

The Hashemy Men

Part One

The *Hashemy* was a London-registered frigate built of teak, with a male bust as a figure-head. The vessel was over 124 feet long with a beam of 30 and one half feet. On July 23rd 1850 the ship sailed from Portland, England with a crew of 41 under Captain John Ross and the Reverend Matthew Fletcher as Religious Instructor.

On board the *Hashemy* were 100 prisoners and, according to a return lodged by Captain John Bruce of the Enrolled Pensioner Force, 32 guards with 24 of their wives and 48 children. A passenger list supplied by the Surgeon Superintendent differs a little, as it lists 33 guards by including Captain Bruce and mentions 49 children of pensioners (1).

All told the *Hashemy* had 243 persons on board, one interesting group being the wife and seven children of Captain Bruce. Members of the Bruce family are named in what may be a so-far untapped source for analysis of convict guards on the *Hashemy* – the complete list of pensioners on the vessel included in a shipping intelligence report published in the colonial press after the vessel arrived in WA on October 24, 1850 (2).

The press listing is a fascinating one, as it excludes Captain Bruce from among the guards, includes one man (a certain J.Mathews) who is not in a nominal list of the Hashemy Guards or any other known source (3) and provides a goodly number of variations in regard to name-spelling and initials. Comparison with the nominal list and identification of the men in both sources has been a rewarding exercise. The results (along with various contradictions and problems) will be discussed under the names of each guard in Part Two.

For present purposes, we will limit ourselves to consideration of an issue deserving fair attention. Not all guards who arrived on convict ships were members of the EPF. Some were temporary pensioners only, and

we will provide a classic example in a paragraph or two. Furthermore, even men clearly identified as fully-fledged members of the EPF on the nominal list are not listed in Broomhall. In the case of the *Hashemy*, they include T. (Thomas?) Evans and Arthur Mortimer (4).

Of the six individuals identified as temporary pensioners, none are in Broomhall, which surely means they were simply never members of the EPF.

The ups and downs of one man's career – Christopher Markey, formerly of the 44th Regiment of Foot – show how the temporary system works very nicely. They also illustrate another aspect of the early years of the Convict establishment in particular – the importance of the arrival of these military convict guards in WA to the development of a stable policing system here. It is a major theme, perhaps a vital one in the critical years of WA law enforcement from 1850 to 1868. For the Police Force of the day, the arrival of military pensioners of any sort was a god-send in years of acute recruitment needs, as many were in good enough health to provide service. As will be seen in a later issue, no less than nine of the 32 rank and file *Hashemy* men served in the WA police at one time or another. About nine more found work in the Convict Establishment.

Christopher Markey, the son of Barnard and Agatha Markey, was born in County Meath in 1828. He enlisted in the 44th Regiment at Kells in 1846, served in Ireland and at Gibraltar and was injured in a horse accident in early 1850. The Regimental Board described his conduct as indifferent and had doubts about whether the accident was by 'design or whatever'.

Private Markey received a pension of sixpence *per diem* for just one year from March 1850. He married Mary Ann Roach (*nee* Condon – the widow of another soldier)

soon afterwards and managed to find employment on the *Hashemy* as a pensioner guard for the voyage. He received passage and full pay while on guard duty, but disappears from EPF records after arriving in the colony. When his one-year pension expired in March of 1851, he and Mary Ann had to make their own way.

In comparison to many other pensioners who joined the Police Force, his new career proved to be very brief and inglorious. Christopher Markey was recommended for employment as a constable in the WA police in late April, 1853 and formerly joined on May 1. He was dismissed for being drunk on duty a few days later, on May 5 (5).

He worked as a horsebreaker for some years until 1860, when he was convicted of horse stealing and sent to prison for two years. A few years after his release he seems to have obtained gainful employment as the manager of a Toodyay property. Christopher Markey died in 1875 (6).

In glowing contrast another *Hashemy* man, George Campbell (c1805-1886), carved out a very respectable career for himself as a police constable in the early 1850s and a highly regarded and mild-but-firm gaoler in various localities up to his retirement in 1876. He missed out on appointment to a very senior position on Rottnest Island in 1866 (7).

