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<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**73rd Regiment of Foot - 1st Battalion****Contents**

History
Records used
Data extracted
Arrival in Sydney
Service in Australia
Leaving Australia
Wives & Children
Voyage to Ceylon
Reference & Further Reading
Acknowledgements

History:

This British Regiment was first raised in 1758 as the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Regiment. Between 1786 and 1809 it was known as the 73rd (Highland) Regiment of Foot, based in Leith, (part of Edinburgh), Scotland. It was transferred to the English establishment and known as the 73rd Regiment of Foot.

The 1st Battalion was ordered to NSW to whilst most of the 2nd Battalion remained in England and later fought at Waterloo. Small detachments of the 2nd Battalion accompanied convict ships to Sydney and within a few days of arrival they transferred to the 1st Battalion.

Records used:

Original records dealing with the Regiment are held in the War Office series at The National Archives in Kew, England. Some of these records have not been filmed and with the vast quantity of military records it is unlikely that they will be scanned for many years.

Some of the more important records which relate to the Regiment's period in Australia were filmed under the Australian Joint Copy Project and are available in major libraries in Australia. The series from which our project chose to extract data, are the Army Regimental Pay Lists, May 1809 to December 1815 - WO 12/8000, WO 12/8001 & WO 12/8002.

The original documents were bound into volumes and as a result, some details are hidden in the spines. Some are monthly lists, most are quarterly returns. The men are divided into separate lists according to their rank, are listed in each return in the same order except when they were promoted or demoted, in which cases they were recorded into their new rank list. The movement of some men caused some

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confusion for the clerks in their compilation of these records and it is possible that occasional duplication has crept into our dataset.

Another series of records which have not been filmed, are the Casualty Rolls, 1810-1816 - WO 25/2005, and data has been included from this source as well.

A third Series used are the Discharge records - WO 97, available on-line from TNA website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Additionally, the *1812 Army List* volume was consulted for extra details of the Officers.

Data extracted:

The project extracted data from each Pay List starting with the month beginning 7 May 1809 and ending with 24 December 1815. Not all the information was extracted, notably the rate of pay for each rank. Items extracted include, full name, rank, previous occupation and previous residence (if recorded); enlistment date and place (if enlisted after 7 May 1809), the length of service contracted, either 14 or 7 years, the Company(ies) served in, birthplace, ship and date of arrival in NSW, (generally added by the Editors), dates and places of desertion, illness and discharge, if noted. Place of Service (if noted) could be assumed that most of the men were in Sydney, unless noted otherwise. Their service period and place(s) where resident in Ceylon have generally been given in the last three Pay Lists extracted.

The Pay Lists often contained variations in spelling of a man's name between one list and another. Some also had completely different given names. All these variations have been cross indexed into the Database.

The Pay Lists often record the date and place of death of a soldier during the period covered and that event may have occurred during their first year in Ceylon. Apart from that any deaths, desertions etc. have been extracted from the Casualty Rolls. This series has not been filmed under the AJCP and original records at The National Archives were consulted in London by Keith Johnson and abstracts made from them.

A number of other details were extracted from the Casualty Rolls such as amounts of money paid to a named beneficiary from the estate of a deceased soldier. These have all been cross referenced into our Database.

A further list consulted was *Return of the wives of the 1st Battalion 73rd Regt. who Received the Allowance Granted by Government not being Permitted to Embark with the Regiment at Leith, January 12th 1809*. The list, calling all of them Mrs, names them only by Surname but also records the number of their children (from 1 to 5). Many of their possible husbands can be identified as coming to Australia. It seems likely that most of the women and children thus identified, would have come to Australia, not necessarily on the same ship as their husbands. These women have been added to the dataset. In some instances of common surnames, it is impossible to link, with certainty, a woman with her husband. In these cases editorial remarks have been made against each man indicating that the woman of the same surname may be his wife. A total of 75 women are named with a total of 48 children with two

BDA Source Description Pages

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additional girls separately named as Miss, probably an indication that their mothers were deceased, and that their fathers were still with the Regiment.

