My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

You may already be familiar with the Army Quartermaster Band Instrument Procurement Program described in the attached release, but if it has not previously come to your attention, I feel sure you will be interested in this nation-wide Army program for purchasing band instruments from the civilian public.

The week during which the Army will be at Macy's is but one in a long series of one-week stands being made in various cities throughout the country, and the program for purchasing band instruments will continue so long as the Army has need of them. The need at present is really urgent.

For this reason it has occurred to me that you might wish to say a word in your column about the Army's need for band instruments and the fact that civilians can sell their unused instruments for cash to the Army when the Quartermaster purchasing unit comes to their own city. Advertisements in the newspapers will announce the time and place of each "one-week stand".

Thank you very much for anything you may be able to do.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth Moore
Public Relations Section
MACY'S NEW YORK
The Quartermaster Corps of the U. S. Army will set up shop in Macy's, in the 5th floor Music Department, beginning April 16 and remaining through April 21, for the purpose of purchasing band instruments for cash from the civilian public in order to supply urgent needs of Army bands.

"The Army urgently needs new and used band instruments and will pay cash for them on the spot with evaluations based on present market values and condition of instrument," Major General E.B. Gregory, Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army, stated today. Over 800 Army bands and musical organizations have not been able to secure their requirements because of the war curtailment of this type of production.

The band instruments urgently needed by the Army are these: Heckel System Bassoons, Cornets, Double- and single-bell Euphoniums, Slide Trombones, Trumpets, Double-B-Flat Bass Sousaphones, E-Flat Clarinets, French Horns, D-Flat Boehm Silver Piccolos, E-Flat Alto and Baritone Saxophones, B-Flat Boehm Clarinets (wood and metal), B-Flat Boehm Bass Clarinets, Tenor Saxophones, and String Basses.

(more)
A total of 15,000 instruments are needed as soon as they can be purchased. All band instruments purchased by the Army from civilians through this plan will be sent overseas for use by Army musical organizations. Army bands are constantly in demand in overseas areas, where they play in rehabilitation areas, hospitals, and rest camps. Some Army bands have landed with the infantry during invasions. As a morale factor for men not in combat, the importance of music in the military establishment cannot be over-emphasized.

At the present time there are only about 800 Army bands and musical organizations, and many more are needed. Though the activation of new Army bands is out of the question until instruments are available, because of the impossibility of replacements even the continuation of the present band organizations is being seriously threatened.

The dearth of band instruments has been brought about by wartime restrictions on the use of certain kinds of metals plus the fact that practically the entire industry has turned its facilities over to the making of other war materials. Up to the present time, the Quartermaster Corps, Army Service Forces, has been able to place contracts for only a part of its band instrument requirements and in some instances delivery dates extend far beyond the time when the instruments are required.

To alleviate the condition an appeal is being made to patriotically minded citizens to cooperate in making it possible for the Army to continue their band and musical organizations and to make the activation of new units a reality. It is the opinion of Quartermaster officials that there are probably many band instruments lying around unused in many homes in the New York area. In some cases these instruments were purchased for pleasure but because wartime activities have practically wiped out leisure time, are not being used.
Perhaps, too, some of their former owners are now in the Armed Services, or in war work elsewhere. It is not intended that instruments now being used in schools or for instruction purposes be diverted from these uses.

Some instruments which need minor repairs but are otherwise suitable will also be purchased by the Army. Such instruments can be repaired and reconditioned in the band repair department of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot. In other localities in the country where similar efforts have been made to collect needed band instruments, many citizens have donated band instruments which were slightly damaged or in need of repair.

Band instruments have always been regarded as an investment, and here is an opportunity to capitalize on more than just their intrinsic value. Money received from the sales of these band instruments to the Army can be re-invested in War Bonds and later transformed back into improved latest models of musical instruments when the emergency is over. By cooperating in this way citizens in the New York area will be rendering a double service to their country.

Lieutenant F.B. Reinert with a competent staff is coming to New York from the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C., with the express purpose of purchasing such musical instruments as may be offered by patriotic citizens. These officers and their staff will be located in the Army collection center temporarily established at Macy's New York, Herald Square, Fifth Floor, Music Department, between the hours of 9:45 A.M. and 6 P.M. daily, and until 9 P.M. on Thursday, April 16 through April 21, to receive and appraise standard first grade instruments. Cash will be paid on the spot for all band instruments accepted; prices will be determined by the condition of the instrument and present market value.