One final point worth mentioning is that further difficulty in regard to the exact status of some individuals can arise because of the arrival of an uncertain number of ordinary ex-soldiers as immigrants in WA. Quite a few former military men of this type held public positions in the colony in the mid to late 1800s.

One example is Thomas Burnside (1827-1883), formerly a sergeant in the Royal Artillery, who moved to WA in 1857 and served with reasonable credit in the Convict Establishment and the WA police until resigning in 1880. There is nothing to indicate he ever received any type of army pension, although he was engaged in much the same kind of work as many EPF members or other military pensioners (8).

End Notes

- (1) Broomhall, F.H. *The Veterans* (Hesperian Press, WA 1989), p131; Communication from Jeanette Lee to Jean McDonald, June 28, 2010
- (2) *Perth Gazette*, November 1, 1850, p2
- (3) Nominal list of Guard of the *Hashemy* supplied by Jeanette Lee, June 28, 2010
- (4) Evans could be the Thomas Evans who worked as night watchman in Perth in 1853 – see Barker, D.J. *Warders and Gaolers* (Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc, 2000), p67. He cannot be the Thomas Evans of Broomhall B88, who served in the Indian Mutiny of 1857-1858
- (5) Markey, D.C. *Christopher Markey – an unfortunate life?* (unpublished manuscript, no date, by 2002), pp1-6; WA Police Record of Service of Christopher Markey
- (6) Markey, D.C., *op cit*, pp 7, 11, 16-17
- (7) Broomhall, B44; WA Police Record of Service of George Campbell Senior; Barker (2000), p31
- (8) Barker (2000), pp27-28; WA Police Record of service of Thomas Burnside. A number of entries in Barker (2000) indicate uncertainty in some cases as to whether a man was a military pensioner or not.

Jean McDonald (8967)

Peter Conole

The Hashemy Men

Part Two

In Part One (Ed note: last newsletter Oct 2010) we set the scene preparatory to providing a full list of the EPF members who arrived on the *Hashemy* (1).

Prior to the departure of the ship, a long report of July 11, 1850 outlined conditions of service on the vessel, duties to be done, payments, provisions, reporting lines, food, discipline, etc. Very usefully, the report ends by naming those soldiers who were serving only as Temporary Pensioners. Conditions of service for them were discussed in an earlier edition of the *EPG Gazette* (2).

One soldier recruited for the *Hashemy* voyage did not make it. J Matthews, formerly of the 11th Foot, was struck off the list because of sickness in his family: "you did quite right in not sending Matthews" responded the War Secretary's Department (3).

Surgeon Bowler of the *Hashemy* prepared copious sick list and health care reports during the voyage and maintained a brief and matter-of-fact journal. He also drafted expansive 'general remarks' summarising the situation and sometimes commenting on ways of improving conditions. Many EPF men appear in his informative medical reports, along with family members and convicts. The subject matter of Bowler's writings is not always pleasant, but things had been much worse in a previous *Hashemy* voyage to New South Wales (4). In 1849 Surgeon Browning dealt with the horrors of an outbreak of cholera on the ship.

The *Hashemy* arrived in WA on October 24, 1850; Captain John Bruce reported the event to the Colonial Secretary one day later and provided a brief return of EPF men and their families. Sadly, all was not well. Bruce believed the senior NCO on the *Hashemy*, Sergeant Thomas Brown, to be 'deficient' and not up to the job, so he arranged for him to be

replaced on November 11 by the stalwart Sergeant John Kirwan (a former *Scindian* man) while the newly arrived contingent was in Fremantle (5).

Sergeant Brown had given meritorious service in two regiments for many years, but prolonged periods in the tropics and recent alcohol abuse had taken a toll. The sergeant recognised the problem and sent in a supporting letter himself, agreeing with Bruce's suggestion that he move into retirement from the EPF. However, Captain Bruce made sure the old soldier continued to receive a military pension and Brown maintained his links with the EPF for many years (6).

