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51st Regiment 1837-1847 King's Own Light Infantry aka 2nd Yorkshire West Riding Regiment

This dataset generates a biographical profile for each of the 1,466 members of the 51st regiment recorded on regimental muster books and pay lists as serving in Australia in the years 1838-1847.

It includes transcripts of biographical information about garrison soldiers of all ranks, including when and where they were stationed in Australia and, if they died on duty, details of their next of kin in the British Isles and often their occupation and birthplace.

Many who went on to qualify for an army pension have additional biographical details of birthplace, occupation and previous or subsequent service in other regiments available in UK archives, but these have not yet been transcribed for this dataset.

The 51st regiment was also known as the King's Own Light Infantry, or alternatively as the 2nd Yorkshire West Riding Regiment. The officers and rank and file of the regiment's first battalion and their families were posted mainly in two large establishments at Hobart and Port Arthur, as well as other posts in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and at the Swan River settlement (Perth, Western Australia).

The regiment was transferred to Madras and Bangalore, India on three ships, the *Agincourt* and *China* departing Hobart in August 1846 and the *Java* departing Hobart January 1847 and Perth in March. At departure the regiment's Australian contingent numbered 946 men, 110 wives and 154 children. About 500 men who had served with the regiment in the colonies since 1838 had died, been discharged or transferred to other regiments or a colonial mounted police force.

Locations where the men of the 51st were stationed in Australia include:

In Tasmania: Avoca, Bothwell, Bridgewater, Browns River, Campbelltown, Coal Mines, Constitution Hill, Eagle Hawk Nest, Flinders Island, George River, George

Town, Green Ponds, Hobart, Jericho, Jerusalem, Launceston, Malcolm's Hut, Maria Island, Newtown Bay, New Norfolk, Oatlands, Perth, Port Arthur/Tasman Peninsula, Richmond, Rocky Hills, Ross, Snug River, Victoria Valley, Waterloo Point.

In Western Australia: Bunbury, Canning, King Georges Sound, Kojonup, Leschenault, Mahogany Creek, Mount Barker, Narpund, Pinjarra, Rottnest Island, Swan River [Perth], Toodyay, Vasse, Williamsburgh [now Williams], York.

Biographical data on soldiers and families

A birthplace has been identified for 246 of the men in the pay lists (17% of the total). Of these, 169 (69% of those with known birthplaces) were born in England and 59 (26%) in Ireland. The remainder were born in Scotland (5), Wales (5), the Isle of Man (2) and Calcutta (Kolkata), India (1) and Corfu, Greece (1). In the future additional biographical information will be transcribed from enlistment and pension records.

As well as the 1,466 men identified in pay lists who travelled to Australia with the regiment, an additional 200 names are indexed. These include:

- wives of soldiers named following the death of a soldier, usually residing with him in Australia but sometimes residing in the UK or Ireland
- a child or children if the father was a widower
- non-spouse beneficiaries noted when a serving soldier died or deserted (a parent or sibling, usually in the UK or Ireland)
- variant spellings of soldiers' names are also indexed.

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 in 1842 regiments stationed in the East Indies zone (which included Australia) were allowed a ratio of 12 wives per 100 men, chosen by lot. The number of regimental wives was 11.7% of the total number of men in the 51st departing Australia in 1846-1847, closely matching this ratio.

Wives were not usually mentioned by name in the pay records, except as beneficiaries of a deceased soldier as are other relatives, mostly in Ireland and England, identified by name, relationship to the deceased and place of residence.

The numbers of wives and children are usually mentioned in newspaper reports of arriving and departing contingents. Wives and children of officers are occasionally named in these reports (as well as in birth, marriage and death notices). Military parents who had children in the colony appear in colonial baptism records.

Wives and children of the rank and file are rarely identified by name in shipping reports except in terms of numbers of free woman and children on board (and these can sometimes be lumped in with free passengers or children of convicts on a transport).

The regiment maintained a 'depot company' at barracks in England and/or Ireland which acted as a supplier of men when numbers 'service companies' on overseas postings fell below strength owing to death, disability, transfer or retirement.

Officers based in England played an important role in recruiting and training but in many cases were progressively transferred to the colonial postings as older officers died, retired or were transferred out of the regiment.

Background

The 51st Regiment had been formed in 1755 in West Yorkshire, England. During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars of 1793-1815 the regiment had been deployed to the Mediterranean, South Africa, India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

From 1811 the regiment's 1st Battalion served in Spain under the command of future New South Wales Governor Ralph Darling, participating in significant battles at Badajoz, Salamanca (1812), Burgos (1812), Vitoria (1813) and Nive (1813), and at Waterloo in Belgium at the end of the war in 1815.

In 1821 King George IV granted the regiment the title 'The King's Own Light Infantry', often abbreviated to K.O.L.I. In 1821 the regiment sailed for the Mediterranean and was variously posted at the Greek Ionian Islands of Corfu, Cephalonia and Zante [Zakynthos].

Around 1834 the regiment was transferred to Ireland, remaining until 1837, when plans were announced for a transfer to Australia. The regiment's commanding officer Colonel Sir Benjamin d'Urban was stationed in South Africa

as Governor (1834-1837) and Commander in Chief of armed forces there 1829-1846. The city of Durban is named after him.

Posting in Australia and transfer to India

An initial detachment of the regiment sailed from Dublin on 27 August 1837 as guard on the convict transport *Neptune*, reaching Hobart on 1 January 1838. The regiment's local commander Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Elliott was also on board with his wife and a child, Lieutenant Baker, 28 rank and file soldiers, 6 soldiers' wives and 8 children. Elliott began work setting up headquarters for the regiment's new base at Hobart.

The regiment's numbers were progressively augmented over the following years with soldiers arriving as guards on convict ships. New recruits were often teenagers. Richard Creedy, born on Corfu, enlisted at Chatham in November 1837 at the age of 14 and sailed for Hobart on the *Coromandel*, arriving November 1838. He trained as a musician in the regimental band.

Ensign Mark Francis Alexander Kerr, aged 20, was a nephew of the Marquis of Lothian. He arrived in Hobart on 9 January 1838 on the ship *Sovereign*. Soon promoted to Lieutenant, he retired from the army in 1840 and purchased a 700 acre estate near Richmond (Tasmania) for a huge sum. By 1848 he was an insolvent debtor living in London. In 1860 he was on the run from charges of having obtained £2800 by fraud and forgery in the County of Devon.

Another young ensign arriving in 1838 was the Honourable David Erskine, the son of Lord Erskine. He went on to serve as Colonial Secretary of the Province of Natal. He was a grandson of the famous lawyer and Whig politician Thomas Erskine, 1st Baron Erskine who had defended Tom Paine and Queen Caroline at their trials.

The returns note if a soldier was a member of the regimental band. Military bands played an important role in the civilian and military cultural life of the colonies, playing at vice-regal events, funerals, processions, balls and concerts.

The Hobart *Advertiser* reported on 22 February 1839 that Abraham Duly, bandmaster of the 51st performed with a range of civilian vocalists and musicians at a Grand Miscellaneous Concert at Hobart's Campbell Street Theatre. Duly performed three pieces with the flute as a soloist and in two trios. Duly also conducted 51st Regiment band members playing two French horns, two

bassoons, one serpent (a wind instrument), one ophecleide (a predecessor of the tuba), two oboes, two clarinets, a trumpet and drum.

In April 1840 the 51st Regiment in the Australian colonies was recorded as comprising 3 field officers, 10 captains, 20 subalterns, 6 staff, 33 sergeants, 11 drummers, and 580 rank and file.

A list published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 17 March 1846 indicated that of 53 commissioned officers in the regiment, 25 (47%) were in England, 22 (41%) were in Hobart and 6 (11%) at Swan River (Perth):

Colonel (1): in England.

Lieutenant-Colonels (2): 2 in Hobart

Majors (2): 1 in England, 1 in Hobart

Captains (10): 5 in England, 4 in Hobart, 1 in Swan River (Perth)

Lieutenants (21): 7 in England, 10 in Hobart, 4 in Swan River (Perth)

Ensigns (10): 9 in England, 1 in Hobart

Paymaster (1): in Hobart

Adjutant (1): in England.

Quartermaster (1): in Hobart

Surgeon (1): in Hobart

Assistant Surgeons (3): 1 in England, 1 in Hobart, 1 in Swan River (Perth)

Of 1,460 men who came into the colony in the years 1838-1847, a record of the death in Tasmania or Western Australia (or soon after departing) of 128 members of the regiment has been identified.

Departures from the regiment during 1838-1847 were owing to retirement, return to England as an invalid, transfer to another regiment or the Mounted Police, desertion or transportation for a crime committed in the colonies. Many

more were discharged for a variety of reasons: to a pension owing to age, disability or a dishonourable discharge with no pension for bad behaviour.

