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Royal Staff Corps 1826-1829

This dataset generates a biographical profile of each member of the Royal Staff Corps recorded on regimental muster books and pay lists as serving in Australia September–December 1826. The records are held by the UK National Archives, Kew, London (ref: WO12/11084, reel 3917). 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 136 individuals who came to Australia with the regiment. 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.

Posting in Australia

The Royal Staff Corps in New South Wales comprised artificers (skilled tradesmen) and engineers and some were assigned to public works roles supervising convict work gangs. Some were sent to settled areas of the colonies, including Tasmania, Sydney and Parramatta. Captain (former Lieutenant-Colonel) Henry Dumaresq, served as private Secretary to Governor Ralph Darling (his brother-in-law) following his arrival in the colony in 1825. His brother William John Dumaresq (1793-1868) served as an officer of the Royal Staff Corps, using his skills as an engineer on public works projects.

Sources:

Nancy Gray, 'Dumaresq, Henry (1792–1838)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB)*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, first published in hardcopy in *ADB* Volume 1, (MUP), 1966: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dumaresq-henry-2003/text2447>

See also references to 4th Regiment 1831-1837 in Trove Newspapers and Trove Diaries letters archives: <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

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For of all British Regiments included in the BDA see:

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

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