One obvious trend emerges from the listings below. About half the *Hashemy* pensioner guards later found employment with the Convict Establishment or the Police Force, or with both in turn. That comes as no surprise. As mentioned in Part One, the earlier EPF contingents of the 1850s in particular were good sources for recruits in difficult times.

In the lists that follow, the *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australian* is cited as *BD*. D.J.Barker, *Warders and Gaolers*, WA Genealogical Society (2000) is cited as *Barker*. F.H.Broomhall, *The Veterans*, Hesperian Press (1989) is cited as *Broomhall*.

Enrolled Pensioner Force Men

Edward Anderson – no unit details given, Broomhall B7 (*BD Vol 1, A-C, p40*)

Thomas Bandy – 98th Foot, Broomhall B16 (*BD Vol 1, A-C, p119*)

John Baskerville – East India Company, Broomhall B19 (*employed by the Convict Establishment 1851-1852, Barker, p12. BD Vol 1, A-C, p156*)

Patrick Brennan – 6th Foot, Broomhall B28
(*BD Vol 1, A-C, p302*)

Patrick Britt – 90th Foot, Broomhall B28
(*employed by the Convict Establishment 1851-1859, Barker, pp23-24. BD Vol 1, A-C, p313*)

Thomas Brown – 17th Foot, Broomhall B30-31
(*Employed by the Convict Establishment 1851-1852, Barker, p26. BD Vol 1, A-C, p358*)

James Byrne – 14th Dragoons, Broomhall B39
(*police constable 1852-1853:WA Police Record of Service. BD Vol 1, A-C, p432*)

George Campbell – 79th Foot, Broomhall B44
(*variously a police constable and gaoler, 1852-1876:WA Police Record of Service and Barker, p31. BD Vol 1, A-C, p453*)

William Caple – 56th Foot, Broomhall B46
(*constable and police lockup keeper 1866-1873:WA Police Record of Service. BD Vol 1, A-C, p463*)

Patrick Carroll – East India Company, Broomhall B47
(*BD Vol 1, A-C, p482*)

James Connors – East India Company, Broomhall B58
(*BD Vol 1, A-C, p625*)

John Costelloe – 40th Foot, Broomhall B62
(*BD Vol 1, A-C, p674*)

T.(Thomas?) Evans – no service details given and not in Broomhall (*identifiable as an employee of the Convict Establishment 1853, Barker, p67. He cannot be Thomas Evans, B88, who did not join the EPF until the 1860s*)

James Hayden – 10th Foot, Broomhall B129
(*Employed by the Convict Establishment 1851-1859, Barker, pp99-100. Not to be confused with his police officer son of the same name. BD Vol 2, D-J, p140*)

John Kearney – 63rd Foot, Broomhall B153
(*police constable 1853:WA Police Record of service. BD Vol 3, K-Q, p1687*)

Patrick Lee – 47th Foot, Broomhall B166
(*BD Vol 3, K-Q, p1821*)

Roderick McKenzie – 41st Foot, Broomhall B194
(*BD Vol 3, K-Q, p2006*)

John McKernan – 99th Foot, Broomhall B195
(*BD Vol 3, K-Q, p2008*)

Matthew Mitchell – 63rd Foot, not in Broomhall

Arthur Mortimer – 2nd Royal Artillery, not in Broomhall
(*an overseer in the Convict Establishment in 1851, Barker, p156*)

John Pratt – 24th Foot, Broomhall 228-229
(*BD Vol 3, p2527. Wrongly identified, due to a newspaper spelling error, with a man who died in a riding accident in August 1866. The deceased man was actually police constable Francis Rowland Spratt*)

James Quirk – 54th Foot, Broomhall B232
(*police constable 1851-1852:WA Police Record of Service. BD Vol 3, K-Q, p2560*)

George Ruddock – 2nd Foot Guards, Broomhall B247
(*BD Vol 4, R-Z, p2696*)

Richard Trayhorne – 96th Foot, Broomhall B280-281
(*Employed by the Convict Establishment 1851, Barker, p204. Then a police constable 1851-1852:WA Police record of Service. BD Vol 4, R-Z, p3096*)