Some men transferred to non-military positions in the (quasi-military) Mounted Police Force in various parts of the eastern Australian colonies. No record has been found of men from the 51st serving on garrison duty in New Zealand at this period.

Note on the pay lists

The pay records held in the UK National Archives at Kew, London (TNA), usually indicate where a soldier was stationed at the time of a particular pay list.

They may contain details of place of birth or enlistment in Britain or Ireland, illness and death. Occupations are sometimes given. The rank given in the database at the beginning of an entry is the rank the soldier held around the time of arrival in Australia. Later promotions or demotions are noted.

The records were microfilmed by the National Library of Australia's Australian Joint Copying Project and are now available for online viewing on the Trove website (www.trove.nla.gov.au) under the 'Diaries, letters, archives' tab. The records, some faded and difficult to read on the microfilm and online versions, were deciphered and transcribed for BDA by Keith A Johnson, data entry by John Ross, editing by Malcolm Sainty. Most are quarterly returns (tables of regimental expenditure compiled for accounting purposes).

The men are divided into separate annual pay lists according to their rank and are listed in each return in roughly the same order, except when they were promoted or demoted, in which case they were added to their new rank list. The pay year commenced on 1 April and ended 31 March.

For example, an annual list on file reference WO 12/6201 begins on 1 April 1839 and runs to 31 March 1840. It begins at page 1 with a quarterly return running from 1 April to 30 June 1839, with separate sections for different ranks, the men usually being listed in approximate alphabetical order within each rank.

Other sections of the pay lists deal with varying accounting requirements, lists of soldiers punished, a section on discharges by death, transfer, retirement, conviction, or other reasons. These exit records often note a soldier's birthplace and previous occupation.

The annual return is in a similar format for each of the four quarters, the fourth quarter starts on 1 January and ends on 31 March 1840. Together the set of quarterly returns for the year runs to 253 pages.

Relevant events in a soldier's Australian service are extracted and listed in the BDA result with relevant dates. The movement of men sometimes caused the clerks to make mistakes in their compilation of these records and there is a risk of confusion with common names.

Sources: archival

UK National Archives, Kew, London: War Office: General Muster Books & Pay Lists, 51st Regiment, WO 12/6200-6209.

For more information see:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14223>

Sources: published

Leonard Cooper, *The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry : (the 51st and 105th Regiments of Foot)*, London : Leo Cooper Ltd., 1970.

William Wheeler, *A record of the services of the Fifty-First (Second West York), the "King's Own Light Infantry" Regiment : with a list of officers from 1755 to 1870*, London: Longmans, Green, 1870.

Harold Carmichael Wyll, *History of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*, P. Lund, Humphries & Company, 1961.

Sources: online

'Duly family' [Abraham Philip Duly, 51st bandmaster], Dr Graeme Skinner (University of Sydney),

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/duly-family.php>

British Newspaper Archive: Newspapers / Diaries, Letters & Archives

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

National Library of Australia, Trove <https://www.trove.nla.gov.au/>

National Archives, Kew, London, UK

51st (2nd Yorkshire, West Riding, The King's Own Light Infantry) Regiment

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F267607>

National Archives, Kew, London, UK, Armed Forces Service Records,

WO 65 - War Office: Printed Annual Army Lists, 1838-1847

National Army Museum, 51st (2nd Yorkshire West Riding), or The King's Own Light Infantry Regiment

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/51st-2nd-yorkshire-west-riding-or-kings-own-light-infantry-regiment>

The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

https://www.lightinfantry.org.uk/regiments/koyli/kingyork_51sttl.htm

Families In British India Society (FIBIS), 51st Regiment of Foot

https://wiki.fibis.org/w/51st_Regiment_of_Foot

King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regimental Museum Archive

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/b4302157-1144-4cfa-9acc-d81d8a436022>

Select news reports:

The Star transport will take on board, from Portsmouth garrison, three Companies of the 51st Regiment, and proceed with them immediately to Malta.

Star (London) - Monday 14 May 1821:3

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

[ship] Spry, with the 51st Regiment, arrived at Corfu on the 27th of June.

Star (London) - Friday 10 August 1821:2 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The Depot of the 51st Regiment of Infantry is ordered from Tilbury Fort to Chatham.

Star (London) - Monday 03 October 1825:3 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Distribution of the British Army... 51st Regiment, Cephalonia;

Coventry Herald 14 Oct 1825:4 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

THE ARMY Detachments of the 7th, 28th, and 51st regiment, Infantry, and of the Royal Staff Corps, under the command of Lieut. Errington, of the 51st Regiment, arrived at Chatham on the 15th inst., from the Mediterranean, having disembarked from the Joseph Green transport... The 51st Regiment of Infantry has been removed from, Zante to Corfu. The 94th Regiment of Infantry has been removed from Cephalonia to Zante, to relieve the 51st Regiment.

Sun (London) 20 May 1828:3 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

On Thursday the depot of the 51st regiment, marched into Reading, on route from Chester to Portsmouth. The regiment is on its return from Corfu, where its time of foreign service has lately expired.

Berkshire Chronicle 25 Aug 1832:3 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The Jupiter troop ship left Portsmouth on the 7th instant for Cork, to take on board the 70th Regiment for Gibraltar. She will be employed in the Mediterranean in removing regiments, and will return with the 51st Regiment from Corfu to this country. The depot companies of the 51st Regiment are daily expected from Portsmouth at Cork, and on their arrival the depot companies of the 58th Regiment will be passed on to England.

Sun (London) - Friday 21 Feb 1834:4 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The service companies of the 51st or King's Own Light Infantry, marched into Buttevant, and joined the depot on Saturday. It is thought that the 51st will remain some time together in Buttevant for the purposes of drill, for which it affords every facility.

Albion and the Star 23 Jun 1834:4 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The 51st Regiment moved from the North of Ireland to Chatham in the month of May last, under orders for this colony. The first detachment was expected to sail in August. The 51st is intended to relieve the 80th, which will proceed to Van Dieman's Land, and relieve the 21st Regiment, under destination for India.-
Monitor.

Colonist (Sydney) 19 Oct 1837: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article31719955>

[Arrived Sydney Monday night 1 January 1838] the bark Neptune, 360 tons, Neagle, master, from Dublin, the 27th August, with 197 male prisoners, under the superintendence of P. Malyn, Esq., R.N. Passengers, Major Elliott, 51st regiment, Mrs. Elliott and 1 child; Lieutenant Baker and 28 rank and file of the 51st regiment, 6 women and 8 children.

Sydney Monitor 3 Jan 1838: 2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32158554>

JAN. 9.—Arrived [at Hobart] the barque Sovereign, 336 tons John Moncrief, master, from the Downs the 2d. of September, with 150 convict boys, and government stores,—Passengers, Dr. Henderson, M.D. R.N., Lieutenant Smith, 40th regiment, Ensign Kerr, 51st, Assistant Surgeon Power, 51st, Lieutenant Lynd, Barrack Master, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, and 17 privates, 51st regiment.

The Tasmanian (Hobart) 12 Jan 1838: 4. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232802818>

JAN. 18. - Arrived [at Hobart] the ship Neptune, 647 tons, W. J. Ferris, from Sheerness, 7th October, with Government Stores, and 348 male convicts. Passengers—Dr. J. Steret, Captain Mainwaring, Mrs. Mainwaring, 2 children and servant, Ensign Paget, 2 serjeants, and 27 soldiers of the 51st regiment, 8 women and 6 children....

JAN. 22.—Arrived [at Hobart] the schooner Marian Watson, 146 tons, W. Shorter master, from Sydney 14th January, with a cargo of sundries. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, 2 children, brother, and 2 servants, Mr. Thos. Wills, Mr. Abraham, Mr. Walker, Miss Robertson, Andrew Bower, Mary Miller and child, 1 corporal and 4 privates of the 51st regiment.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 23 Jan 1838: 4.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8650428>

The arrival of His Excellency Sir G. Gibbs [Gipps], may now be looked for at the expiration of ten days at furthest... His Excellency has appointed Henry Parker, Esq., brother of Captain Parker, of the 51st regiment, his Private Secretary.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser (Sydney) 3 Feb 1838: 2.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article226461333>

[Arrived Sydney] February 8.— The ship Waterloo, Cow, master, from London October 7, and the Cape of Good Hope December 23, with 224 male prisoners. Surgeon Superintendent, James Ellis, Esq, R.N. Passengers — Lieut. Hare 51st regiment, Mr Hill 50th regiment, 29 rank and file of H. M. 51st regiment, soldiers' wives, and 11 children.

The Australian (Sydney) 9 Feb 1838: 2.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36854473>

The Marian Watson proceeds to the Derwent with the head-quarters of H. M. 51st Regiment, under the command of Major Elliott.

