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<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**The New South Wales Corps & 102nd Regiment & Veteran Co.****Contents**

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History of the Regiment

The New South Wales Corps was first raised in 1789 specifically for service in New South Wales. On 24 December 1789, Home Secretary W.W. Grenville wrote to Governor Phillip from London "A detachment for it, consisting of about 100 officers and men, had been put on board the convict ships..." [*HRNSW* Vol. I Part II, p. 285].

Arrival in Sydney

Detachments arrived on convict ships through to 1792. The Commandant of the Corps, Major Grose arrived with a company of the NSW Corps on the ship *Pitt* on 14 February 1792, 13 soldiers having died on the voyage.

A report on the population of the colony (including Norfolk Island) dated 1 March 1792, showed that in the Military Department, there were 406 men, including the Governor and two Lieutenant Governors. [*HRNSW* Vol. II, p.465].

Wives & Children

On 28 September 1789, Under Secretary Lewis, at the War Office, wrote to Under Secretary Nepean "It has been usual to allow six women per company to embark with corps destined to foreign service, where the companies were of the same, or nearly the same establishm't as Major Grose's ; but as this corps is destined for a very distant station, Sir G. Y. submits to Mr Grenville whether it may not be proper to allow ten women per company to the said corps." [*HRNSW* Vol. II, p.426].

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It seems likely that even more women were allowed to accompany their husbands. The population report of March 1792 showed that in the Military Department, there were 37 women and 34 children. [HRNSW Vol. II, p.465]. By 31 May 1793 their numbers had grown to 39 women and 37 children. [HRNSW Vol. II, p.32]. By August 1794, the number of women in the Military Department had dropped to 21 [some may have been transferred into the Civil Department], but the children had grown to 70 (5 above 10 years, 33 above two years and 32 under two). In total the colony's population numbered 4,659. [HRNSW Vol. II, p.251-2].

The above figure of 21 women in August 1794 could be incorrect as the population return of March 1795 showed 77 women. There were also 97 children, none above 10 years, 59 above two years and 38 under two years, in the Military Department. [HRNSW Vol. II, p.288].

In a Return of the NSW Corps dated 22 April 1805, there were 524 men, stationed at Sydney 289, Norfolk Island 48, Parramatta 60, Hawkesbury 16, Newcastle 16, Port Dalrymple 73, Cabramatta 4, George & South Head 8, plus 10 senior officers, place not specified. [HRNSW Vol. V, pages 591-2].

In Sydney

In a return of the NSW Corps on 14 June 1795, there were 491 men including 424 Privates, plus three on leave in England. [HRNSW Vol. II, p.309]. By 24 June 1796 there were 420 men.

Members of the regiment came into conflict with Governor Bligh and the civil authority in the rebellion of 1808, which led to its redesignation as the 102nd Regiment.

102nd Regiment

The original 102nd Regiment was raised in England in 1789 but was more senior than the 101st (Duke of York's) Irish Regiment and so when the 95th Regiment in England was disbanded the 102nd became the 100th Regiment and was disbanded in 1818.

The name 102nd Regiment was therefore vacant and in a letter dated 20 October 1808 from the Duke of York in London to Viscount Castlereagh, he informs that the 73rd Regiment 'now in Scotland' had been chosen to replace the NSW Corps and "I submit to His Majesty that the New South Wales Corps be in future styled the 102'd regiment." [HRNSW Vol. VI, p.783].

Departure from Sydney

In the meantime, still known as the 102nd, it was ordered to return to England on the ships HMS *Dromedary* and HMS *Hindostan* which had brought the bulk of the 73rd Regiment, including Governor Lachlan Macquarie, to Sydney. The vessels departed for England on 12 May 1810.

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Many of the men had retired during their stay in NSW and many others still in service elected to remain in NSW by transferring to the newly arrived 73rd Regiment. It is likely that those who chose to stay had taken colonial wives and had children born in NSW. Others were transferred into the newly formed Veteran Company:-

Lord Palmerston at the War Office wrote to Governor Macquarie on 1st March 1810: "A communication having been received from the Commander-in-Chief, stating that you have formed a company from such men of the 102nd Regiment as have served twenty years and upwards, but who are still fit for garrison duty, and who, from having large families, are extremely anxious to remain in New South Wales, and from the length of service would be entitled to their discharge had they returned to England, I have the honour to acquaint you that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased to approve of a veteran company, consisting of the numbers stated in the margin, being attached to the 1st battalion of the 73rd Regiment..."