William White – 99th Foot, Broomhall B295
(*BD Vol 4, R-Z, p3290. He has been confused with William White of the 10th Regiment, who was not on the 'Hashemy'. White of the 10th Regiment arrived in WA on the 'Adelaide' in 1855.*)

The 'Hashemy' man is identifiable with the pensioner guard Corporal White who worked briefly for the Convict Establishment in early 1851. See Broomhall under B294, who mentions the 10th Regiment soldier, and Barker, p215. A sick list report of Surgeon Bowler of the 'Hashemy' helps clarify the issue – during the voyage he was described as Corporal William White. Elevation to sergeant for this former member of the 99th Regiment came after his arrival in WA)

John Wild – 18th Foot, Broomhall B297
(*BD Vol 4, R-Z, p3307*)

Temporary Pensioners

(They are not listed in Broomhall)

Richard Brown – 6th Dragoons

Thomas Clark – 26th Foot *(possibly a police constable listed in 1852, with spelling Clarke:WA Police Record of Service)*

Charles Fitzcharles – 74th Foot

Christopher Markey – 44th Foot *(police constable 1853: WA Police Record of Service.*

Markey was discussed in 'The Hashemy men, Part one', EPG Gazette, Vol.11, no.4, October 2010, pp4-5. BD Vol 3, K-G, p2074)

William H.Shore – 2nd Dragoons

John Wright – 42th Foot *(employed in the Convict Establishment during 1851, Barker p223. A police constable at Bunbury from late 1851:WA Police Record of Service. BD Vol 4, R-Z, p3398)*

End Notes

(1) List in the Perth Gazette, November 1, 1850 and nominal list of guards on the Hashemy provided by Jeanette Lee, June 28, 2010.

(2) AJCP, Reel 1300, WO.4/280, July 11, 1850; Jeannette Lee, 'Return of Pensioners in 1868', *EPG Gazette*, Vol.11, no.2, April 2010, p6.

(3) AJCP, Reel 1300, WO.4/280, July 16, 1850

(4) AJCP, Reel 3197, ADM 101, 32/6, Journal of Surgeon Bowler, July-November 1850

(5) SRO CSO Acc 36/207, Bruce to Colonial Secretary, October 25 and November 5, 1850; Broomhall B161-162

(6) SRO CSO Acc 36/207, Colonel Irwin to Colonial Secretary; Captain Bruce to Colonel Irwin; Sergeant Brown to Captain Bruce, all November 12, 1850.

Jean McDonald (8967)

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**Article from:
The Perth Gazette and
Independent Journal of Politics
and News**

Friday 1 Nov 1850, p2.

"Hashemy" information

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED .-On the 25th inst., the convict ship Hashemy, 523 tons, Ross, master, from London 12th and Portland 22nd July. Passengers – C J A. Piesse, Esq. (Colonial Secretary), Capt. Bruce, (in command of guard), Mrs Bruce, Miss Bruce, Miss Jane Bruce, Miss Mary Bruce, Miss Caroline Bruce, Miss Emily Bruce, Master Edward Bruce, Rev. T Fletcher, Dr Bowler, BN (Surgeon Superintendent) ; steerage, 100 convicts, **33 pensioners**, and 98 others. 1 box specie for WA Bank.

List of Pensioners per "Hashemy."

James Byrne, C Markey, M Mitchell, T Bandy, John Baskerville, T Evans, E Anderson, W Caple, B Trayhorn, J Mathews, G Campbell, John Kearney, B Brown, P Brannan, John Pratt, John Costellos, P Lee, J Quirk, P Britt, John McKernan, W White, P Carroll, J Connors, T Clark, C Fitzcharles, John Wright, W H Shore, T Brown, J Hayden, John Wild, G Ruddock, R McKenzie, A Mortimer. ...

IN HARBOR. - *Hashemy, Prince Charlie, & cutters Lapwing and Typo.* ...

And on p4

The Editor of this Journal invites the free expression of the opinions of his Correspondents, but can not be held responsible for them. The name and address of the writer must accompany each communication.