The Australian (Sydney) 16 Feb 1838: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36857936>

For Hobart Town, on Thursday, the schooner Marian Watson, Captain Shorter. Passengers, Mr. Thompson, Mr. S. A. Donaldson, Mrs. Bride and two children, Major Elliot, Mrs. Elliott, and child, Lieutenants Baker, Hare, and Rice, 5 serjeants and 57 privates of H.M. 51st regiment, 17 soldiers' wives and 22 children, and 6 female prisoners of the crown.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser (Sydney) 17 Feb 1838: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article226459680>

APRIL 1.-Arrived the barque Moffatt, 821 tons, T. Bolton, master, from London 15th November, and the Cape 9th February, with 388 male convicts. Passengers.- Dr. King, R.N., Lieutenant McFarlane, 51st regiment, Hon. D. Erskine, 51st regiment.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 3 Apr 1838: 4.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8650572>

On Wednesday last, the ship William Jardine, Crosbie, master, from Dublin the 28th of Nov., with 214 male prisoners under the superintendence of R. Lewis, Esq., Surgeon, R. N. The guard consists of Captain Austin, 51st Regiment, Ensign Cormick, 28th, and 28 rank and file of the 28th and 51st Rgts. Passengers-15 women and 6 children.

Sydney Monitor 13 Apr 1838: 2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32159711>

July 21 — The ship Bengal Merchant, Camp-bell, master, left the Downs March 28, with 270 male prisoners, Surgeon Superintendent, J. Noot, Esq, R N; the

guard consists of Lieut. Dear, 21st Regiment, Lieut. Gates, 51st Regiment, and 29 rank and file, their wives and families.

The Australian (Sydney) 24 Jul 1838: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36857960>

Lord Erskine (father of Lieut. Erskine of the 51st. regiment,) is the British ambassador at the Bavarian Court.

Austral-Asiatic Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser (Hobart) 28 Aug 1838: 4. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232476614>

31st—Lieut, Eagar embarked yesterday (21st) at Deptford, in command of a convict guard for Van Diemen's Land, composed of the 21st and 51st regts. The 2d officer of the guard is Quartermaster Kenny, 51st regiment.... 51st - Nearly 300 men of this regiment are at Chatham, and the whole will not have embarked in convict ships, before March or April, 1839, as there are many men belonging to the 21st, 28th, 50th, and 80th, who are also available for that duty.

Naval & Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service 22 September 1838:4 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The fine band of the 51st Regiment, plays in the Barrack-square, on the afternoons of Tuesday's and Friday's, from 3 until ½ past 4 o'clock. The admirers of harmony would find this promenade well worth visiting.

The Tasmanian (Hobart) 24 May 1839: 7.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232803722>

THE CONCERT. Monsieur and Madame Gautrot's second concert took place in the Theatre, last evening. The house was not so well attended as on the former occasion, yet there was a very respectable audience of between 200 and 300. The performance, during the evening, was first-rate, especially Monsieur

Gautrot's execution on the violin, which was indeed a rich treat, and can be seldom equalled. Madame sung the national air of "Rule Britannia," in which she was accompanied by the band of the 51st regiment, as a finale, in beautiful style; in which she was encored, and received with rapturous applause. His Excellency was not present.

The Tasmanian (Hobart Town) 14 Jun 1839: 7.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232803764>

BATTLE OF WATERLOO.— On the 18th instant, the Officers of the 51st regiment, entertained a party to dinner, in commemoration of the Battle of Waterloo. Amongst the individuals present, who were at that celebrated engagement, were Lieutenant Colonel Elliott, and Captain Miller, whose healths were drank with considerable enthusiasm. There are, we understand, two other officers, now attached to this gallant regiment, who were, also, engaged at Waterloo; but, being stationed with detachments, they were prevented from attending the festival.

The Tasmanian (Hobart) 28 Jun 1839: 7.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232803791>

Drumming Out.—A few days since, a man of the name of Reardon was drummed out of the 51st regiment, as a worthless, irreclaimable character; and instead of his being sent out of this, or any other penal colony, as he ought to have been, he was thereby turned loose upon the town. The result is what might be expected. His first appearance in his new character is noticed in our Police Report..... Timothy Rearden, lately drummed out of the 51st light infantry, was fined 10s. for indecent conduct in the public streets—and whilst there it was discovered he had committed a felony since he left the 51st, and was now therefore admitted as a recruit for the Queen's Own.

Hobart Town Advertiser 19 July 1839: 3,4.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article264583976>

An Inquest was held before P. A. Mulgrave, Esq., Coroner, at his Office in George-street, on Friday, 19th July, on view of the body of Ellen Riley who was burnt to death on Thursday morning last. Bridget Riley — I am the wife of Corporal Riley, of 51st Regiment; I live in the Commandant's office in Launceston; I have occsion to go to the Military Barracks every morning; I went there yesterday morning between 8 and 9 o'clock; there was no one then in my house besides the deceased, Ellen Riley, my daughter, between two and three years old, and my other daughter, Elizabeth, sixteen months old; there was then only a fire in the back room. I pulled the door of that room too as I usually did when I left the house, left my children in the hall, and had done so often before; I locked the doors of the house before I went out; I was absent about a quarter of an hour; there was no appearance of any person having been in the house during my absence; I went in at the front door, and saw my daughter Elizabeth in the hall; I went into the room where I had left the fire; it was full of smoke; I could not see up to the ceiling; the smoke was so very thick, I could scarcely see my hand held at a short distance; I then saw the child lying by the side of the bed, not far from the fire; I lifted her up, and perceived that her clothes had been burnt off, and she was dreadfully scorched and burnt; I screamed out, as I lifted her up, she moaned twice, but did not breathe nor move after that: some of the bed-clothes near which she was lying were on fire, which I extinguished; I screamed loud many times, but no person came near, and I went over the way to the Police Barracks, where I saw constable Waller— I told him what had happened, and he went into the room and saw the child; Dr. Seccombe came about a quarter of an hour afterwards; when I left home that morning Ellen had on her a calico pinafore with long sleeves, a cotton frock, two flannel petticoats, a pair of cotton drawers, a pair of woollen stockings, and a pair of shoes — nearly all these clothes were burnt off her when I returned, except the stockings and shoes; the fire was not very large when I left home, and I placed two iron bars before it to keep the children from it before I went out— they were in the same state when I returned. Ellen was much in the habit of lighting pieces of paper at the fire whenever she could get them, for which I have often chastised her; my husband was on guard that morning at the gaol, and I am confident neither a door or window of the house had been opened while I was away. John Waller— I am District Constable. Yesterday morning, between 8 and 9 o'clock, I was sitting in a room at the back of the watch-house, when I heard a child's clothes were on fire in the Commandant's Office, opposite ; I immediately went there, and saw the deceased lying on a bed in a back room, in the same position state as when she was viewed by the Inquest this morning; she was quite dead, and very much

scorched and burnt all over her head, body and limbs; a few remnants were on her :there was no other person in the room but Mrs. Riley; she appeared very much distracted and weeping; I asked when she found the child; she said she had been out of the house about a quarter of an hour, and when she returned she found the child lying on her face, near the bed, and about a yard from the fire; I asked her if it was alive; she said she had heard it give one or two heavy sighs; the room was full of smoke went [sic] I went in, and I saw some of the bed clothes on fire; I extinguished them; I sent a constable for Dr. Seccombe, and he came in about half an hour afterwards. Dr. Seccombe — I am Assistant Colonial Surgeon. I saw the deceased, Ellen Riley, yesterday morning about 9 o'clock; she was lying on a bed in a back room in the Commandant's Office, in the same condition as viewed by the Inquest this day; she was severely burnt, her face, the whole of her body, arms, and thighs— those burns must have caused instant death. Verdict—Accidental Death.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston) 20 Jul 1839: 1.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65952926>

THE Levee at the Government House on Friday last, was well and numerously attended by persons anxious to pay their respects to his Excellency Sir Joint Franklin, whose kind deportment and conciliating carriage has ensured him the esteem and good wishes of all classes of the community. The Guard of Honor under the command of Captain Parker, 51st Regiment, marched down with the band and Regimental colors, and during the levee the visitors and spectators, of which a considerable number were collected, were gratified by the exquisite performance of several beautiful pieces of music by the Regimental Band, so well practised by Mr. Duly. The precision with which the band of the 51st performs the most difficult pieces, has been frequently admired by the lovers of harmony. At the ball, which took place in the evening, between 500 and 600 persons were present, Lady Franklin having made the invitations as general as possible. On no similar occasion has there been such an assemblage of beauty and fashion. The supper consisted of every delicacy of the season, and the following toasts, among others, were proposed and drank with enthusiasm:—" The Queen," proposed by Sir John Franklin. "His Excellency Sir John Franklin", proposed, in a neat speech, by Captain Swanston. "Lady Franklin and the Ladies of the Colony" proposed in very complimentary terms by Captain Ainsworth, 51st regiment.

