

There was fine weather and things went off with eclat. The procession was marshalled by Major Lucas at the Shortland end. The Hauraki Regimental Band was under Lieut. Clarke, with drum-major O'Sullivan. Then came 200 Pioneers, 60 Girls Peace Scouts (under chief Scoutmistress Clark), the 20 strong Hauraki Band under bandmaster Williams, the Volunteer Fire Brigade under Superintendent Harry Stone, 70 Boy Scouts under the Provincial Commissioner headmaster Newton.

There were four columns of speeches from : King's Theatre.

A booklet was issued : "Jubilee of Thames Goldfield Souvenir Aug. 1 1867 - Aug. 1 1917 Historical Record. Printed at the Star Office, Thames.

It noted that the Procession to King's Theatre was followed by a Civic Reception there, to the old Thames Pioneers, with 200 accommodated on the stage, while "there was a considerable gathering of spectators."

"The proceedings opened with the National Anthem, and during the reception the 6th Hauraki Regimental Band played a selection, 'Home, Sweet Home,' Deputy-Bandmaster J. Robinson gave a solo, and the Hauraki Band rendered 'Auld Lang Syne,' which were all greatly appreciated."

There followed a Luncheon at St. James's Hall, with toasts and songs. ("For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" and "Auld Lang Syne!")

A Commemorative Service came next, at King's Theatre, with a "united choir, with organ.

On the evening there was a packed out house at King's Theatre for a Commemorative Concert, with "excellent musical selections by Williams' orchestra..the initial item in each part," with a long list of items by various performers, not forgetting the piano accompanists.

February 9, 1918. Hauraki Regimental Band evening concerts, which were a regular summer feature, were being spoiled by noisy children dashing around the Rotunda and playing Cowboys and Indians.

Thames shops were all shut for Anzac Day, April 25, 1918.

May 10. Stanley Ward, returning to Thames, gave a vivid description of conditions in London, with "public air raid shelters," and anti-aircraft fire, with bombs whistling down and "exploding and the glare of a big fire," and "how terrified the poor women and children were when the bombs were dropped, how they huddle up together in every Tube and underground station and prepared to stay the night

The ballots went on, also War Loans, and patriotic Queen Carnivals, one being mentioned on May 31. (The Bands would play a part.)

On August 5 Mayor Henry Lowe, following the War Anniversary on the 4th, convened a meeting at the Central Hall to submit a Resolution of Determination to Continue the War to a Victorious End. There were speeches of support by members of local bodies and churches, with "the Band" for such matters as the National Anthem.

There were flags flying and presumably Band music on such occasion as October 1 for the fall of Bulgaria. Others followed, like Turkey on November 1, with shops closed on November 4 for its surrender, and immediately Austria.

November 5, 1918. Celebration in Thames of Austrian surrender. "The Returned Soldiers got busy and there was a procession, with numerous cars lent for the occasion, and the Regimental Band in attendance. There were speeches from the balcony of King's Theatre by Mayor Lowe, Mr. Mills chairman of the Thames County Council, Dr. Lapraik and Mr. Hardman." (President of the Thames Old Boys' Assn.)

November 8, 1918, reported the false report of Armistice. "The announcement this morning that the armistice with Germany had been signed caused a wild outburst of joy. It was manifested by the ringing of firebells, blowing of whistles and other demonstrations of approval. Subsequently the fire reels and BANDS turned out, and there was a great display of bunting, the American flag being conspicuous with other symbols." "Justifiable doubt," commented the Thames Star.

By November 11, the real date, the influenza epidemic was now reaching "severe stage." November 12 had a special Armistice Edition of the Thames Star, and it was noted that Thames was making arrangements for celebrations when confirmation was to hand. Meanwhile there was a great display of flags, with all businesses and Government departments closed.