drummers.



²⁰⁸ La Meuse, January 14, 1928, p. 1.

On March 28, 1936 the residents of neighborhood of the Prince Albert Barracks presented the Grenadiers Regiment with a set of parade drums, painted in blue with the grenade and the citations of World War I by the painter James Thiriar.²⁰⁹







In 1946 the drum and bugle corps of the Grenadiers Regiment was re-established 210 and it moved successively to the bands continuing the traditions of the Grenadiers (3^{rd} Infantry Brigade, 4^{th} Infantry Brigade, 1^{st} Division and 1^{st} (BE) Corps).

The ephemeral reborn Band of the Grenadiers (1986-1989) boasted a drum and bugle corps led by drum-major Eddy Van De Wal.

 ²⁰⁹ La Nation Belge, March, 23, 1936, p. 2 and March 29, 1936, p. 5, La Dernière Heure, March 29, 1936, p. 4 and March 30, 1936, p. 2, Le Vingtième Siècle, March 29, 1936, p. 4 & Le Soir, March 27, 1936, p. 7
 ²¹⁰ Algemeen Order/Ordre Général [General Order] 239.