Hobart Town Advertiser 27 Sep 1839: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article264584203>

John Hoyler, a convict constable, was placed at the bar, charged with the following disgraceful conduct in the discharge of his duty: Mr Chichester Crookshanks, an officer in Her Majesty's 51st regiment, stated that, on Friday last, he went with Captain Fergusson to the Government Garden, having obtained verbal permission from the Aide-de-Camp to pluck flowers. Having plucked as many as he thought requisite, and being upon the point of leaving the garden with his friend, he was stopped by Hoyler, who said that he should not leave the garden until he had given up the flowers; this he refused, upon which the prisoner collared him; he desired Hoyler to let him go, stated who he was, and the permission he had obtained, upon which the fellow pushed him back, and struck him; he enquired of the prisoner his name, but he refused to give it; upon this the overseer was called and the flowers given up to him; upon leaving the garden, the Superintendent, Mr. Tobin, came up, and, returning the flowers, apologized for the conduct of the constable. Cross-examined by prisoner.—Mrs. Tobin did not tell me to leave the flowers alone; you struck me several times; I was laid hold of by the gentleman who was with me, as I threatened to knock you down after you struck me; I had no written order, but I told you who I was, and that I had a verbal order. To the Bench.—He didn't say he would take me into custody; he collared me several times and I broke away from him: prisoner asked me if I had an order to produce, and I told him no; this was after he collared me; Mrs. Tobin asked me if I had an order, and I replied no; but I had permission from the Aide de Camp, and if I mentioned his name to Mr. Tobin or Mrs. Tobin would be sufficient. Captain Ferguson corroborated the above statement. Mr. Tobin stated, that he was superintendent of the Government Garden, and prisoner was a constable there; his duty was to tell parties that they were not allowed to pick flowers or fruits; but if after that, without a written permission, they still continued picking them, he was to report them to the police; the orders I received were, that no one was to pick flowers or fruits without a written order, but I never gave that order to the constable; I never told him to take any one into custody who kept on picking. The prisoner denied the assault generally, and the Bench sent him to the tread-mill for 14 days.

The Tasmanian (Hobart) 27 Sep 1839: 7.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232803988>

Military Theatricals.—We mentioned some week ago, that a pretty little theatre was fitting up in the Barrack, by the permission of Lieutenant Colonel Elliott, in which the soldiers of the 51st regiment were to perform. They commenced the campaign on Wednesday night to a crowded house. The performances were the Galley Slave and the Bee Hive, both of which pieces were extremely well performed. The Colonel and Mrs. Elliott, and all the officers of the garrison were present. We understand the performances will continue weekly.

The Austral-Asiatic Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser (Hobart) 3 Mar 1840: 7. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232477911>

Died.—Yesterday morning, Mr. Peter Duly, eldest son of Mr. Duly, Band Master of the 51st
K. O. L. I., aged 18. This young man had been long afflicted.

Hobart Town Advertiser 13 Mar 1840: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article264584701>

REPORT of a Deserter from the 51st Regiment of Foot: —Name, Timothy Manning ; age, twenty-six years ten months; size, five feet eight inches; complexion, fresh; hair, black; eyes, blue; marks, none; date of desertion, 21st March, 1840; from whence deserted, Jerusalem, V. D. Land; date of enlistment, 13th May, 1833; place of enlistment, Gosport ; Parish where born, Shadbury, County, Warwick; former trade, labourer; dress at the time of desertion, coat or jacket, fustian jacket waistcoat, red and white striped or fustian trousers. W. H. ELLIOTT. Lieutenant-Colonel 51st Regiment Light Infantry.

Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette 3 Apr 1840: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8747446>

The Military.—The following is a statement of the number of the Military on duty in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Of the 28th Regiment there are 3 field officers, 10 captains, 20 subalterns, 6 staff, 37 sergeants, 12 drummers, and

520 rank and file. 50th Regt., 3 field officers, 10 captains, 20 subalterns, 6 staff, 30 sergeants, 12 drummers, and 525 rank and file. 80th Regiment, 3 field officers, 10 captains, 20 subalterns, 6 staff, 37 sergeants, 12 drummers, and 590 rank and file. 95th and 21st Regts., 3 captains, 6 subalterns, 2 staff, 14 sergeants, 2 drummers, and 234 rank and file. 51st Regt., 3 field officers, 10 captains, 20 subalterns, 6 staff, 33 sergeants, 11 drummers, and 580 rank and file. The amount of the forces in the two Colonies being 2,812 persons.

Austral-Asiatic Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser (Hobart) 7 Apr 1840: 7. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232478026>

Married.... At St David's Church, Hobart Town, on the 12th November, the Hon. David Erskine, of the 51st King's Own Light Infantry, third son of Lord Erskine, to ANNE MARIA, eldest daughter of Josiah Spode, Esq. Chief Police Magistrate of Van Diemen's Land.

Caledonian Mercury 16 Apr 1840:3 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

SWAN RIVER RELIEF.— A detachment of the 51st K. O. L. I., under the command of Captain Fisher, will sail in about a fortnight, for Western Australia, the fine ship RUNNYMEDE being taken up to convey them thither. Captain Rolles, 2 subalterns, and 40 men will be landed at King George's Sound.— The remainder, with Captain Fisher, will proceed to “ the Swan.” An over-land communication between the two settlements is now open, and in constant use.— MURRAY'S REVIEW, April 7th.

Adelaide Chronicle and South Australian Advertiser 6 May 1840: 3.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article195859815>

Suicide.-A fatal and most determined case of suicide occurred on Monday afternoon at the Powder Magazine, where a private on duty, named Peter Leech, of the 51st regiment, deliberately, and literally, blew out his brains, by placing the muzzle of his musket in his mouth, and, with the aid of a piece of tape attached to the trigger, discharged the gun with his foot, taking the fearful

precaution of first pulling off his hood, in order, no doubt, that it might not slip while in the act of pulling the trigger. We understand that previously to his quitting Dublin, Leech had married against the consent of his colonel, and was not able to bring his wife with him. She subsequently followed him out: but so little is the geographical situation of Van Diemen's Land and Sydney understood by the public 'at home' even to this day, that she went to Sydney, and thus after a short time, not finding her husband, cohabited with another man there. Leech, hearing of this, made application to be permitted to go to Sydney, which of course could not be granted; and this preying on the unfortunate man's mind, led to the commission of the fatal act. On the morning that he put an end to his life he wrote a note to one of his comrades, named Fenton, as follows :-"Dear Fenton - I am here on guard - shall be some time - take great care of my dog. - Yours, P. L." An inquest was held on Tuesday last and a verdict returned of "temporary insanity."

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 13 Jun 1840: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2550537>

Military Settlers.— -we learn from good authority, that our old and respected colonist G. W. Gunning, Esq, has sold his beautiful estate of 700 acres on the Coal River, nearly adjoining Richmond, for the sum of four thousand pounds. When we consider the capabilities of this fine property, from its local situation and the quality of the soil, with its distance of only 12 miles from the capital, by so easy an access as the new road by Grass Tree Hill; we may safely congratulate its present fortunate possessor, in having obtained one of the finest properties in the island. The estate now belongs to Mark Kerr, Esq., nephew of the Marquis of Lothian, who has retired from the 51st regiment (now in garrison) to become a settler in Van Diemen's Land.

Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser 24 Aug 1840: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228130527>

Jan. 18 — The barque Palmyra. 602 tons, Daniel, master, from Portsmouth 21st August, and Cape of Good Hope 25th November, with troops. Passengers — Captain Russell and lady: Ensigns Owen and Butler, Assistant-Surgeon Bourke, 207 rank and file, 28th Regiment, and 54 rank and file of the 51st Regiment, Miss Maria Martin, two women, and seven children.

The Australian (Sydney) 19 Jan 1841: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36851308>

Captain Ainsworth, of the 51st Regiment, has been appointed to the Staff as Major or Brigade at Van Diemen's Land, in succession to the late Major Butler, who died there on the 22d of October last,

Kilkenny Moderator 7 Apr 1841:3 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

It is not generally known that, however great the number of men in a company of the royal artillery, or in a regiment of the line, when ordered abroad, only six of their proportion to 100 men, have their expenses proceeding with their husbands defrayed by Government. An exception has been made with regard to the troops at present under orders for the East Indies, 12 married women being allowed to proceed with their husbands in proportion to every 100 men. The mode by which the selection is made is by lottery, so that no partiality or favour can be shown to one party more than another. When the last company of royal artillery embarked for Gibraltar there was amongst them a gunner and driver, whose wife had gone into the country, and did not live with him, and yet he was entitled to draw, and succeeded in being one of those who were fortunate in securing a free passage for their partners. One of the unfortunate husbands, who had a wife and six children, offered him a sovereign for his ticket; but the gallant soldier cheerfully made the other a present of it, declaring that he could not think of receiving any remuneration from his brother soldier, who had the heavy charge of a wife and six children.