A number of men who transferred from the 2nd Battalion to the 1st Battalion, are also noted in our Database.

The Discharge records do not give date of discharge, but most give the span of years of service in the Army and list the Regiments in which they served. It also gives their age on discharge, which can be taken to be the last year of service, and also their place of birth. These details have all been added to our Database.

Pay details have not been extracted but as an example, the daily rates paid to Non Officer ranks between August and September 1814 were:

| | Shillings & Pence & Farthings | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Sergeant-Major | 2s. | 6d. |
| Quartermaster-Serjeant | 2s. | |
| Paymaster's Clerk | 1s. | 4d. |
| Armourer as Serjeant | 1s | 4d. |
| Drum Major as Serjeant | 1s. | 4d. |
| Serjeants | 1s. | 4d. |
| Corporals | | 10d. |
| Drummers & Fifers | | 7d. 3 |
| Privates | | 6d |

Men were paid a higher daily rate if they had served in the Army for longer periods, some Privates were paid 7d. per day, a few 8d. Per day

Arrival in Sydney:

The bulk of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Charles O'Connell, arrived in Port Jackson on 28 December 1809 in the HMS *Dromedary* and HMS *Hindostan*. They came ashore in Sydney Cove on 1 January 1810 with Lieutenant-Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, who became Governor of New South Wales on that day. They had been sent to relieve The New South Wales Corps. It shared garrison and convict guard duties with The Royal Veteran Corps of New South Wales.

An advance party of the 73rd Regiment had arrived on the *Boyd* on 14 August 1809. Further detachments of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, acting as guard on convict ships, arrived on:-

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Anne</i> | - 27 February 1810 |
| <i>Indian</i> | - 16 December 1810 - 31 men, 7 women & 5 children |
| <i>Providence</i> | - 2 July 1811 - 39 men |
| <i>Admiral Gambier</i> | - 29 September 1811 - 34 men |
| <i>Guildford</i> | - 18 January 1812 |
| <i>Indefatigable</i> | - 6 December 1812 |
| <i>Archduke Charles</i> | - 16 February 1813 |
| <i>Fortune</i> | - 11 June 1813 |
| <i>Earl Spencer</i> | - 9 October 1813. |

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>

Four men enlisted at the Cape of Good Hope, from regiments serving there. 23 men either died at sea on the way to Sydney or transferred out of the Regiment at the Cape of Good Hope. These men are still recorded in our Database but are known as Waysiders.

The Editors have determined the ship of arrival in Sydney of 1158 men, with 75 others, mostly officers, with ship of arrival not known, a total of 1223 arrivals.

Specific returns for ships are as follows:

Indian -

'Disembarkation Return of a Detachment of the 1st Battalion 73rd Regiment of Foot Comanded by Lieut. Lundin, Sydney, New South Wales 17 Dec 1810' (the day after the ship arrived). Ref: Colonial Secretary's Letters NRS 897 Item 4/1725 page 232.

It lists the following statistics:

Lieutenant - 1 (Lieutenant Richard Lundin)

Sergeant - 1; Corporal - nil; Privates - 28; Women - 7; Children - 5; Total = 43

This is confirmed by *HRA* Series 1, Vol. VII, p.388 which notes in part 'The ship *Indian* ... arrived from England on the sixteenth of December, having on board a Subaltern Officer and thirty soldiers of the 73rd Regiment as a Guard...'

What is odd is that Lieutenant Richard Lundin cannot be identified in any of the pay lists but has been added to the Database because the Disembarkation document mentioned above, clearly shows his name twice. The only other Lieutenant Richard was named several times as Leyne and also appears in the published *1812 Army List* as Leyne, but not Lundin, so they could be the same man. All the other men have been identified by the Editors.

Providence -

Major Geils + 2 Subaltern Officers and 36 soldiers.

