

According to the Thames Star of April 6, 1950, "When the South Auckland Brass Band competitions were held in Thames in 1921 it" (6th Hauraki Regimental Band) "won the military quickstep. Hot on the heels of this success it won the coveted Boosey Shield in the New Zealand Brass Band contest held in Palmerston North, when Lieut. A. Clarke was bandmaster." (For business, 1921 was a slump year.)

1922.

(With a "business recovery," Thames continued big works on borrowed money.)

August 17, 1922. There continued to be removing of old fences and extensions to Victoria Park, though the centre of gravity of Thames was rapidly shifting to the southern end and centre. There were still two bands to use the Rotunda.

Bands were used for a big World War I memorial fundraising, with now £6,000 out of £8,000 budgeted. Nett was £764, out of £1,432 takings, less expenses of £647 for such features as "Silver Bullet," "Cannonade" and "Reveille," with the organising and paying for of much "Music, Mirth and Melody."

1923. This year saw Thames bands reduced to one instead of two.

A cutting from the Band file tells the story. "HAURAKI BAND. SMOKE CONCERT.

"A smoke concert tendered by the members of the Hauraki Brass Band to the past members and supporters was held last evening.

"Mr. A.G. Le Fevre occupied the chair and associated with him were His Worship the Mayor (Mr. T.W. Rhodes M.P.) and Cr. Morley."

(Thomas William Rhodes was Mayor 1923-7. Joseph Morley was a Thames Borough Councillor 1919-32, 1937-44.)

"In his opening remarks Mr. Le Fevre stated that they all regretted that the members of the band had decided to disband. The band had been formed in 1898, under conductor E. Williams, who now had charge of one of the large bands in the U.S.A. and for a number of years was attached to the Hauraki Rifle Volunteer Company. It had a splendid career, winning laurels at many contests, notably at New Plymouth, Masterton, Auckland, Waihi, Thames and Wanganui. In disbanding the members had decided to distribute the funds, £50 to Thames Hospital, £20 to Labour Day Benefit, 3 seats to Thames Borough Council to be placed in the Park, and £5 5s. to the Regimental Band's contest fund." (Money from sale instruments.

"The following toasts were honoured, "The King," "The Regimental Band," "The Local Bodies," "Past Bandmasters," "Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade," "Hauraki Band," "North Island Bands Association," "The Ladies," "The Press."

"Items were contributed by the Jazzaramba Orchestra and Messrs. A. Williams, A.M. Hindle, G. Jenkins, James Morley and P. Jenkins.

"During the evening mention was made of the enthusiasm that had been displayed by past conductors of the Band, Messrs. E. Williams, T.B. Booth, Green and J. Rowe, and A. Williams.

"The singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' and the sounding of 'The Last Post' concluded a most enjoyable evening."

The Thames Star of April 6, 1950, in reference to the above, said, "Unhappily, this band went defunct in 1923. The Instruments were sold, and the proceeds donated to the local hospital."

It also tried to give a historical account of Thames bands, but confessed candidly that, "Thames does not feel entirely at home in a discussion of very early bands until well on in the establishment of the Hauraki Brass Band and the advent of the 6th Hauraki Regimental Band, which, in fact, was an offspring of the Naval Band." He said Naval Band, it said many could still recall names "of its earliest bandmasters - George Smith, Charlie Lawn and Andrew Hunter."

But once it got into later times, "there is a friendly familiarity with the names of bandsmen now, and especially the name Williams.

(There was a kind of military rebirth following the Jameson Raid of 1896, after which war between British and Boers in South Africa was judged to be inevitable, with units forming in 1897-8, just before the outbreak of war in 1899.)