Morning Herald (London) - Friday 15 April 1842:6

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

War Office... May 13. Unattached-Brevet Major Frederick Chidley Irwin, from the 63rd Foot to be Major, without purchase

Globe (London) 13 May 1842:2

The following is an extract from a letter sent by a soldier to his father in Lincoln; it is dated Penal Settlement, Port Arthur, Van Diemen's Land, 21st of February, 1844:— Dear Father— You ask me to give you a description of this country, but I hope you do not think of coming to make your residence here, for the country is in a very reduced state, and likely to be more so, through so many persons emigrating here every day from the United Kingdom. This country some years back, when first inhabited by the British, was in a raw state, inhabited by a very ugly race of aborigines (black persons), who are now in an island called Flinders Isle, about 150 miles from Hobart Town, the capital of this country; they are clothed and educated at the expense of the Colonial Government. When I arrived first in this country the trade was very brisk, and in a good state. A carpenter had from two dollars (8s. 6d. to 10s.) per day, a labouring man from 3s. to 4s., and they now get from 3s. to 4s [sic]. There are families coming from England, Ireland, and Scotland every day, some of them are walking the street for want of employment, and I would not advise any person to come here. I suppose you are aware that all convicts who are transported from the United Kingdom come to this country, and are kept to hard labour until they complete a certain probationary period; they are then assigned as servants to the settlers in the interior, and if they behave themselves for some time they get the indulgence of a ticket of leave, and are then allowed to work for themselves. This place where I am stationed at present is a penal settlement where all the worst charactered convicts of the country are sent for punishment; they are yoked to carts the same as bullocks, and are flogged for the most trifling offences; some of them are chained to logs of wood about 100 lbs. weight. These convicts are some of the most hardened villains under the sun; many of them are murderers, or have been convicted for some gross and inhuman crime. I am doing very well myself since I have been in this country — Samuel Patterson, private of the 51st Regiment — Lincolnshire Chronicle.

Morning Post 10 Sep 1844:1 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Report of two Deserters from the 51st Regiment of Light Infantry, dated at Perth, Western Australia, 10th October, 1844. Name, Michael Pearson; age, 26 years; height, 5 feet 6 inches; complexion fresh, hair brown, eyes hazel. Date of desertion, 1st October, 1844. From whence deserted, Williamsburgh. Date of enlistment, 6th January, 1838. Place of enlistment, Newcastle upon Tyne. Parish

where born, Gateshead Tell, in the County Durham. Former trade (Pitman).— 2nd desertion. Name, James Kendall; age, 23 years; height, 5 feet 7 inches; complexion fresh, hair dark brown, eyes grey. Date of desertion, 1st October, 1844. From whence deserted, Williamsburgh. Date of enlistment 28th December, 1838. Place of enlistment, Chatham. Parish where born, Mountressing, near Chelmsford, in the County Essex. Former trade, laborer. W. H. HARE, Captain 51st Regt. L.I., Commanding Detachment.

Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 19 Oct 1844: 4.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article645389>

The 51st REGIMENT. - We learn that the 51st Regiment will leave this colony for India in about three months. There are about 250 men daily expected from Tasman's Peninsula, who will be replaced by the same number of the 96th, from Launceston.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 12 Apr 1845: 3. Web. 16 Jan 2025

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8756505>

51st Regiment, on removal from Australia to India, have added to their establishment 1 lieut. colonel and 11 lieutenants, whose names appear in Friday's Gazette. The 8 ensigns of the 51st have obtained their lieutenancies without purchase, on the regiment being ordered from Van Dieman's Land to India. With the exception of Ensign Carter, transferred from the 24th Regiment in this garrison, and tops the list, all the newly-appointed ensigns of the 51st are cadets from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and gazetted without purchase. Captain Isham goes home in command of invalids. The service companies (says the Hobart Town, Courier, Jan. 18) are to embark from Van Diemen's Land for Bengal, so soon as the service companies of the 11th have arrived to replace it. The court-martial on a private, for conspiracy with a gang of burglars to rob the treasury at Hobart Town, has terminated in an acquittal.

Morning Herald (London) - Monday 14 July 1845:7

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

THE 51ST REGIMENT.-This fine corps is mustering strongly at head quarters, preparatory to its embarkation for India in January next, and frequent parades will take place in the Domain in the meantime. On Friday last the soldiers in garrison, amounting to eight companies, were exercised under the surveillance of Major St Maur, a clever officer, who appears to take, as a good officer should, great pains with his men. After executing a variety of manoeuvres, the regiment marched to the barracks, preceded by its fine band, now under the able mastership of Mr. Rablin, the talented successor of Mr. Duly. We were in error when we formerly mentioned that Mr. Rablin was a pupil of Mr. Duly: his preceptor was Mr. Williams, well known amongst military men as a very talented musician, and truly his pupil does him infinite credit. Many persons, especially with children, are deterred from walking in the Domain for fear of molestation by wild cattle. Their fears, however, maybe allayed, as arrangements have been made to prevent a continuance of that dangerous nuisance; and we can assure them much gratification from a visit while the soldiers are exercising, no less from the beautiful performances of the band, than the manoeuvring of the regiment.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 23 Sep 1845: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8757371>

SUPREME COURT.—CRIMINAL SIDE... Dennis M'Cormack, the private of the 51st Regiment, who stole two watches from the shop of Mr. Cole, and who pleaded Guilty to the charge, was briefly addressed by his Honor, who observed that, in his opinion, the prisoner's object was to leave the regiment, in order that he might not go to India. His Honor, however, would take care to prevent the completion of that purpose, and he sentenced him to be imprisoned for six weeks with hard labour, and to be whipped twice during that period. The prisoner made a rambling statement relative to an attempt to poison him at Swan River, and declared that he had been so harrassed in the regiment that he was at length determined to deliver himself up to the civil power. He is a stout rather good-looking young man, but with a very peculiar expression of countenance.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 24 Oct 1845: 4.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8757527>

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARMY IN OUR AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

51st Regiment, 5 companies (head quarters) Hobart Town; 4 companies, Tasman's Peninsula.-58th Regiment, 3 companies (head quarters) Bay of Islands; 3 companies, New Zealand; 2 companies, Newfoundland.

Sun (London) - Monday 03 November 1845:14

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE TERRITORY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND ITS DEPENDENCIES. COMMANDING THE FORCES...

FIFTY-FIRST (2ND YORK WEST RIDING) OR THE KING'S OWN LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT; HEAD QUARTERS, HOBART TOWN, VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Colonel.

Sir B. D'Urban, G.C.B, and K.C.H., Lieutenant-General, England.

Lieutenant- Colonels.

W. H. Elliott, K.H., Commanding Troops,

Van Diemen's Land

E. St. Maur, Hobart Town.

Majors.

F. Mainwaring, England

A. C. Errington, Hobart Town.

Captains.

P. Rice, Hobart Town

W. H. Hare, Swan River

R. D. Baker, England.

A. T. Rice, Hobart Town

E. T. Wolley, Hobart Town

E. Isham, England

R Thompson, England

A. J. W. Northey, England

W. H. H. Anderson, England

Honorable D. Erskine, Hobart Town.

Lieutenants.

B. C. G. Crookshank, England

A. H. Irby, Swan River

W. D. Scott, Hobart Town

A. M. Harris, Swan River

BDA Source Description Pages

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

R. A. Ffarington, Swan River
D. Stephenson, England
E. C Singleton, Hobart Town
C. T. Bentley (Adjutant), England
H. F. Marston, Hobart Town
J. H. Dickson, England
L. H. Bedford, England
W. J. Pegus, Swan River
W. H. Kemp, Hobart Town
A. P. Rossi, Hobart Town
C P. O'Connell, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces
S. Darling, Hobart Town
J. W. Mansfield, Hobart Town
R. Neville, Hobart Town
S. A. Madden, Hobart Town
G. W. Drought, England
J. G. D. Marshall, England.
Ensigns.
W. L. F. Sheaffe, Hobart Town
S. G. Carter, England
R. G. S. Mason, England
A. Robertson, England
R. G. A. Luard, England
A. W. Conolly, England
G. O. Nunn, England
H. B. Westropp, England
F. J. Lloyd, England
J. W. Bateman, England.
Paymaster.
J. Gibbs, Hobart Town.
Adjutant.
C. T. Bentley (Lieutenant), England.
Quartermaster.
R. Shean, Hobart Town.
Surgeon.
J. H. Sinclair, M.D , Hobart Town.
Assistant Surgeons,
T. L. Belcher, Hobart Town
G. C. Meikleham, M.D., Swan River
W. A. Anderson, England.

