BDA Source Description Pages
http://www.bda-online.org.au

63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot

Contents

History
Records used
Data extracted
Sources
Reference & Further Reading
Abbreviations
Acknowledgements

History

The 63rd Regiment of Foot was a British Army regiment station in Australia during the years 1828-1833.

First raised as the 2nd Battalion of the 8th Regiment of Foot in 1756, it was reconstituted as a regiment in its own right in 1758 as the 63rd Regiment of Foot. From 1782-1881 it was known as the 63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot.

During the 1820s the regiment was mainly stationed in Ireland, Portugal and England. A decision was made to transfer the regiment to Australia and advance contingents were sent out during 1828 and 1829.

The Headquarter Company arrived in Sydney on 18 February 1830 and after landing its convict charges it sailed onto Tasmania where it was joined by the remainder of the regiment during the following month. Five Companies of the regiment embarked from Hobart in February 1833 for Madras, India and others sailed the following month.

Records Used

The original records dealing with the regiment are held in the War Office series at the National Archives (TNA) in Kew, England. Records relating to the regiment's period in Australia were filmed under the Australia Joint Copying Project (AJCP) and are available in major libraries in Australia.

The Pay Lists in from those records are what has been used to extract the data.

Data extracted

The dataset includes, name of the officer or soldier, their rank, Company, original regiments they served in, some give employment as well as soldier, for many their previous residence, for most their date and place of enlistment, their ship and date and place of arrival, for many the date and reason for them leaving the Regiment, for some their date of departure from Australia, for a few their birth town and year, for a few their date and place of death and for all details of their duty and other remarks about them.

The Pay List often had different spelling of a soldier's name from one pay quarter to the next. These have all been included and cross indexed.

The dataset contains 897 primary entries. With the addition of cross reference entries (such as a soldier's widow) it contains a total of 1034 entries.

Sources

63rd – TNA WO, AJCP PRO Reels 3839, 3840, 3841.

Swinson, Arthur (1972). *A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army*. London: The Archive Press.

References:

Some of the above details have been extracted from:

Dress & Insignia of the British Army in Australia & New Zealand 1770-1870 by R.H. Montague, p.28. Pub. by Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1981.

Shipping Arrivals and Departures, Sydney, 1788-1825 by J.S. Cumpston. Pub. by Roebuck Press, Canberra, 1977.

Historical Records of Australia, Series 1, Volumes VII & VIII. (see under ship names and Regiments – 46th, in their Indexes).

Original Sources used are detailed above under Sources.

Further reading:

Military Forces in New South Wales - an Introduction Part 1 1788-1904, 3rd edition

by Ralph Sutton, Ken Thompson & Bill Storer. Pub. by The Army Museum Foundation, Paddington, 2000.

Manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, Editor Phyllis Mander-Jones. Pub. by Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1972.

Abbreviations:

HRA - Historical Records of Australia.
TNA - The National Archives - Kew, London, England.

Acknowledgements for the dataset:

Keith A Johnson AM - Data extraction from Pay Lists & editing these pages.
Malcolm R Sainty AM - General editing & processing the data.

List of all British Regiments that served in Australia:
(see Military - British Regiments in Australia)

Information Page written by Mal Sainty

Historical resources available from the BDA Shop
http://www.bda-online.org.au/shop

For other Military Sources included in the BDA see
http://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/military/