

BAND OF THE CHATHAM DIVISION RM
COMPILED FROM RECORDS IN THE CORPS' MUSEUM

BY

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The earliest record of the Band of the Chatham Division was in 1693 when a Warrant authorising its inception was made

"To Presse or cause to be impressed from time to time such numbers of Drums, Fifes and Hautboys as shall be necessary for His Majesty's Service, either by land or sea ... Whereby Captain William Prince, of their Majesty's First Mareen Regiment ... to impress two Drummers and Hautboys for the service of his company in the aforesaid Regiment."

Mention is made of the Band in Divisional Orders in 1772 when Thomas Howard was appointed to act "with the authority of a Sergeant over the Band of Musick". The Band was in 1773 sent onboard the ORPHEUS at Sheerness, in order to be carried to Spithead, "there being occasion for it when the King reviews His Fleet assembled there". The Band at that time was under the care of Acting Sergeant Major Clements.

The complement was in 1815 laid down to be: one Band Sergeant and one Band Corporal, twenty Drummers. The Master of the Band to be borne and payed as a Sergeant, a second clarionet as a Corporal and the remainder as drummers, and the whole of these employed in the Band are to be included in the twenty-two.



This complement was revised in 1830 and in 1842 the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty directed that the Officers were to annually contribute one day's pay towards the upkeep of their Band.

In 1901 the Band was selected to accompany HRH The Duke and Duchess of York on their tour in the OPHIR. After their tour they were given the distinction of wearing the York Rose on their headdress.

The Band spent six weeks with the Royal Naval Division in France in 1916.