Sydney Morning Herald 17 Mar 1846: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12885913>

The 51st Regiment.— We learn that Colonel Elliott has received instructions from the Commander-in-Chief at Sydney, to hold his Regiment in readiness for speedy embarkation for India. The 65th Regiment, is speedily looked for here, from England; and the 11th is to return from Sydney; its head quarters will be at Launceston. The 96th will embark for Madras in August next, and until its embarkation, be stationed at Hobart Town.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston) 18 Mar 1846: 212.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66269668>

THE 51ST REGIMENT.— We learn that the four companies told off to go to India immediately are - No 1, Captain Woolley ; No. 7, Captain Augustus Thomas Rice; No. 8, under command of Lieutenant Singleton; and No. 9, under command of Lieutenant Masterton. These will proceed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, with Major Errington, and head-quarters. The number will be about 500, including the band, servants, &c. The three companies who will remain for a short time under Lieutenant-Colonel St. Maur are - Companies No. 2, Captain Percy Rice; No.6, Lieutenant Scott; and No. 10, Captain Erskine. Companies Nos. 3 and 6 are at Swan River, under the command of Captains Hare and Northey. No. 4 company is in England, under Captain Thompson, commanding depot. The three companies to be left with Lieutenant-Colonel St. Maur, are expected to sail in a short time. The *Slaine Castle* and another ship are chartered at Sydney to convey the troops, and are speedily expected. BALL AND SUPPER.—Rumour states the ball and supper about to be given to the officers of the 51st Regiment prior to their departure for India, will be a splendid affair. We are informed that the subscription tickets are going off last.

The Courier (Hobart) 18 Jul 1846: 3. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2945233>

DEPARTURE OF THE 51st. REGIMENT. About 500 of the troops, 63 women, and 90 children; in all 649 souls were to embark today, at Hobart Town in the

Agincourt and China. The regiment had been inspected in heavy marching order, and the gallant Colonel had expressed his highest satisfaction at the healthy appearance of the troops, and the excellent condition of their accoutrements.

Launceston Examiner (Tasmania) 8 Aug 1846: 4

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36245873>

Both divisions we learn, will leave the barrack square at seven o'clock this morning- Lieut. Col. Elliott and Staff, will sail in the Agincourt, and the China will convey the remainder of the troops that have been told off for immediate departure. The companies to remain for the present with Lieut. Col. S.Maur, are No. 2, Capt. P. Rice; No. 5, Lieut. Scott; and No. 10, Capt. Erskine. The troops embarked will in all, number 500 men. In addition there will be 53 women and 96 children.—H. T. Courier.

Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 14 Nov 1846: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article647124>

51st Regiment. — On Saturday the Headquarters of this fine Regiment embarked on board the Agincourt and China for India. They were mustered and drilled in the Barrack square at eight o'clock, and about half past eight marched down to the Commissariat Wharf to the popular tunes of "Auld Lang Syne", "Garry Owen", "The King of the Cannibal Islands", "The Girl I left behind me", "The Lass of Kallow", &c, when they proceeded on board their respective vessels. The Head Quarters, with both bands, go in the Agincourt, and the remainder in the China. They embarked on board in two of the Government barges and the barge of the Agincourt, the Chamber Band playing "God save the Queen", and the Brass Band "The Days that we went Gipsying". There were many hundreds of our townsmen present, and the cheers were perfectly deafening. — H. T. Advertiser.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston) 15 Aug 1846: 622.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65943389>

The first detachments of the 51st regiment embarked for India on the 15th ultimo, in the ships Agincourt and China. The China was cast off from her

moorings, warped into the stream, and sailed the same afternoon. The Agincourt followed in a few hours afterwards. Of the partings from dear and near connexions we may mention one instance. There is a veteran now in town of the name of Patrick Shields, 21 years in the regiment, and now a Chelsea pensioner on a shilling a day. He had four sons and two daughters born in the regiment. Two of the sons are privates, and two non-commissioned officers. The two daughters are married to privates, and thus the parent was separated, in one hour, from four sons, two daughters, and two sons-in-law. Such scenes as these are seldom witnessed. The detachment of the 51st, at present remaining in garrison, are Lieutenant-Colonel St.Maur, Captain Percy Rice, Lieutenant Scott, and Captain Erskine, with companies No. 2, No. 5. and No. 10.

South Australian Register (Adelaide) 5 Sep 1846: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27453622>

FRIDAY, OCT. 30.—This morning's papers notice the arrival of the Agincourt from New South Wales and Calcutta with the head-quarters and a detachment of her Majesty's 51st Light Infantry, consisting of 7 officers, 250 non-commissioned rank and file, 27 women, and 48 children.

Morning Herald (London) 29 Dec 1846: 5 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. MISCELLANEOUS. In connection with what was before stated by us, we understand that the government of India have notified to that of this presidency, that 500 men of her Majesty's 51st Regiment are on their way from New South Wales to Calcutta, in the ships Agincourt and China, and that the President, in council, has sent a countermand to Singapore, with the view of both vessels coming hither instead. ... We are happy to announce the arrival this day of the ship Agincourt, with the head-quarters of her Majesty's 51st ... The following details have reference to the embarkation of her Majesty's 51st Regiment, from New South Wales : "Head-quarters Division, 51st Regiment, embarking for Calcutta August 8, per transport Agincourt.—Lieut. Colonel Elliott, K.H. lady, and niece; Capt. Woolley, Lieuts. Marston and Madden, Lieut. and Acting Adjutant Darling, Surgeon Sinclair, M.D., Quartermaster Shean, wife, and 3 children; 13 serjeants, 13 corporals, 13 buglers, 211 privates, 27 women, 2 children above 10 years, and 46 children under 10 years. Second Division, 51st

Regiment, embarking for Calcutta, August 8, per transport China.—Major Errington, lady, and 3 children; Capt. A. T. Rice; Lieuts. Singleton, Neville, and Rossi; Assistant Surgeon Belcher and lady, 11 serjeants, 10 corporals, 1 bugler, 228 privates, 26 women, 2 children above 10 years, and 48 ditto under 10 years."

Morning Herald (London) - Tuesday 29 December 1846:6

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/

Embarkation of Troops in the "Java."—The remaining detachment of the 51st, in all about 300 rank and file, embarked in Java at about half-past six on Wednesday morning for India. Lieutenant-Colonel St. Maur commanding. The men proceeded from the Barracks on the New Wharf, and embarked at the stairs in front of the Ordinance Stores in barges, which were under the direction of Capt. Moriarty, Port Officer, It was a very different affair from the embarkation of the two former detachments of the 51st in the China and Agincourt. on the 8th of August last. There was no military music; the men had, with few exceptions, been indulging, and discipline upon this exciting occasion of their parting with friends and acquaintances whom they never more may see, was with difficulty preserved. The brave fellows expressed the best feeling towards the citizens of Hobart Town, and cheered repeatedly as they passed along, and recognized old favourites.

Hobart Town Herald and Total Abstinence advocate 30 Jan 1847: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article264689314>

DIED—On Wednesday, the 27th January, at her residence, Campbell-street, Mrs. [Mary Jane] Duly, wife of Mr. A. P. Duly, late Bandmaster of the 51st Regiment, aged 54.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 5 Feb 1847: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8760017>

DEPARTURES.-January 31. Java, ship, 1175 tons, Parker, for Swan River and Calcutta, with troops. Passengers - Lieutenant Boyes, R. N., seven officers, three

hundred and twelve rank and file, thirty-one women, twenty-four children, 51st KOLI Regiment; four officers, one hundred and seven rank and file, eleven women, twenty-four children, 96th Regiment. ... THE "JAVA." - The remainder of the 51st Regiment embarked on board the Java on Wednesday morning last for India, for which place she sailed on Sunday morning. The Java also takes with her a company of the 96th to do duty at Swan River, in place of the company of the 51st now stationed there, which will proceed on to India in the Java. Hobart Town Advertiser, February 2.

