

SOLDIERS AS MUSICIANS

FAMOUS PLAYERS

Daily Telegraph Reporter

SOUTHERN COMMAND, Monday.

A capital symphony concert, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, was given by and for soldiers last night in the big garrison theatre of a camp in this area. Privates and troopers were in the majority among the players. All ranks were represented in the crowded audience.

The programme was planned more or less on the lines of a Saturday night Promenade Concert at Queen's Hall, with a Beethoven concerto (No. 3), a Schubert symphony (B minor), and extracts from Wagner, Rossini and Borodin; and the enthusiasm of the audience, too, was very like that of a Saturday night "Prom."

While some of the musicians in the orchestra are members of military bands in the area, the majority belong to training regiments and other units and are not let off military duties.

Seven of the violins are troopers in the Tank Regiment (R.A.C.); and the principal cellist is a private in the R.A.O.C. named Meert, who in the days of peace was the principal cellist of the Scottish Orchestra.

The leader, Bandsman Bossert, was formerly the leader of the Bournemouth Orchestra; the leader of the second violins, Cpl. Sutton, comes from the Hallé Orchestra; and the first viola, Bandsman Mutter, and the first flute, Bandsman Raynes, from the London Symphony Orchestra.

There are two women players—a V.A.D. among the violins and a W.A.A.F. among the cellos.