The numbers in the margin are:- "1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 5 serjeants, 2 drummers, 5 corporals, 95 privates" [*HRNSW* Vol. VII, pp.299-300].

Records used for the BDA Database

The following material ("The Register of the NSW Corps") is edited from commentary by Sarah Jenkins in Chap 6 of *A Colonial Regiment – New Sources relating to the New South Wales Corps – 1789-1810*, [ed] Pamela Statham, (ANUTech, Canberra 1992). The Register itself is found in Chapter 7.

In general, researchers should be aware that the above published work is a secondary source bringing together not only material from Army pay and muster records etc, but some other sources as outlined below. Because the material lends itself to inclusion as both a "published biography" in text form which includes additional miscellaneous information, as well as a database version where the essential vital information has been extracted, we have chosen to include both formats in the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA). The database material mirrors work BDA staff and volunteers are completing with respect to other regiments and is found in chronological order for a person's biographical entry in BDA, either based on the soldier's arrival in the colony if already enlisted overseas, or on his enlistment in NSW, if he enlisted in the colony as a former convict or marine etc. The full "published biography" version, as with other published biographies is included towards the end of a person's biographical record in BDA, based on the date of publication rather than to any specific period covered, as sometimes the material goes beyond the period the NSW Corps was in the colonies.

The following notes therefore pertain mainly to the full published biography version, but are also applicable to the database version with some qualification which should be apparent.

The Register of The NSW Corps.

The Register covers the years 1789 to 1810, that is, from the raising of the NSW Corps to its replacement by the 73rd Regiment. The project began when information

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became available that the late 'Bunny' Austin, a retired Australian Army Brigadier, had compiled two detailed card indexes on every individual enlisted in the NSW Corps before and after 1797-98, a break caused by the fact that the musters for that period are missing. Both indexes were totally self contained and unrelated. The information on his cards had been taken from War Office records held in the Public Records Office London (and on microfilm in the National Library of Australia). These two cards indexes and Austin's associated notes are currently held by the Australian War Memorial. The two sets of data have been used as the basis for compiling the present Register, which contains the chronological record of every soldier who served in NSW to 1810. [Researchers should be aware that First Fleet marines, or indeed marines who accompanied Lt Collins to VDL, unless they enlisted later in the NSW Corps, are thereby excluded].

The first task was to correlate Austin's two card indexes and to check his entries against the Pay and Muster Roll records. Most name-based War Office records contain dates of enlistment, attestation, and embarkation; rank and dates of promotion; company and (after 1798) location; the quarterly (and later monthly) attendance at muster; and dates of death, discharge, and return to the UK or transfer. In some cases, height on enlistment and pre-service occupation, hair colouring and place and date of birth are also given. Year of birth sometimes had to be calculated from age on a specific date, eg 1808 or 1810 and similarly, year of enlistment calculated from data on length of service at a specific date, usually in 1810, or from the date given for attestation (the oath of allegiance to the King as head of the Church of England) after recruitment. Whether any levy was paid on enlistment, where enlistment took place and any previous military service, are frequently given for those men who enlisted when the Corps was founded, but for men who enlisted later many relevant details are missing.

Where available, additional sources have been used to fill gaps: augmenting the sketchy biographical details in War Office records and adding the landholdings of soldiers and dischargees. This was particularly important for Officers' records; for the movements of soldiers after leaving the Corps, or after 1810, and for details of dependents.

Sources

In addition to the Austin indexes, the Register is based on the following sources:

1. War Office Records

WO4/845-6: Secretary at War, Out Letters, NSW Corps, 1789-1810

WO12/9089-9904: Muster Books and Pay Lists, 102nd Foot (NSW Corps), 1798-1810

WO17/241: Monthly Returns of the NSW Corps, 1790-1809

WO25/642-3: Description and Succession Books for the NSW Corps, 1808-1816

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WO25/2170: Casualty Lists for the 102nd Foot (NSW Corps), 1810-1817. This is a misleading title, for the records contain notes on the promotion and demotion of non-commissioned officers, and the deaths and discharge of soldiers from 1797 through to 1815/6.

