



OPTIMISTS CONQUER ROME!!!

ROME, N.Y. July XIV —The Optimists entered Rome under their Emperor, Barrius Bellus and Field Commander Jimionus McConkcus and after some careful deliberation immediately selected the larger of two small local parks in which to set up Field Operations.

Chief Centurion Ivor Bramlonius gave words of encouragement during the manoeuvres; “Get that %&@#^**% Line straight....and pick up your %^&*##@*** feet!!!! Twice through the show and with these stirring quotes in mind they returned to their temporary camp at the V.F.W. Rome Post to feast and rest. After much readying of their war equipment the Emperor called the men to put on their new armour and this duty kept Head Armourer Phillus Hennio (who had led the Optimists on the field of battle in Rome, years before) very occupied.

At VIII PM the large Battle Chariot of The Optimists rolled to the edge of the Colosseum grounds just as THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS were taking hard fought laurels from the crowd. To behold these old Veterans of The Field is akin to watching oil flow across a flat steel plate.

THE OPTIMISTS took up observation positions in the far stands and proceeded to scout THE ST. CATHERINE’S QUEENSMEN who swept across the Field in excellent form with all the audience’s thumbs pointing up. Then, when the second last Contestant entered the ring, the Optimists gathered for inspection and at its completion paraded onto the Field of Battle.

The Battle was short and fast...and during manoeuvres some of the Field Manoeuvres didn’t exactly go as set forth on the charts on paper as set forth during the winter campaigns but, during the heat of battle the Corps pulled through and almost continued marching through to the Retreat Ceremony. The dead-voiced announcer then simply dropped the placings into the Corps’ laps and left them there...much to The Canadian Champions amazement and joy!!! It also affected Jimionus and caused him to drop the Guard Trophy when the results were announced.

A small feast was enjoyed by The Victors under the stands provided by The Optimist Club of Rome and the Corps of tired warriors then returned to the V.F.W. Post to play a few selections before heading across the border and home. (Rome Field Notes by Richard Boehnke)

From the Aug-Sept 1962 issue of Green Capsule Comments

	Totals	General Effect				M & M			Horns			Drums		
		GE M&M	GE Horns	GE Drums	GE Avg.	M&M 1	M&M 2	M&M Avg.	Horns 1	Horns 2	Horns Avg.	Drums 1	Drums 2	Drums Avg.
THE OPTIMISTS	86.20	14.9	13.1	13.7	41.7	19.1	18.6	18.85	11.6	13.2	12.4	12.9	13.6	13.25
BLESSED SACRAMENT	84.45	12.6	12.8	13.5	38.9	18.6	19.4	19.0	12.8	13.4	13.1	13.5	13.4	13.45
THE QUEENSMEN	82.80	13.1	12.2	13.3	38.6	17.5	18.6	18.05	12.1	12.3	12.7	13.1	13.8	13.45
UTICA YANKEES	76.55	12.7	10.5	12.3	35.5	18.0	17.5	17.75	12.3	12.5	12.4	10.6	11.2	10.9

Optimists Top Sac, Queensmen At Rome Show

ROME, N.Y., July 14, 1962 — History was made tonight when for the first time, a Canadian Jr. Corps beat a National Champion U.S. Corps. The **TORONTO OPTIMISTS** surprised many in beating the **BLESSED SAC** and the **QUEENSMEN** along with three other corps. Rome Free Academy filled to about 2,000 people was the scene of this drum corps event.

The **OPTIMISTS** in new blouses and sashes, steam-rolled on to the field to “*Wide World*”. A very active colour guard, complete with bayonets, added to the enjoyment of their show. As the scoresheet later indicated, OPTI’s victory was in G.E., beating SAC roughly by 2 points and the **QUEENSMEN** by 4 points. Their score, 86.20.

BLESSED SAC presented a mediocre show, much likely due to the long ride from Newark to Rome. High horns and drums, but lost out on the before-mentioned G.E. Their drill and music is neatly executed, but a show-stopper is needed. Their score, 84.45.

The **QUEENSMEN**, showing lots of spirit and drive, featured a new colour presentation and exit, drill-wise. This topped off by new musical endings to “*I’ll Walk With God*”, and “*Eager Beaver*”, had the audience in constant applause. M&M was the only apparent drawback, but is bound to improve. Their score, 82.20.

The **UTICA YANKEES** featured a wide open drill and a proficient horn line. Highlights of their show is an extended company front and enlarged “*V*” formation. Repertoire included, “*C’est Magnifique*” and “*Climb Every Mountain*”. Look for big things from this corps and watch them at Legion State. Their score, 76.55

ST. JOHN’S GIRLS Corps, also of Canada, fielded the largest corps of the night. As with the case of many all-girl corps, drumming is their set-back. A large colour guard is used to the best advantage throughout the drill, along with a twisting major in concert. Their score, 60.35.

The **APPALACHIAN GRENADIERS** — a new corps, were rough in all captions, especially M&M. They deserve an A for credit and will be a corps to reckon with in a couple of years. Their score, 57.10.

Awards went to **BLESSED SAC** for major and **OPTI** for colour guard. The **OPTIMISTS** will have plenty of time to defend their new found title at Marion, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pa., when they’ll compete against the best corps in the country. Only time will tell what the outcome will be.

Drum Corps News August 8, 1962 issue



Rome, NY (July 14, 1962)

The first time the corps wore their new uniforms — and just before beating Blessed Sacrament.
Here are a couple of photos taken just before the show



The Drumline (Left to Right)

Frans Rood, Ron Kaiser, Ron Prokop, Vic Krukalis, Orest Burak, Mark Wicken, Colin Hedworth, Dave Johns
Tom Bedford & Glenn Copp are on Cymbals



The Baritones, with their new horns (Left to Right)

Dave Watt, Ron Cottrell, Mel Dey, Glen Durish, Rick Boehnke, Robin Weatherstone, Dick Ward, Al Lavigne, Bill Thorne