

Thames people went there by excursion train. "At the Waihi station the Volunteers and Cadets were drawn up, and on the arrival of the Premier presented arms, the band playing." This was local talent.

November 23, 1905. The Volunteers and their Bands at Thames continued to take part in various functions.

December 16. No. 1 Thames Rifles (ex Navals) were preparing to form a guard of honour for the Governor, the Right Hon. William Lee, Baron Plunket (1904-10).

December 19. For the Governor there were not only No. 1 Thames Rifles under Captain Pearse, but also Hauraki Rifles under Lieut. W. Clark, the Battalion Band under bandmaster A. Clarke, and Veterans under Sergeant J. Donnelly. There were the Kauaeranga, Parawai, Waickaraka and Tararu Cadets.

Dec. 23. No. 1 Thames Rifles and Hauraki Rifles had their final drills and functions for the year. The former had their old drill hall with shields bearing such initials as H.E. for Hauraki Engineers and T.S.B. for Thames Scottish Battalion, "etc."

January 9, 1906. Waihi Volunteers got a new drill hall. Waihi was prospering with massive production of gold. Lord Plunket made a brief unofficial visit to Thames, his chief interest being Price's Foundry.

January 25, 1905. There was a Volunteer camp at Parawai, with 113, who went through manoeuvres and drill for Lieut-Colonel Porritt, officer commanding the Hauraki Battalion, who praised and hoped to see them at Easter.

That would have involved Bands, but not necessarily shooting competitions at Paeroa, the first day being reported on January 30, with both No. 1 Thames Rifles and Hauraki Rifles taking part.

February 5 had a mention of No. 1 Thames Rifles under Captain Pearse and its Battalion Band under bandmaster Clarke.

February 17, 1906. All existing Defence regulations had been revoked and new ones gazetted, including: "The personal payment to officers and volunteers attending daylight parades - the sum of 2/6 for each such parade, with a limit of 6 each year. Cadets and BANDS are not entitled to payment for these daylight parades, which must be held in the open air within defined hours, and be devoted to practical field manoeuvres. Other payments are also provided for, such as guard of honour and ceremonial parades, in which case BANDSMEN may be paid."

February 21, 1906. Captain and Adjutant Somerville had been advised that the next Volunteer encampment at Easter would be at Motuihihi Island, "where the conditions are expected to be somewhat easier and more enjoyable than those of the previous camp. An Auckland correspondent writes that the striking good discipline and appearance of the Thames Volunteers and Band on the occasion of their visit created a very good impression."

February 22. The Premier (Seddon) said nothing had done more to further the volunteer spirit than the establishment of the cadet system.

April 12, 1906. "One of the local volunteer companies will not be represented at the Easter encampment this year. Some dissatisfaction is expressed at the manner in which the men were fed last year, and the local volunteers apparently are not anxious to undergo a similar experience this year."

April 24, 1906. The Auckland Headmasters' Association strongly objected to cadet camps as unnecessary, too great a responsibility of teachers if sickness, and capitation grant not sufficient to supply officers and cadets with suitable food."

June 12, 1906. No. 1 Thames Rifles and Hauraki Rifles forewent their usual parades on account of Seddon's death.

June 21, 1906. Thames had a big memorial service in Victoria Park for the burial of Seddon that day. The parade included: Officer in Command, Captain Somerville; No. 1 Thames Rifles, Capt. H. Pearse; Hauraki Rifles, Lieut. W. Clark; Battalion Band, bandmaster Clarke; Hauraki Band, (bandmaster Roew; Thames Veterans, Sergeant Donnelly; Officers and members Fire Brigade; Kauaeranga Cad-