Sydney Morning Herald 18 Feb 1847: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12890020>

THE JAVA. We have to give the most unqualified and positive contradiction to a scandalous report relative to the loss of this vessel, which it will be recollected left this port for India, a few weeks ago, with a portion of the 51st Regiment, having to call at King George's Sound and the Swan River for other detachments of the same regiment. Thus, including women and children, there are upwards of 1000 souls on board, and the raising so infamous and cruel a report deserves the most severe reprehension

Colonial Times (Hobart) 5 Mar 1847: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8760189>

Our contemporary, on Wednesday last, in announcing the ball to be given in the evening, to the officers of the 51st and 96th Regts, made the extraordinary assertion that the inhabitants of the colony "were anxious to bid farewell to the former and welcome the latter". We trust our friends of the 51st will forgive this little piece of Irish-ism on the part of the Editor, or, at any rate, not to suppose that he, in this case, faithfully represents the true feelings and wishes of the community, who, we are persuaded, are far from wishing or even willing to part with those who, in their seven years residence among us, have ever shewn themselves to be, both officers and men, a generous, kind-hearted, and well-conducted body. As to the inhabitants eagerness to welcome the 96th, who certainly may be as estimable (but of this we shall be better able to judge on a longer acquaintance), we believe this springs from an inherent feeling of good fellowship with our countrymen, rather than from any wish to get rid of our old friends. The two companies of the 51st marched for Fremantle on Friday

morning and ere their departure we witnessed many a friendly parting clasp between them and the civilians, with whom they have ever been on the best of terms, and we are certain no troops ever left a colony with more good wishes for their prosperity, on the part of the settlers, than those who leave us by the Java, which- vessel is expected to sail on Sunday or Monday morning. The strength of the detachment embarked includes 6 officers, 9 sergeants, 4 corporals, 95 rank and file, 21 women, and 31 children; those remaining, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 31 privates, 14 women, and 23 children, including Invalids who have arranged to receive their pensions in the colony.

Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 13 Mar 1847: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article647424>

On Friday morning, the detachment of the 51st Light Infantry were reviewed at Perth, and marched to Fremantle, to embark in the Java for India. A finer body of men in appearance, or a more well-conducted and truly British corps, never faced an enemy or adorned a parade. There is another character of the detachment, however, which more nearly concerns us — the hearty, good humour, the obliging, cheerful, friendly, almost brotherly terms in which they lived amongst us, officers and men, in the town or in the bush, during the entire period of their residence here. Just before the orders were given to march, the Hon. the Advocate-General, who had attended with other gentlemen to bid them farewell, addressed the detachment, by permission of the Commanding Officer, in a few words, expressing the high sense entertained of their conduct throughout the colony, their marked obedience to the laws, their uniform respect for public peace and order, and the kindly and obliging dispositions they had evinced in all their constant intercourse with their fellow-citizens. He concluded by wishing them, in the name of all present, and of all the colony, every success as soldiers and as men — a wish which was responded to by the enthusiastic cheers of all present. Our old friends then, after several rounds of hearty cheers in return, marched off to the tune of 'The girls we left behind us,' till they reached the far end of the town, when the tune was changed to 'Should auld acquaintance be forgot.' They embarked the same day. We have much pleasure in publishing, by permission of the Hon. the Commandant, the following extract from the General Orders, 11th March :—'On the departure of the 51st Light Infantry, the Commandant feels pleasure in being able to place on record the sense he entertains of the valuable services rendered to the public by the detachment, during a period of near seven years it has been on this station,

under his command. He desires particularly to notice the zealous discharge of duty by officers and men, and their cheerful endurance of privations and fatigue, when the occasion required the exercise of these qualities, so valuable in a soldier.' All were embarked, after a short rest in Fremantle, the same day, with the exception of a few from the Williams station, who went onboard the next day. The 'Java' sailed about 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

Inquirer (Perth, WA) 17 Mar 1847: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65770728>

Died... At Madras. a few weeks after her arrival in India, Catherine, wife of Major Mainwaring. 51st Regiment.

Hampshire Telegraph 27 Mar 1847:3 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The long expected troop-ship Java was seen early on Monday morning last, but owing to a strong south-easterly gale, was unable to anchor until the evening. A company of the 96th Regt, under the command of Captain Bush, relieves the two companies of the 51st stationed here. We believe there are ninety-six privates and five serjeants, the officers being Captain Bush, Lieutenant MacGill, Ensign Jones, and Assistant Surgeon DeLisle. The detachment of the 51st on board, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel St Maur, numbers about 300 rank and file. It is with sincere regret we part with our old friends of the 51st; the officers by their gentlemanly deportment, obliging disposition, and anxiety to promote the amusements and sports of the colony, have won the good wishes of all classes. The 51st have now been with us nearly 7 years, the relief of the 21st arriving in June, 1841. The orderly conduct of the men during that period has been the subject of frequent and deserved commendation. We wish them all success at their new station, and shall always be pleased to hear of their welfare and happiness.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston) 12 May 1847: 4.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65943984>

THE 51ST REGIMENT IN INDIA.-We regret to record that, since the arrival of the head-quarters of this fine regiment in the China and Agincourt, at Bangalore, there have been many deaths, among whom we may mention the wife of Quartermaster Shean, and his son-in-law. Quartermaster sergeant M'Cormick (whose illness was brief,) sergeant Jones (of the band,) sergeant Rogers, sergeant Griffin, Kelly (of the band,) Simpson (of the buglers.) the wife of sergeant Cameron, Mrs.Dickenson, eleven privates, and ten children. The detachment arrived at Madras on the 29th October, and marched fifteen miles the same day to Poonamlee. There remained until the 9th January, and then marched to Bangalore, the head-quarters, which they reached on the 23rd January. It was during this march (about 200 miles,) having rivers to cross, with their baggage on their heads, the water breast high, that the cholera broke out; and out of all those who were attacked twenty-eight died, and only five survived. Mr Belcher, Surgeon, was going home on sick leave, accompanied by Mrs. Belcher, daughter of John Dunn, Esq., of this city. Bangalore is described, in a private letter which we have seen, as the healthiest place in that part of the Indian territory.

The Courier (Hobart) 15 May 1847: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2971904>

THE 51 ST REGIMENT IN INDIA.- Under this head we published in a recent *Courier* several interesting particulars of the arrival of the main body of the regiment in India, including a notice of the mortality which occurred, from cholera, in the fatiguing march from Poonamalee to Bangalore, between the dates of 9th and 23rd January. We are now enabled to publish a more full and detailed list of the men, women, and children who perished from the disease, numbered in the order in which the deaths occurred -

1. Private John Also, No 7 company
2. Quartermaster-Sergeant Cormick
3. Sergeant Rogers, No 8 company
4. Private Stokes, No 9 company
5. Private James Flack, No 8 company
6. Private Mark Botherade, No 1 company
7. Private Burris, No 1 company
8. Private Sandy M'Millan, No. 8 company
9. Private Jones and 2 children, No. 8 company
10. John Kelly, of the band
11. Private Eaton, No 9 company

12. Private Cookse, No 9 company
 13. Private Peter Riley, No 1 company
 14. Sergeant Gribblen, No. 9 Company
 15. Private Baker
 16. Poor old James Simson, No. 1 company
 17. Quartermaster Shean's wife
 18. Sergeant Lowry, 1 child
 19. Sergeant Cameron's wife
 20. Sergeant Dickenson's wife.
 21. John Smith, 1 child
 22. Mrs. Cooper, 2 children
- To the above may be added Sergeant Jones of the band, and Mrs, Cameron.

The Courier (Hobart) 22 May 1847: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2971853>

THE 51st REGIMENT.—Letters have been received, by way of England, conveying a deplorable account of the mortality that has prevailed amongst the detachment of the 51st, recently stationed here, from that scourge of the East, cholera. Amongst the deaths are enumerated those of Serjeants Saxbeach and Chadwick, Corporal George, Private Ault and child, Maguire (bugler), wife and child, with twenty others, whose names are not recorded, and a great number of women and children. The wife of Serjeant Strain had been dangerously ill, and her recovery despaired of, but she was by the last accounts becoming convalescent.

Inquirer (Perth) 8 Dec 1847: 1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65771111>

Insolvent debtors M. F. A. C. Kerr, Beaumont-street, Cavendish-square, in no business

Shipping and Mercantile Gazette 5 Jul 1848:1

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

DIED. On the 22nd of May, 1850, at Bangalore, of cholera, in the prime of life, universally regretted. Major Percy John Rice, of H. M., 51st Regiment.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston) 16 Nov 1850: 808.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65977125>

Departures [from Hobart] April 6-Huntsville, ship, 523 tons. Smith, for South Seas. Passengers - A. P. Duly, Esq., Mrs. Smith and two children.

Colonial Times (Hobart) 9 Apr 1852: 21

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8771190>

KEMP—September 14th, drowned at the Macleay River, William Henry Kemp, Esq., J.P., late lieutenant 51st Light Infantry, eldest son of the late Major Kemp, aged 34 years.

