

ets, (Capt. T.W. Hammond); Parawai Cadets, (Capt. Trimmer); Waiokaraka Cadets, Capt. Newton; Tararu Cadets, Capt. Russell. Further officers were Lieuts. Spraggon and Battson (Thames Rifles); Lieut Hetherington (Hauraki Rifles); Lieut. Shepherd (Kauaeranga Cadets); Lieut. Freeman (Waiokaraka Cadets); Lieut. Andrew (Tararu Cadets). Thames had a general holiday that afternoon so that all could attend.

July 6, 1906. Thames Borough accepted for the Library a photographic shield taken in 1877 "of the old No. 2 Hauraki Rifles. The strength of the company, including officers and men, FIFE AND DRUM BAND, numbers 115. The company at that time was under the command of Papt. Paul and Lieuts. Denby, Haszard and Small."

July 21, 1906. Hauraki Rifles carried on under W.S. Clark as Lieut. Commanding and Thames No. 1 Rifles under H. Pearse as Captain Commanding.

There were references in July and August to Volunteer shooting contests. On August 30 there was reference to "the difficulty of keeping a Volunteer corps together in a mining community owing to the shifting nature of the population."

There was more about shooting contests in September and October.

October 12, 1906. Hauraki Rifles and Thames No. 1 Rifles had a cards tournament in the Hauraki Rifles drill hall.

October 29, 1906. The Battalion Band was still under bandmaster A. Clarke.

December 10 and 11, 1906, had much about shooting and a belt with shields for winners. { I saw the belt and recorded the names, starting with February 23, 1907, and finishing with "Private A. McCollum, Parawai, Oct. 1911. The first winner was Bugler Sydney Sparke, of Tararu, Primary School Corps. After 1911 the Volunteers would be absorbed by the Territorial system. }

January 18, 1907. No. 1 Thames Rifles (ex Navals) and Hauraki Rifles were to go to Parawai "for their annual camp of instruction."

January 24. In camp. Colonel Porritt put the Volunteers through some Battalion drill, it being too wet for a sham attack on the camp by Paeros Volunteers.

There were mentions of Volunteers in February and March, in connection with camps and shooting.

April 4, 1907. Frederick Michael Syms was gazetted to be a Lieutenant of "Number 1 Company Thames Volunteers."

April 16. There was a reference to the Hauraki Band, and Waiokaraka School Cadets.

May 1, 1907. Thomas Gavin, formerly of Thames, now at Te Aroha, reminisced about his Volunteer experiences. He said he joined the Naval Brigade in 1868, used to drill in a Customs shed at Auckland under Captain Grant, drill instructor. (This suggests Thames Navals an offshoot from Auckland). He was with the Naval Brigade till it went to Parihaka. They were two months away. All had been engaged for 3 months, but in spite of that engagement they only received 2 months pay. "This piece of financial manoeuvring was the means of breaking up volunteering at Thames." So strong was the feeling against the Defence Department that John Bryce, the Minister for Defence at that time, was burnt in effigy at the Thames. His company was only allowed to be 100 strong, but they had 50 over that number.

He remembered two men coming over the mountain track to Te Aroha - there was no other road in those days, asking him to go to Thames ready to proceed to Parihaka. Major Murray sent word that the men wanted him to go with them. He went to Thames, and announced to the Corps what the situation was, and ordered all those men who would go to Parihaka to step two paces forward, to which every man responded. Parihaka was the wind up of volunteering, and it had never looked up since.

It was noted on May 24 that Empire Day had been well observed, particularly by schools, with excursions by water from Auckland, and on May 25 it was reported that the Battalion Band had collected over £600 for charitable and distressed cases and now was making a collection for its own funds for the first time in 15 years.