48rd Regiment of Foot

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History:
This British Regiment was first raised in 1740.

Records used:
Original records dealing with the Regiment are held in the War Office series at The National Archives 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 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 1817 to 24 June 1824 - WO 12/5970 and Muster Roll 25 Feb 1824 to 24 April 1825.

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) it 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 August and September 1814 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-Serjeant</td>
<td>2s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paymaster’s Clerk</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armourer as Serjeant</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum Major as Serjeant</td>
<td>1s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serjeants</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>6d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Arrival in Sydney:**
Men arrived in Australia (Sydney and Hobart) mainly as Detachments of guards on convict ships. The main body with the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel James Erskine, arrived on the *Pilot, Matilda* and *Lloyds* in July and August 1817. Most departed for Madras. 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.

Some men arrived on a convict ship after Headquarters had departed in late 1824 and left on the same ship for Madras only weeks later. The Pay Lists do not necessarily indicate that they actually arrived in Australia for a very short period. Some of these men may therefore not be recorded in the Database, as their identity is unknown.

The following is a list of ships detected (mainly recorded in Historical Records of Australia, Series I volumes VIII & IX), which carried men of the 48th Regiment, and also from Shipping Arrivals & Departures, Sydney, 1788-1825 by J S Cumpston, pub. 1977, Roebuck Press.

**Ship Arrivals:**
Pilot 28 Jul 1817
Matilda 3 Aug 1817 From Cork Staff of 48th Regiment & 200 troops.
Lloyds 30 Aug 1817 From Cork 200 troops
Dick 3 Sep 1817 From Cork

HRA records that Matilda, Lloyds & Dick carried 468 NCOs & Privates + 83 women & 58 children - three Divisions of the 48th.

Larkins 22 Nov 1817
Ocean 9 Jan 1818
Guildford 31 Mar 1818
Lady Castlereagh 30 Apr 1818
Minerva 30 Apr 1818
Neptune 5 May 1818
Isabella 14 Sep 1818
Tottenham 13 Oct 1818

Leaving Australia:

Larkins 2 Jan 1818 for Calcutta
Shipley 31 Mar 1819 for London
Surrey 25 Jul 1819 for London
Guildford 10 Oct 1820 for Derwent & England
Woodlark 10 Feb 1824 for Hobart & England
Greenock 11 Mar 1824 for Madras
Sir Godfrey Webster 11 Mar 1824 for Calcutta & Madras
Portland 1 Dec 1824 for Madras a Division
Grenada 27 Feb 1825 for Madras Remainder of the 48th.

Statistics:
Recorded in the Database – 38 Officers & 1128 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, Volumes VII & VIII. (see under ship names and Regiments – 48th, in their Indexes).

Original Sources used are detailed above under Records Used.

Further reading:


This volume lists many more references to the 73rd 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.

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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