2. Shipping Information

Cumpston, J S, *Shipping arrivals and departures Sydney 1788-1825*, (Roebuck Canberra 1977).

3. Land grants and leases

R J Ryan, *Land Grants 1788-1809: A Record of Registered Grants and Leases in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land and Norfolk Island*, (Australian Documents Library 1981).

General Musters of New South Wales and Norfolk Island, 1805-6, Carol J Baxter (ed), (ABGR, Sydney 1989).

General Musters of NSW, Norfolk Is and Van Dieman's Land, 1811, Carol J Baxter (ed), (ABGR, Sydney 1987).

General Muster of New South Wales, 1814, Carol J Baxter (ed), (ABGR, Sydney 1987).

4. Additional biographical material

Mollie Gillen, *The Founders of Australia A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet*, (Library of Australian History, Sydney 1989).

Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1788-1850, Volumes 1 and 2, (MUP 1966).

British Army Lists, 1789-1800 [National Library of Australia].

Historical Records of Australia, (ed) Frederick Watson, (1914-25), various volumes.

Historical Records of New South Wales, (ed) F M Bladen, (1882-1890), various volumes.

The Musters as referred to above.

Problems in Interpreting The Register

As all the records were hand written and sometimes not easy to read, the words transcribed from these records are the interpretation of what was read. Names have been transcribed as accurately as possible, yet may not be strictly correct. (It is always recommended that researchers seek out the original source material and verify the same for themselves.)

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Other problems have arisen because of spelling mistakes or transcription errors on the part of the colonial record keepers at the time. In addition, some men used different versions of their surnames and given names. Some men used an alias, which has been noted where known. The chronological continuity in these instances was pieced together through rank, location, their company/detachment and other cross-references. Where a listed name in the Register is followed immediately by 'various spelling', it means that throughout the records this name was spelt in different ways. Despite the various spellings, the original editors of the published source have confidence that these are indeed the same person as there has been such a high degree of correlation in the information available. Where there has been any doubt, separate records for an individual have been shown.

In the case of most land grants, two or more source documents were used, giving confidence in assigning a grant to a particular soldier. Some land grants and leases were taken from only one source, but given the small number of people in the colony at this time receiving land grants, and taking into account the cross-references made to musters and census returns, it can be reasonably assumed that these entries are correct. Where it has proved impossible to associate a land grant with a particular soldier, that information has not been included in the Biographical Database of Australia. For more information, the researcher is directed to the published source.

Additional names were listed in Brigadier Austin's card index, but had been omitted from the main section of the published Register and relegated to a Supplementary List. For various reasons, such as death, discharge, transfer to another regiment, arrest or desertion these men appear never to have reached NSW-even though in some cases an embarkation date from the UK is given. These names have however been included in the Biographical Database of Australia with appropriate editorial comment.

Format of The Register

Where a last name is spelt more than one way, each variation of spelling is listed and linked to a main entry.

Each entry (in the published biography) consists of three columns. The first contains the relevant dates. It is in the general format : day-month-year. If a date shows only a year, for example, 0-0-1799, an exact day and month is unknown or the event relates to the entire year. Likewise, if only the month and year are shown, the day is unknown or the event relates to the whole of that month.

The second column contains all events related to the soldier's status and movements in the Corps from enlistment to 1810 or leaving the Corps or the Colony, whichever came first. The actual terms used to describe these events, which range from ENLIST to DIED and DICCHARGE are itemized and explained below.

The third and final column contains details of the event, or further explanation. Shorthand phrases used in this section and abbreviations of place names are also spelt out in detail below.

Second column categories:

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ENLIST - refers to the date and place of enlistment, for example Sydney or UK. If the first time a soldier is listed is on the Muster Roll for June 1792, enlistment is assumed to have taken place before that date, and in the UK.

