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4th Regiment of Foot (King's Own) 1831-1837

This dataset generates a biographical profile of each member of the 4th regiment recorded on regimental muster books and pay lists as serving in Australia 1831-1837. The records are held by the UK National Archives, Kew, London (ref: WO12/2213-2219, reels 3696-3699). They were microfilmed by the National Library of Australia's Australian Joint Copying Project and are now available for online viewing on the Trove www.trove.nla.gov.au under the 'Diaries, letters, archives' tab. The records, some faded and difficult to read on the microfilm version, were transcribed for BDA by Keith A Johnson AM and processed by BDA staff and volunteers.

Most are quarterly returns. The men are divided into separate lists according to their rank, and are listed in each return in the same order except when they were promoted or demoted, in which cases they were added to their new rank list. The movement of some men caused some confusion for the clerks in their compilation of these records and there is a risk of confusion with common names.

The dataset records by name 887 individuals who came to Australia with the regiment. Ten of these were wives of soldiers named following the death of a soldier, though these women represented only a proportion of the wives and children of soldiers who sailed with them to Australia. Many junior officers were unmarried and regulations stipulated that only six out of one hundred non-commissioned officers and rank and file men were allowed to bring wives on overseas service. This proportion was sometimes exceeded and the number of wives accompanying husbands with the regiment must have exceeded fifty, with a greater number of children coming with them. Wives were not usually mentioned by name in the pay records however those who had children in the colony appear in baptism records. An additional 42 names of other persons mentioned in the records are included in the dataset (including beneficiaries when a soldier died), as well as variant names or spellings.

Background

The 4th Regiment of Foot was an infantry regiment with a long history of participation in famous battles over 150 years prior to the decision to send it to Australia as a colonial garrison. It had been raised in England in 1680 for overseas service with British forces in Tangier, Morocco (though not initially known as the Fourth Regiment). It had earned the title 'The King's Own Royal Regiment' as a result of service as the garrison of Windsor Castle during 1715-1716, according to the regimental history published in 1839. The additional 'Royal Lancaster' regimental title was added after the 1830s.

The regiment's colours featured a badge with an image of 'the Lion of England' and the names of battles associated with the regiment, most of them in Spain during the Napoleonic Wars: Corunna, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, St Sebastian, Nive, Peninsula, Bladensburg and Waterloo.

Posting in Australia

The regiment had served in the West Indies during 1819-1826 and in Portugal, England, Scotland and Ireland during 1826-1831. In May 1831 news reached Sydney that the 4th Regiment would be transferred to the Australian colonies. The Army List for 1830 names the Earl of Chatham as Colonel of the Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Alured Dodsworth Faunce as his deputy. Both remained in

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England but Faunce's two sons Alured Tasker Faunce and Thomas Faunce sailed to the colony as young officers of the regiment.

The convict transport *Larkins* docked at Hobart on 21 October carrying 49 rank and file men, six women and four children belonging to the regiment. On 5 November the regiment's local commander, Major Henry William Breton, the convict transport *William Glen Anderson* with Lieutenant Thomas Brooke, a sergeant, a corporal, 27 rank and file men, four women and five children of the regiment.

On 27 August 1832 the convict transport *Clyde* docked at Sydney carrying the regiment's new commander, Major John Kenneth Mackenzie, his wife, five daughters and four sons, along with regimental quartermaster William Hanna and his wife and a detachment of 33 soldiers, seven wives and ten children.

In 1836 Captain William Lonsdale sailed from Sydney to take up a civil post as Police Magistrate at the new settlement of Port Phillip (later Victoria). He was supported by Ensign George King and a detachment of about thirty rank and file from the regiment. They were charged with taking control of the unofficial settlement established by John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner and others at what became the city of Melbourne. Private William Kirby died at the settlement on 7 April 1837.

Some officers and men of the regiment remained in England as successive contingents were sent to the colony over the following years as guards on convict transports. Those sent to Australia served in settled areas of the colonies, including Tasmania, Norfolk Island, Port Phillip and at a range of depots in New South Wales including Sydney, Parramatta, Emu Plains, Bong Bong, Mount Victoria, Cox's River, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Moreton Bay (now in Queensland but then part of New South Wales).

Like all regiments the 4th had a large musical band which, in addition to playing marching and church music, participated (with the permission and patronage of its senior officers) in the cultural life of colony at public vocal and instrumental concerts, balls, horseracing and other public gatherings. For example on 21 March 1836 the *Sydney Herald* reported that the band of the 4th performed part of Gioachino Rossini's operatic work *L'italiana in Algeri* (The Italian Girl in Algiers) at Sydney's Royal Hotel at a concert also featuring civilian singers and musicians.

In August 1837 the headquarters of the 4th and a large segment of the regiment (comprising over 450 men under the command of Major James England) embarked on two ships at Sydney, bound for their new posting based at Fort St George, Madras (Chennai) India. The remainder sailed for India separately over the following months. Some members of the regiment remained in Australia.

Timeline copied from Richard Cannon, *Historical record of the Fourth, or the King's Own Regiment of Foot: containing an account of the formation of the regiment in 1680, and of its subsequent services to 1839*. London : Longman, Orme, and Clowes, 1839.*

'In **January, 1831**, the head-quarters were at Ashton-under-Lyne; in March at Northampton; and in April at Chatham. Part of the regiment embarked in this year for New South Wales, in detachments, as guards to convict-ships.

1832 The head-quarters, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel McKenzie, embarked for the same destination at Deptford, on board the *Clyde*, on the 14th of April, 1832, and arrived on the 30th of August.

1834 The regiment remained at New South Wales five years; its head-quarters being established at Par[r]amatta until June, 1833, when they were removed to Sydney; but returned to Par[r]amatta in June, 1834; where they remained upwards of twenty months.

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1835 On the decease of General the Earl of Chatham the colonelcy of the King's Own was conferred on Lieut.-General John Hodgson, by commission dated the 30th of September, 1835.

In **March, 1836**, the head-quarters were again removed to Sydney; and in August of the following year two divisions embarked for the East Indies. One division landed at Madras on the 30th of September, 1837; the head-quarters arrived on the 7th of October, and were stationed at Fort St. George.

1838 The third and last division embarked from New South Wales on the 26th of December, 1837, and arrived at Madras on the 9th of April, 1838.'

* online at this link:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/55391/55391-h/55391-h.htm>

Sources:

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See also references to 4th Regiment 1831-1837 in Trove Newspapers and Trove Diaries letters archives.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au>

Acknowledgements for the dataset:

Keith A Johnson AM: Data extraction from pay lists.

Malcolm R Sainty AM: General editing of the dataset.

Michael Flynn, MA: Historical research and this source page text January 2020.

For of all British Regiments included in the BDA see:

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

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