To the Editor of the "Independent Journal"

SIR,-It appears that the colonists have received the first shock to their self-gratulatory opinion on their admirable stroke of policy in converting their home into a penal

settlement. One or two convicts, after nearly five months good, or at least, quiet conduct, managed, it appears, by some means, to break out of their barracks and get drunk. In their foolish frolic they break open the door of a house, and going in-what do they do? knock out the brains of the inmates and rob the house? Not exactly, -they lie down and fall asleep on the floor. According to the reports of both Journals, no personal violence was offered any one, and they were quietly secured by the constables and walked off to prison. How awful! The good people of Perth were thunderstruck, and some of the old women actually asserted that the convicts had run away with *the Champion*, risking their foolish heads in stealing away in her crazy bottom. The discovery was then publicly made manifest in both the Journals, that moral restraint was no go, but that physical force was the only weapon that the spirit of punishment could or ought to wield, and poor unfortunate Captain Henderson comes in for all the blame. The Inquirer, who a few weeks back was praising the manner in which the affairs at the depot (especially the cuisine) were managed, is now grown quite dyspeptical, and declares the management (cooking included) was bad both in idea and practice. Yourself, likewise, after having a few months back, described in terms of glowing eulogy the condition and orderly appearance of these men

'Who left their country for their country's good' now vote moral restraint a humbug. If either of your editorial onslaughts had chanced to have been rightly directed, and the Comptroller-General had been the guilty party, you might between you perhaps, have mangled him a little-but now after a fortnight has elapsed, and the coppers of your indignation have become a little colder, and the immediate danger being over your courage might be waxing a little warmer, -do you really think Captain Henderson so much to blame as the Colonists themselves! Have you the force in the colony sufficient to exercise the stricter discipline you require? Certainly not. Captain H's application and refusal of it, for an increased guard from the colonial commandant is a sufficient proof that you have not. How then was he to manage? Convicts are not school boys. It is of no use

ordering or threatening a man with a punishment which that man knows as well you can tell him, you have not the means of carrying into effect. Besides, as another proof of the acquittance of the Comptroller-General, think a moment on the class intended to be transported in future to your shores taking the first batch you have received as a sample. Those convicts were sent out, as they were told before embarkation, for reformation, not for punishment. That portion of their atonement had been offered at home, in the horrors of the silent cells of Milbank, Wakefield, and the like, and the worse than slavery of the Portland chain gang; and they had impressed on them in every possible way, both previous to embarkation and during the voyage out, that the penalty due to the law had been paid, and that they would be allowed comparative freedom in a new country, to regain, by an amended life, their fellowship and rights as good citizens. And have they as yet forfeited their right to this indulgence? Out of seventy-five men here is the first occurrence in five months. And what crime is committed? One not half so bad as was perpetrated by some drunken revellers in the streets of Perth on the night of last Saturday.

If you now say, that it is wrong - unsafe for a government to risk the peace and well being of its free inhabitants, to try some new theory in reforming its criminals, no one could gainsay you. But still throw the blame of it on the right shoulders.

You asked for convicts. Convicts were sent. You asked for a large government expenditure and efficient protection. Seventy-five convicts with a guard of about 50 pensioners were sent. You allowed the pensioners to be scattered any where over the colony, their arms given in to the stores of the government at a dozen miles distance from the convict depot - and then you send home an address, thanking Lord Grey for his attention to your wishes. Now, however it appears,-

A change has come o'er the spirit of your dream' and you fancy somehow that his lordship has been too deep for you. Possibly he has; but why throw mud at his servant,

who can do no more than his circumstances will allow him. If you are dissatisfied why not adopt your only straightforward course-call a public meeting of the colonists, and embody your wishes in another address, in which, without any beating the bush to find flowers of flattery, you can tell his Lordship that unless he sends you a sufficient regular protective force, you will receive no more convicts.

Until you adopt this, or a similar course, to blame Captain Henderson for anything that might occur, is only trying to make him the forfeit for the want of tact and business knowledge of the bigs wigs who on the part of the colony made the arrangements for the reception of convicts.

JOHNNY NEWCOME.

October 29th.

(Editor's Note: As you can see controversy was within the Colony.)