ARRIVE - refers to the date of arrival in the colony and on what ship. Where more than one ship is listed in the third column, the arrival date is known but the exact ship they were on is unknown, and more than one ship arrived on that day. If date of arrival and ship is unknown but records show an embarkation date this is noted in the third column as (emb + date). In these cases the month and year of arrival is calculated on the basis of the date of embarkation, the dates of ship arrivals in the colony, length of voyages, and dates of service in the colony. However it should be noted that in these cases the date in the first column is unverified. Quite frequently the ship's name was not recorded but the embarkation date was, - it was important for pay reasons for soldiers received half pay while on board. Some soldiers were kept on board for long periods and transferred from ship to ship before sailing so embarkation dates are not usually a reliable guide to departure and arrival dates, and so have only been noted when no other information is available.

RANK - indicates the soldier's rank and date of promotion/demotion when known.

DETACH - shows the year and name of the Captain of the Company the soldier was serving in. This became standard practice at musters after 1801, though many of the Captains so cited never came to the colony, for example, Savory and Grosser. Men did occasionally transfer between companies but this was not the norm and by noting the various members of the same company it is possible to get an idea of a particular soldier's comrades. Note that 'detachments' has been used rather than 'companies' as sometimes a single company was split into detachments in separate locations. In the official records soldiers are classified by detachment. Where more than one officer's name occurs as leader of the soldier's company, for example Foveaux/Lamb, either the soldier moved from one detachment to another during the year, or detachment leaders changed - there is no way of telling which. A listing of 'band' means that the soldier moved in or out of the regimental band sometime during that year.

WHERE - refers to the man's location during the year.

GRANT - refers to the number of acres and location of land grant. When a grant is listed with a number or other names, then more than one person shared the land grant. If the location of the grant is unknown, it is marked '**'.

LEASE - refers to the size and location of leased land, generally in Sydney Town or Parramatta.

RET UK - indicates the date of return to UK and ship name. Reason for return, such as on furlough, is given if known.

DISCH'GE - records the date of discharge from the Corps usually through completing a given term of duty at which time soldiers were entitled to land grants. A soldier could also be discharged unfit for further service following prolonged illness

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and in these cases could be taken back to Britain when the next available transport was ready but, having been discharged, their departure was not recorded in the military records. Further, soldiers could be discharged for an offence, and if a civilian offence, was usually discharged into the hands of the civil power for a civil trial.

?DISCH'GE - indicates there is no entry recording a discharge, departure or transfer but instead a notation that they were 'left in NSW' or 'sick', usually in 1810.

TRANSF - refers to the date of transfer to either the 73rd regiment, which Macquarie brought with him to NSW and which served until 1814, or transfer to the specially raised Veteran's Corps which was created for 'invalids', that is, soldiers who had seen more than twenty years' active service in the Corps and chose to remain in NSW. If the date 24-4-1810 is cited against the transfer, it was listed in the War Office Casualty records as an official transfer. But these casualty records do not appear to have been totally complete for some transferring Norfolk Island soldiers are not listed, nor are some who transferred either earlier or, for reasons such as health, after April.

DIED - indicates date of death, and sometimes includes cause, for example, executed or drowned.

DESERT - refers to the date listed for the soldiers desertion - usually that of the next Muster.

RECOVER - refers to the date listed as recovered from desertion.

RE-ENL - indicates the date of re-enlistment in the NSW corps after a previous discharge.

Third column **Notations and Abbreviations.**

*	grant listed in acres but not location
?	unsure if information is correct
? in Colony	mostly likely occurred in Colony
2F or 3F	Second or Third Fleet
ADC	aide de camp
AMWI	American War of Independence
arr	arrive
b.	born
bt	bought
becomes a convict	soldier arrested for colonial offence
CCP	claimed by civil power
CF	came free
Ch	children
CO	company
cond. pardon	conditional pardon
c'ttee	committee
Ct. Martial	Court martial
d.	died
disch	discharged

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Disposal unknown	unknown how they left the Corps
emb	embarked
empl	employed
enl	enlist
ex convict	previously a convict
ex marine	previously a marine
F	furlough
f	female
FBS	free by servitude (emancipist)
FS	found a substitute (replacement)
GeneralCtMartial	General Court Martial
Gov	Governor
GS	Government servant (convict)
H'bury	Hawkesbury
(here 1811)	in 1811 census (cf 'not 1811')
HQ	Headquarters
I, II, III, or IV etc	differentiates between soldiers of the same
name.IPO	in place of
lab	labourer
Lt	Lieutenant
m	male
mar	married
McA	McArthur
NI or N1s	Norfolk Island
(not 1811)	dischargee not in 1811 civilian census
PMS	previous military service
PtD	Port Dalrymple
QM	quartermaster
regt or reg.	regiment
regtCourtMartial	regimental court martial
RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major
Ret	returned
Savoy UK (or ex-Savoy)	from the Savoy Military Prison, UK
Sec	secretary
Sgt	sergeant
Subst	substitute
tho'	though
thro'	through
UK veteran	previous member British Veteran Corps
VDsL or VDL	Van Diemen's Land
vet battn	Veterans' battalion

