

Military Judges : Capt. R. Fowler, Lieut. J.A. Sutherland, Staff Sergeant-Major A. Brent.

A Thames Star editorial said that Thames having been chosen as the venue for the big Easter band contest that year "is gratifying to those who sponsored the matter." It had involved them in months of arduous work.

They had found accommodation for some hundreds of men, and in some cases for their wives also.

And more time still had been taken with myriads of details, from catering to transport.

The local Band itself had not been idle. Under expert leadership it had been practising most assiduously.

Tuesday, April 19, 1938. (Re Easter week-end). "A feast of music was provided for the public."

"The Hauraki Regimental Band (Thames)" after being placed last in its grade in the selection and hymn test, gave a splendid exhibition of drill work in the quickstep competition, to gain 3rd place.

Representatives of the neighbouring towns, Paeroa and Waihi, performed very creditably - the former (Paeroa) had only been reorganised and put into serious training over the past 5 months.

B grade music was won by Tauranga 355, with Waihi 350 and Thames 340 points.

The Thames secretary, E.O. Brownlee, with his close attention to all details, made for very smooth running.

Thames officers were :- President K.S. Hetherington, Vice-President J.W. Arbury. Committee : S. Ensor, R.M. Rhodes, A. Clarke, A. Garrett, F.E. McCullough, D. Redwood, H.W. Dovell, H.G. Murray, E.H. Griffin, E. Watson and W.B. McDonald. Treasurer S. Ensor, Secretary E.O. Brownlee, Supervisor R.M. Rhodes, Marshall T. McCarroll, Timekeeper A.J. Delamore, Inspector of Instruments A. Clarke, Official Accompaniste Miss. M. Pearson.

"Rhodes Park was a scene of gaiety on Saturday, with applause for each band."

Bands included Tauranga Municipal, Waihi Federal, Hamilton Citizens, Hamilton Municipal, Hauraki Regimental (Thames), Paeroa Municipal, Matamata Citizens, Moirsville Municipal, Te Kuiti Municipal, Pukehoke Municipal. Auckland Boys.

Musical judge R.J. Estall said that there was a lack of expression in all the renderings, but the performances on the whole were remarkably good - much improved, but still much to be done. Most of the soloist work was "pitiful" - they did not try to express themselves.

Another band was the Waikato Regimental, and the names of soloists included from the Aroha.

The names of "officers" above comprised a number of prominent Thames citizens that would be useful in both the short and long term.

While the Thames Star's account of the proceedings did not mention poor instruments, as mentioned above, with Lidington's appraisal thereof, Thames had obviously been showing itself at a disadvantage in such an assembly of bands, like "a poor relation." Hence the queen carnival got going in June, with the normal amount of continual newspaper publicity, with photographs of the rival queens and processions and so on.

However, even £1,200 would not cover everything needed in the way of new band instruments, and on the fifth paragraph of the next page (35), re postponed Annual General Meeting of 24th January, 1939, there is reference to "liquidating the debt of the Band."