

After serving in the Navy, he was commissioned Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1918 and was a World War I leader of the famous 51st Field Artillery Band. In 1919 he resigned from the Army and became a member of the world-famous Sousa Band in 1921, where he remained under the leadership of the great March King until after 1929. As a Captain, Howard was assigned to duty in Washington in June of 1941 and became the first Music Advisor ever appointed to the War Department. During the following six years he initiated and supervised the Army Music Program which was designed to foster morale in the Army through soldier participation. Col. Bronson was chief over a staff of 200 officers and enlisted men initiating and organizing music courses. He was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon, the Special Services Distinguished Service Citation, and a special commendation from the Commanding General of the 8th Army in Japan. He was also presented the Award of Merit by the National Association of American Composers in 1942 and 1943, and again in 1944-45 for his outstanding contribution to American music.