

On Saturday, October 8, 1904, the Battalion Band, under conductor Clarke, played on the spacious upper storey verandah of the new Brian Boru hotel, to a very large gathering in Pollen Street.

On December 14, there came the first news of the great Waiotahi gold bonanza, which would make 1905-7 golden years for Thames, being of Caledonian stature.

Over the Christmas holiday period Thames was all races and steamer excursions. So many Thames people were in Auckland that Thames looked deserted.

January 6, 1905, reported in Auckland, because of Waiotahi gold. "A crowd such as had not been seen in the precincts of the Exchange Buildings for many years," with "a good deal of excitement over the phenomenal rise in Waiotahis."

The week-end of January 21-22, 1905, the visiting Auckland Battalion Band played in the Rotunda on the triangular Victoria Reserve. Meanwhile the local Volunteer units, being No. 1 Thames Rifles and Hauraki Rifles, were in camp at Deehle's Paddock on the outskirts of Thames. Waihi was having a camp of 100 Volunteers, or 100 with the Band.

May 10, 1905. Thames No. 1 Rifles now had new uniforms, part of a general turn to khaki.

June 2, 1905. The Battalion Band was giving a series of promenade concerts in Thames Miners' Union Hall, Queen Street, Grahamstown end.

Thames began to show signs of returning prosperity.

October 18, the Battalion Band was continuing promenade concerts.

October 20. Thames celebrated Trafalgar Day and centenary with much bunting. The Thames Star complained the schools celebrated separately instead of jointly, with a function "in which Volunteers, veterans, bands and cadets could have taken part." The biggest function was at the Kauaeranga School, with "the co-operation of the Volunteers, veterans, Hauraki Band, and Tararu Cadets." 1805-1905.

On Sunday 22nd October, 1905, the Hauraki Rifles marked the occasion by a church Parade, which meant going with their Band.

Meanwhile more was coming into the news about what happened on the actual day. A moving spirit was headmaster Marsden of the Kauaeranga School, with celebration at the Kauaeranga Baillie Street school. Volunteers were both No. 1 Thames and Hauraki Rifles, Thames Veterans, Hauraki Band, Kauaeranga and Tararu Cadets, with over them all Major Lucas. The Hauraki Band was under bandmaster Booth. To show there was now no ill feeling, Hauraki Band and singers combined in the Marseillaise, their rendering much enjoyed by a visiting Frenchman.

On October 23 there was an account of the Church Parade, with No. 1 Thames Rifles, Hauraki Rifles, Fire Brigade, Kauaeranga School cadets, Parawai ditto, Waioakaraka ditto, Tararu ditto, comprising the Thames Cadet Battalion under Major Lucas, while Captain Adjutant Somerville commanded the Volunteers. Musical honours were done by the Cadet Battalion Band under bandmaster T.B. Booth while the Battalion Band was under bandmaster A. Clarke. Veterans also came.

November 7, 1905. The Thames Battalion Band was unable to accept an invitation to the opening of the Paeroa-Waihi railway at Waihi on November 9, owing to "being engaged at the military sports at Patawai that day." November 9 was the King's Birthday, and they were to muster at Mary Street in the morning for a daylight parade.

At the Parawai military sports on the 9th November, 1905, there were the No. 1 Rifles (ex Navals) under Captain Pearse, Hauraki Rifles under Lieut. W. Clark, and the Battalion Band under Bandmaster Clarke, plus a contingent of the Ohinemuri Rifles, with the Tararu and some of the Paeroa Cadets. Also the Fire Brigade, who normally worked in with the Volunteers.

The 2nd Battalion's Band wanted the Thames Borough Council to put up canvas screens for the Band Rotunda, having been unable to keep up their music stands on a windy day.

The railway opening with 6,000 at Waihi did not lack for band music, and many

Oct. 24. Instead of flickering torches for playing outdoors, the Battalion Band now got a "splendid acetylene gas lamp," standing about 16 feet high on iron legs - "sheds a splendid light all around."