Sydney Morning Herald 10 Nov 1857: 10.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13002733>

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. In the goods of WILLIAM HENRY KEMP, late of the Macleay River, In the colony of New South Wales, Lieutenant in the 51st Light Infantry Regiment, deceased: NOTICE is hereby given that, after the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof, application will be made to the Supreme Court of New South Wales, in its Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, that administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, credits, and effects of the abovenamed William Henry Kemp, deceased, may be granted to ROBERT AUGUSTUS HADDEN KEMP, eldest brother and heir-at-law of the said deceased. Dated this nineteenth day of February, A.D. 1858. WILLIAM ROBERTS, King-street, Sydney Proctor for the said Robert Augustus Hadden Kemp.

Sydney Morning Herald 19 Feb 1858: 6.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13006456>

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Nov. 30, 1859. AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH OF COLONEL AINSWORTH,(UNATTACHED.) The above veteran and gallant officer departed this life on Monday afternoon last, at the Launceston Club Hotel. Seldom, if ever, has it been our lot to record the demise of a British officer with more regret, nor do we remember having had to publish the death of one which had occurred under such awfully sudden circumstances, called away as it were in the midst of life and health, as his.... Colonel Ainsworth drew his last breath at a quarter past six o'clock on the 28th November, 1859. Colonel Ainsworth has died at the advanced age of seventy-four years, and his career in the service of his country has been a long and brilliant one. He served with the 51st K. O. L.I., which regiment he joined in 1809, (exactly half a century since) during the greater part of the Peninsular war. He was present at the hard fought battles of Vittoria and Salamanca, at the sieges of Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo, and at several other engagements; and he shared in the glories of the great victory at Waterloo. Arriving in Van Diemen's Land in 1837 with the headquarters of the 51st Regiment, of which he was at that time senior Captain, he continued in active service with the regiment until in the year 1840 when upon the death of Major Butler he undertook the onerous duties of Major of Brigade, which he held until the year 1853, when he was succeeded in that office by Lieut. Col. Bradshaw who still holds it. In the year 1846 Major Ainsworth married at Hobart Town (we believe for the first time) the widow of Rowland Walpole Loane, Esq , a very old colonist, by whom he came into possession of a large Tasmanian property. His wife has been dead however some years. In 1854 he left Tasmania for England, and was then immediately appointed by Her Majesty to an unattached Colonelcy upon half-pay, which he held upon the day of his death. He returned hither, to sell his property, intending finally to settle down in his native country which he had served for fifty years. But his intentions have been cut short, and he sleeps his last sleep, far from the land of his devotion, far from the country he had served so faithfully, and so well. Few men have departed this life whose death will be so deeply deplored by the public (particularly of HobartTown) as Colonel Ainsworth. The true gentleman having all the refinement and elegance which only can be seen in men of blood—affable and kind to those beneath him;—the brave soldier and the scholar, how few were there in the colony like him :—hardly one ! Heu! Quanto minus est cum reliquis versari quam tui meminisse! The mortal remains of Colonel Ainsworth will be interred in the vault at Hobart Town, where rest those of his wife.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston) 30 Nov 1859: 4.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65992900>

The Times of Saturday contains the following advertisement:—" Alexander Mark Kerr, the captain in her Majesty's 51st Regiment, Queen's Own Light Infantry (Ten Pounds Reward), absconded, from Tiverton, in the county of Devon, charged before the borough magistrates with having obtained sum of money false and fraudulent representations, is about 43 years of age, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches height, dark hair and complexion, black moustache, military appearance, &c. Information to the Private Inquiry Office, Devereuxcourt, Temple, where warrant is held for the apprehension of the said Alexander Mark Kerr.—C.F. Field, late Chief Inspector of the Metropolitan Detective Police.

Cork Constitution 9 Oct 1860:2 <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Mark Kerr, late of the 61st K.O.L.I., had absconded from Tiverton, having obtained £2800 by fraud and forgery. A warrant has been placed in the hands of Inspector Field for his apprehension,—Weekly Times.—(Mr. Kerr was well known in Tasmania.)

Hobart Town Advertiser 5 Jan 1861: 7.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article264716664>

GRIFFEN.—On the 1st October, 1869, at Battersea. England, William Field Griffen, late of the Commissariat Department, Hobart Town, and formerly sergeant of the 51st Regiment Foot, aged 66 years. Sydney and Lyttelton papers please copy.

The Mercury (Hobart) 4 Jan 1870: 1. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8873959>

Another old and respected colonist has gone to that "bourne whence no traveller returns." On Saturday last Mrs D. King, relict of Colour-Sergeant King, 51st Regiment, K.O.L.I., died at her residence, Elizabeth-street, at the ripe age of 77 years. The deceased old lady was a native of Perthshire, Scotland. Her maiden name was Macintosh, she being a member of the clan Macintosh. She was

married in 1811, and followed the fortunes of her husband and his regiment, till the year 1844, when he left the service of his country, and settled in this city. Mr. King joined the army in 1801, and was 39 years a colour-sergeant in the service; part of his time was served in another regiment, the 101st. Mrs King accompanied her husband to various stations in England, Ireland, and Scotland; she was present at the Battle of Salamanca, was in Belgium when Waterloo was fought, and visited Paris with the Army of Occupation in 1815; she resided at Gibraltar, Corfu, Santa Maria, and in Egypt. She left England in August, 1838, and arrived here with a detachment of the 51st in January, 1839. Her husband died. In the year 1847, but she brought up her family of twelve— seven sons and five daughters - almost unaided, and placed them in respectable positions. Several of her descendants are connected with the Australasian press, viz, Mr R. King, of the Government Printing Office, Tasmania; Mr L. Henn , of this journal, Mr. C.' A. Henn, Melbourne "Age" and Mr Henry Walsh, Melbourne "Herald".

Tasmanian Tribune (Hobart) 27 Jan 1873: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200372826>

DEATHS. KING.— On Saturday, 25th Inst., Isabel, relict of the late David King, colour sergeant, 51st Regiment, K.O.L.I. , aged 77 years. The funeral will leave the Tribune Office, on Tuesday afternoon, at half-past two punctually. Friends are earnestly invited to attend as no circulars will be issued. English, Victorian; and New Zealand papers please copy,

Tasmanian Tribune (Hobart) 27 Jan 1873: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200372841>

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS. SIR W. H. ELLIOTT. Sir William Henry Elliott, G.C.B., K.H., Colonel of the 51st Regiment, died, on the 27th ult., at his residence, 20, Cambridge-square, in his eighty-second year. The son of Captain John Elliott, R.N., one of Captain Cook's companions in the circumnavigation of the globe, young Elliott entered the Army, in the 51st Regiment, 1809, and attained the rank of General in 1871. During the long and eventful interval he saw much service and gained much distinction. He had the Peninsular medal, with five clasps, for the part he took in the campaigns of 1812, 1813, and 1814; was decorated with the Waterloo medal for his share in the decisive battle of Waterloo; and received

the Burmese medal and clasp, and on two occasions the thanks of the Governor-General of India in Council, for his services in the second Burmese war, which he commanded the Madras Brigade. Sir William married, 1831, Mary Anne, daughter of William Ashmore, Esq., of St. Matthew's, Ipswich.

Illustrated London News 4 Apr 1874:24 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Military and Naval Intelligence. Lieut.-Gen. Errington, who has been appointed to the colonelcy of the 85th Light Infantry, had nearly completed fifty one years' service in the army before obtaining that reward. He entered the service in Feb. 1826, and was for many years in the 51st Light Infantry, with which he served in the Burmese war of 1852. His appointment to the 85th renders vacant a good service pension of ma a year.

Week's News (London) - Saturday 13 January 1877

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

NEWALL.—On 2nd November, at Franklin, Huon River, Thomas Newall, aged 80 years, late Colour Sergeant 51st Regiment (foot). Queenstown and New Zealand papers please copy.

Tribune (Hobart) 6 Nov 1877: 1. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article201737113>

MADDEN-March 13, at Freeland, Wherwell, Hampshire, aged 63, Major-General Samuel Alexander Madden, CB, late of the 51st King's Own Light Infantry.

Liverpool Mercury 17 Mar 1888:7 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Deaths... On the 29th ult, MAJOR AUGUSTUS JAMES WILLIAM NORTHEY, late 41st Regt., of 61, Eaton-square, S.W., and Wyngron near Narberth, New South Wales, J.P. D.L. for Pembrokeshire, eldest son of the late Colonel Lewis Augustus

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Northey, and grandson of the late Sir William Paxton, of Middleton Hail, Carmarthenshire.

Evening Mail (London) 4 July 1890:8

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The death is announced, in his eighty-eighth year, at his residence, Seaview, Isle of Wight, of Major the Hon. David Erskine, late of the 51st and 21st Regiments, and for many years Colonial Secretary of Natal. The deceased officer was uncle to the present Peer, and a grandson of the famous Lord Chancellor Erskine.

Loftus Advertiser 3 July 1903:6 www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2025.

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