Ref: *HRA* Series 1, Vol. VII, p.388

37 of these men have been identified as arriving on *Providence*.

Admiral Gambier -

2 Subaltern Officers and 32 soldiers.

Ref: *HRA* Series 1, Vol. VII, p.388

31 of these men have been identified as arriving on *Admiral Gambier*.

Guildford -

Captain Coane.

Ref: *HRA* Series 1, Vol. VII, p.607

Captains Anthony and Henry Coane were attached to the 73rd Regiment. It is not clear which one arrived on the *Guildford*.

No other specific details of the ships carrying detachments of the 73rd Regiment to Australia appear in the *Historical Records of Australia (HRA)* volumes.

Service in Australia:

BDA Source Description Pages

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Some detachments served in different places including Hobart and Port Dalrymple, VDL (Tasmania); others at Hunter River, Newcastle and Parramatta, NSW, and at Norfolk Island. Some men served in several places. In a Return of the 73rd Regiment dated May 1810, there were a total of 805 troops, plus 7 'Wives' and 5 children of Officers and 163 'Women of Privates' and 145 'Children of Privates'. [HRNSW Vol. VII, p.524].

One man enlisted in Hobart and one joined, and 279 enlisted in Sydney, mainly from the 102nd Regiment, another exchanged in Sydney, many it is likely, because they wished to remain in the Colony.

Fifty men died on service in NSW (specific place not recorded), and a further five are specifically recorded as dying in Sydney, one at Hunter River and one in Parramatta. One died in VDL (Tasmania) and another three are specified as dying at Port Dalrymple, 7 died in Hobart. A total of 68 died in Australia, it is not recorded where three of them died.

One man 'Disappeared', another was 'Lost', one was executed, another was gaoled and another taken by the Civil Jurisdiction as a criminal and two others transported for crimes, six deserted and appear not to have re-joined, 27 were discharged, mainly in NSW, 16 were Invalided and sent home to England, a further 15 were Invalided to the Invalid Company in Sydney, two went on leave (probably to England). 24 men transferred to the incoming 46th Regiment and remained in Sydney when the 73rd Regiment departed for Ceylon in 1814-1815.

In all, 1377 men are named as having been in the 73rd Regiment in Australia at some time during the period 1809-1815.

Leaving Australia:

Governor Macquarie advised Earl Bathurst that he had not received "any orders HRH the Commander in Chief, relative to the relief and removal of the Regiment. ... I am justified in acting on your Lordship's instruction alone, I have, in pursuance of them, embarked as many of the Soldiers of the 73rd Regt., with their wives and children on board the Earl Spencer as that vessel can conveniently accommodate ..." The embarkation took place on 17 January 1814.

'When the Transport Ships, Windham and General Hewitt, shall have arrived and disembarked the 46th Regiment, and landed the convicts, I shall lose no time in embarking the 73rd on board of them for Ceylon.'

[Ref: Despatch No.2 of 1814 Sydney NSW 19 January 1814. HRA Series 1, Vol. VIII, p.118-119].

The 1st Battalion of the 73rd Regiment was ordered to Ceylon and it sailed for Colombo in five ships:

- Earl Spencer* - 24 January 1814 - 350 men identified.
- General Hewitt* - 24 March 1814 - 371 men identified.
- Windham* - 14 April 1814 - 281 men identified. Two deserted at Hobart.
- General Brown* - 19 December 1814 - 133 men identified.
- Kangaroo* - 18 April 1815 - 37 men identified.

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>

A further seven men departed for Ceylon but their ship of departure has not been identified.

Total departed 1179.

The *Earl Spencer* carried 10 Officers, 15 Sergeants, 5 Drummers, 15 Corporals, 311 Privates, 49 women & 77 children, a total of 482.

