

A BAND WITH A HISTORY



THE photograph shown above is the band of the 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment, N.Z.E.F., on the Epsom Show-grounds early in August, 1914.

This combination left New Zealand with the Main Body on Transport No. 12 (Waimana) under the conductorship of Lieutenant A. J. Clareburt. The playing quality was of a very high order and proved a valuable asset to the regiment. Soon after leaving Wellington the convoy reached Hobart and the troops were given a route march through the city. What a memorable occasion it proved to be! The band struck up "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," and the effect was electrical. The people left shops and marched with column

the band landed on Gallipoli with their companies as fighting men, and it was not long before losses occurred. Sandy Griffiths, Tommy Donovan, Gus Harwood, "Tip" Haybittle, Cliff Boreham, Ted Booth and Ned Reading were killed, while a number of others were evacuated badly wounded. A few months later the remnants of the four battalion bands were brigaded, a first-class playing unit was formed, and gave daily concerts to the troops in the trenches, which were enjoyed also by the Turks.

Prior to leaving for France the brigade band was divided into four, each battalion receiving eight players. Upon reaching the Western front a number of bandmen were recruited and all the bands were built up to full strength.

During the battle of Messines more losses were sustained, and General Godley issued orders that all bandmen were to be kept out of the line in future.

Among the original players who returned to New Zealand and are still in the "land of the living," residing in Auckland, are: Bill Kendall, president of the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association, Warrant-Officer Joe Williams, bandmaster of the Auckland City Boys' Band, Sam ("Yorkie") Ward, manufacturer, and well known in Social Credit circles, Herb. Rowe, a member of the Papakura Camp Band, Sid Rowe, on Home Service, Fred. Ewart (he was only 15 years of age when he left New Zealand), Charlie Garland, Joe Wilson and Joe Rosanoski.