

1923.

"In fact, during the next 50 years it was to be woven into the story of Thames bands' history." (Written in 1950, this would refer to from 1898.)

"There were five brothers, all belonging to the Hauraki Brass Band. Ernest Williams was its leader; his brothers, Percy and Albert, were cornet players; and nine year old Arthur, to-day" (1950) "bandmaster of the Thames Citizens' Band, also went to practices in the old Drill Hall on the site of the Thames Bowling Club. Arthur was learning to play the cornet. A younger brother still, Herbert, was a little later to join the band and play the tenor horn.

"An old Thames resident to-day" (1950) "states with pardonable pride that "the Hauraki Brass Band was the best band in the world." Those were the days when Jack Swindley was drum major and the Williams brothers, with the exception of young Arthur and Herbert, took their turn as bandmasters along with Bert Booth and Charles Anderson."

March 10, 1923. There was mention of the Regimental Band playing in Victoria Park, as a normal occurrence.

April 20, 1923. The Returned Soldiers' Association was allowed to erect a temporary Cenotaph at the intersection of Pollen and Pahau Streets for Anzac Day on the 25th. (The white painted wooden "portable cenotaph" would become a long lasting feature of Thames, usually in front of the Post Office opened in 1938. It would witness much Band music.)

1924.

The Thames Star of April 6, 1950, had:- "By 1924 there was only the 6th Hauraki Regimental Band to carry on with the old traditions." (As a Regimental Band, it could expect some funding from the Defence Department, though in a few years that would dwindle with the World Depression of the 1930s.)

June 13-13, 1924, saw a visit by the Governor-General, John Rushworth, Viscount Jellicoe, commander of the British fleet at the battle of Jutland, 1916. He came to the Grahamstown wharf in the paddle steamer Wakatere, and was received with the customary honours, including Band music.

1925.

Loan works were still going on at Thames, including a new wharf that was to make Thames a real port.

January 13, afternoon, 1925. The Minister of Marine (the Hon. G.J. Anderson) inaugurated the official "pile driving" of the new wharf, in "what was probably the most important ceremony concerning the town's future that has yet occurred." There was a big attendance, including local body representatives within a large radius of Thames. The speeches filled columns in the Thames Star on the 14th and 15th of March, crowding out references to the musical honours. (Unless in trouble, the newspapers so often took Bands, now reduced to one, for granted.)

1926.

Would see a good deal of that, though before the end of the year things were moving for the forthcoming Thames Goldfield Jubilee (60 years) in 1927, requiring the Band, which would be quite busy practising.

June 17, 1926. "It is idle to deny that a new business area is being created in Pollen Street, and that the North, or Grahamstown, is no longer the hub of the commercial activity of the Borough....The movement to Pollen Street has set in, and set in with a vengeance." (The 1917 flood badly affected Grahamstown, and seems to have been a turning point.) 1926 was "a record building year."

July 3, 1926, saw the last run of the passenger paddle steamer Wakatere between Thames and Auckland, but her place was being taken by the Rangitoto. Few witnessed her departure - not a Band occasion.

December 17, 1926, saw the formation of a Provisional Committee for the Thames Diamond Jubilee in 1927 - and no doubt enhanced Band practising.