Governor Macquarie reported to Earl Bathurst on 28 April 1814 that he had decided not to bring the Detachments stationed at Hobart, 'being two Companies consisting of 220 men besides Officers, women and children' and instead have directed the *Windham* to go from Sydney to Hobart and thence Ceylon. 'The *Windham* being capable of accommodating more troops than the two Companies stationed at Van Diemen's Land.' 'A proportion of the troops, remaining at Headquarters [Sydney], have been also embarked on board her, which makes up her proper complement of 330 men besides women and children.'

152 men, 30 women and 63 children and 6 officers were taken off the *General Hewitt* and *Windham* because the ships were overcrowded.

The *General Hewitt* finally carried 10 Officers, 23 Sergeants, 10 Drummers, 20 Corporals, 309 Privates, three Officer's servants not soldiers, 96 women, 163 children, a total of 634. This appears to be the numbers before some were removed.

Apart from Major Geils and the Assistant Surgeon, the *Windham* finally carried 3 Officers, 4 Sergeants, 1 Drummer, 6 Corporals, 94 Privates, 28 women & 61 children, 197 in total. The number of Privates appear to be incorrect as we have identified 281 men on board. Macquarie reported above that he had raised the total to 300 and the following would confirm that.

After *Windham* sailed, 17 Men, 10 women and 36 children remaining in Hobart, were sent to Sydney.

General Brown took 132 men (officers and soldiers), 30 women and 58 children, total of 220. After its departure 54 men (officers and soldiers), 28 women and 70 children, total 152 remained.

A later report advised that 2 Officers, 51 non-commissioned Officers and soldiers, 27 women and 72 children, a total of 150 were left in Sydney after the departure of *General Brown* and most were embarked on *Kangaroo* which carried 2 Subaltern Officers, 38 soldiers, 19 women and 45 children, a total of 104. The balance of the 73rd Regiment men remaining in Sydney, joined Major Antill's company and some joined the 46th Regiment. Macquarie also remained as Governor.

Reference to the above numbers are from *HRA* Series 1, Vol. VIII pp.142, 163, 386, 461.

Wives and Children:

Many men brought their wives and children with them from England (see under Data Extracted above). The number of wives and children permitted to accompany their men was controlled by a regulation 'for Foreign Service in agreeably to His Majesty's

BDA Source Description Pages

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Regulation dated War Office 22nd August 1806.' This regulation has not been located, but it apparently restricted the number of wives of soldiers allowed to accompany their husbands on foreign service and from other regulations this appears to be 6 wives per 100 men. Clearly, from the above statistics, this rule did not apply when the 73rd moved from Australia to Ceylon.

Some solders married in Australia and took their wives and children to Ceylon. One of the few examples of wives and children arriving from England in Sydney, is detailed above under Arrival in Sydney, *Indian*. The extent of families of the soldiers can be ascertained from the departure figures detailed above under Leaving.

Voyage to Ceylon: (now known as Sri Lanka)

Many of the men, women and children died on the voyage due to an outbreak of fever and even after reaching Colombo, 29 men died on board their ship as there were inadequate barracks on shore to house them all on arrival. One died on *Earl Spencer*, another on *General Hewitt* and the rest on *Windham*.

At Ceylon:

Up until 1816, 96 men died in Ceylon; 2 at Ruanwella, 10 at Galle, 12 at Kandy, 56 at Colombo (on land) and 16 with place not specified. In addition some wives and children died.

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 - 73rd, in their Indexes).

Original Sources used are detailed above under Records Used.

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.

This volume lists many more references to the 73rd Regiment than can be found in the on-line catalogue of The National Archives, London.

Abbreviations:

HRA - *Historical Records of Australia*.

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>

TNA - The National Archives - Kew, London, England.

Acknowledgements for the dataset:

Keith A Johnson AM - Data extraction from Pay Lists & Casualty Rolls, editing this information page.

Carol J Baxter - Editing shipping information.

Malcolm R Sainty AM - General editing & preparation of this Information page.

Garry A Wilson - Linking into Database.

Michael C Flynn – Research.

List of all British Regiments that served in Australia:

(see Military - British Regiments In Australia

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/musters-census/military>)

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