3rd Regiment of Foot (Buffs)

Contents

History
Records used
Data extracted
Arrival in Sydney
Leaving Australia
Statistics
Reference & Further Reading
Acknowledgements

History:
This British Regiment was first raised in 1665 but became known as the 3rd East Kent Regiment from 1782. Known also as The Buffs.

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

Some of the more important records which relate to the Regiment’s period in Australia were filmed under the Australian Joint Copy Project (AJCP) and are available in major libraries in Australia. The series from which our project chose to extract data, are the Army Regimental Pay Lists, 25 March 1823 to 24 December 1827 - WO 12.

Unfortunately the AJCP did not commence early enough for this regiment and as a result the details of the early detachments to arrive in Australia has not been included in BDA. However, Bob Pauling has visited TNA and extracted the missing data. This will be added to the men’s biographies early in 2017.

Most are quarterly returns. The men are divided into separate lists according to their rank, and are listed in each return in the same order except when they were promoted or demoted, in which cases they were recorded into their new rank list. The movement of some men caused some confusion for the clerks in their compilation of these records and it is possible that occasional duplication has crept into our dataset.

Additionally, the 1812 Army List volume was consulted for extra details of the Officers.
Data extracted:
Project Board member Keith Johnson extracted data from each Pay List. Not all the information was extracted, notably the rate of pay for each rank. Items extracted include, full name, rank, previous occupation and previous residence (if recorded); enlistment date and place, the length of service contracted, either 7 or 14 years, the Company(ies) served in, birthplace, ship and date of arrival in NSW, (generally added by the Editors), dates and places of desertion, illness and discharge, if noted. Place of Service (if noted) can be assumed that most of the men were in Sydney, unless noted otherwise.

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

The Pay Lists can record the date and place of death of a soldier during the period covered.

Pay details have not been extracted but as an example, the daily rates paid to Non Officer ranks between March and June 1824 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Shillings &amp; Pence &amp; Farthings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant-Major</td>
<td>2s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartermaster-Sergeant</td>
<td>2s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paymaster’s Clerk</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armourer as Sergeant</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum Major as Sergeant</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeants</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporals</td>
<td>10d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drummers &amp; Fifers</td>
<td>7d. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privates</td>
<td>7d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Arrival in Sydney & Hobart:
Men arrived in Australia (Sydney and Hobart) mainly as Detachments of guards on convict ships. The commanding officer, Colonel William Stewart, arrived on the Asia on 29 April 1825. Some men’s ship of arrival or departure were noted in the Pay Lists, but it is impossible to ascertain the ship of arrival and departure of all of the men.

The following is a list of ships detected (mainly recorded in Historical Records of Australia, Series 1), which carried men of the 3rd Regiment, and also from Shipping Arrivals & Departures, Sydney, 1788-1825 by J S Cumpston, pub. 1977, Roebuck Press.

Ship Arrivals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Port of Departure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipley</td>
<td>11 Mar 1822</td>
<td>from England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>19 May 1822</td>
<td>from London</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phoenix 7 Jun 1822 from London & Hobart
Guildford 15 Jul 1822 from London
Asia 23 Jul 1822 from Portsmouth
Arab 9 Nov 1822 from Portsmouth to Hobart & Sydney 29th
Eliza 22 Nov 1822 from London
Barmpton 22 Apr 1823 from Cork & the Cape with HQ & staff
Anne & Amelia 2 Jan 1825 from Cork 1 Sgt & 17 privates
Asia 29 Apr 1825 from Portsmouth Colonel Stewart
Elizabeth 16 Aug 1825 from Hobart

Leaving Australia:

Prince Regent 13 Nov 1824 for London 3 men only
Woodford 28 Jan 1827 for Calcutta 3 companies
Prince Regent 4 Dec 1817 for Calcutta Col. Stewart & HQ

It is likely that other small detachments left on other ships.

Statistics:
Recorded in the Database – 33 Officers & 634 men. Many would have been married but their wives and children are not named.

References:
Some of the above details have been extracted from:


Historical Records of Australia - Series 1 (see under ship names and Regiments – 3rd, in their Indexes).

Original Sources used are detailed above under Records Used.

Further reading:


This volume lists many more references to the 3rd Regiment than can be found in the on-line catalogue of The National Archives, London.
**Abbreviations:**
HRA - Historical Records of Australia.

**Acknowledgements for the dataset:**
Keith A Johnson AM - Data extraction from Pay Lists & editing these pages.
Malcolm R Sainty AM - General editing & processing the data.
Robert Pauling for information on the arrival of the Arab and lists of men embarking for Australia. This latter information has now been added to the Biographies of the men.

**List of all British Regiments that served in Australia:**
(see Military - British Regiments In Australia)

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Information Page written by Mal Sainty

Historical resources available from the BDA Shop
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