Land location abbreviations

btwn Church land & Brickfld	Between Church Land & Brickfield Hill
Castlereagh MP	Castlereagh District in Mulgrave Place
E Cockle Bay	East Side of Cockle Bay
Eastern Farms	Eastern Farms
Entr of Flats	Entrance of the Flats
East Hill, Syd	East Hill, Sydney Town

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E. Sydney	East side of line laid as Sydney Boundary
FM	Field of Mars
Flats Upper PJ	Flats of Upper Port Jackson
Georges River	Georges River district of Bankstown
HD	Head
Cockle Bay	Head of Cockle Bay
Hen&ChickenPt	Hen & Chicken Point
lw Branch Reach	Lower Branch Reach
Liberty Plns	Liberty Plains district
MP	Mulgrave Place
N Boundaries	Northern Boundaries
N BoundaryFarms	Northern Boundary Farms
NorthBrush FM	North Brush in Field of Mars district
N.Sydney	North side opposite Sydney Cove
NE Ck Liberty Plains	North East side of Creek to Liberty Plains
N S Ck to Parramatta	North side of creek leading to Parramatta
Op Richmond H	Opposite Richmond Hill
Parra	Parramatta
Portland Hd	Portland Head
Hawksbury R	Hawkesbury River
SurryHills FM	Surry Hills Farms
S below Sydney	South side Sydney Harbour below Sydney
S. Ck to Parramatta	South side of creek at Parramatta
Sth Thos Bishop	South side of Thomas Bishop
Upper PJ	Upper port Jackson
W Cockle Bay	West side of Cockle Bay
W Farm Cove	West side of Farm Cove
w sde Iron Cv Ck	West side of Iron Cove Creek
W sde Spg Syd	West side of run of water supply, Sydney

Leases

Back Row	Back Row, Sydney
Pitts Rw	Pitt's Row
mid Back Row	Middle Back Row of Military district
W sd Spg Syd	West side of the spring, Sydney
W Farm Cv	West side Farm Cove
Windmill Rw	Windmill Row

The Value of the Register

The Register is the first full-scale reconstruction of the NSW Corps over its period of duty in New South Wales. It is significant because the Corps formed on average 15 % of the total population of New South Wales, and as free immigration was negligible before 1810, military dischargees and their families were an important source of free settlers.

From a genealogical point of view, the Register provides new, consolidated evidence of dates and locations of deaths, children, landholdings, and occupations of many of the soldiers who arrived in Australia as part of the NSW Corps. In addition it

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provides an enormous wealth of data that can be used to enhance an understanding of the history of the new colony and solve some of the, up until now, unanswerable questions about this group of men.

For those interested, reference should be made to the published source for major findings from an aggregation of Register entries, which are presented in Chapter 2 thereof.

The Register is important as it is the first attempt to reconstruct the Coops in its entirety. As it is based on evidence from the War Office which has not previously been published, it adds much to - and in some cases corrects - earlier assertions about the Corps.

References

Some of the above details have been extracted from:

A Colonial Regiment - New Sources relating to the New South Wales Corps 1789-1810
Edited by Pamela Statham, Pub. by ANU Tech., Canberra ACT, 1992.

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.

Historical Records of New South Wales - Vol. I, Part II. (see Index under NSW Corps).

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 NSW, 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 ACT, 1972.

This volume lists many sources of regimental records under War Office page 301+.

Australian Joint Copy Project (AJCP) Part 4 War Office.

Abbreviations

HRNSW - Historical Records of New South Wales.

List of all British Regiments that served in Australia

This Information Page was compiled by Malcolm Sainty, Garry Wilson & Michael Flynn, June 2013.

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