

## *Into the Blue after the Crimea (Part One)*

In three previous issues of the EPG Gazette (see 'The Class of 1851' in the July 2012 issue; 'The Class of 1852', October 2012; 'The Class of 1853', April 2013) the recruitment of pensioner guards – or other men with military backgrounds – for law enforcement work was analysed for that brief period. The findings revealed that close on 40% of all men recruited for service in the WA constabulary were army veterans. It is still an open question as to whether that high rate continued after the WA Police (then called the Police Force) was formally established in 1853.

One particular group of soldiers who made the transition deserves some extra attention. They were the Crimean War veterans, who started arriving in the colony from about 1857 onwards. At least 157 were members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force. A few turned up concurrently as convicts under the guard of EPF men. Some made their way to the colony as free settlers.

Surprisingly few chose to join the WA Police of the time – a mere 13 in all, during a period when a considerable number of veterans donned police uniforms. However, those who did often had interesting and varied life experiences, worthy of extended discussion in some cases. Here are the first six:

**Thomas Anderson** (1829-1907), an Irishman from County Tyrone and a former Corporal in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. He was badly wounded in the Crimea, losing an arm, an injury that led to him being pensioned off in 1856. He arrived in WA on the 'Merchantman' as a Pensioner Guard in 1864 and joined the police in 1866. Despite his injury, Thomas gave good service and rose to the rank of Lance Sergeant. He operated mainly around Geraldton, spending a good slice of the 1870s as the lock-up keeper at Greenough. He was then transferred south to Fremantle, possibly to

take up duty as the lock-up keeper there. Then for some reason he was dismissed in May 1879. Thomas married Jane Smythe in Ireland, fathered a large family and prospered as a farmer at Walkaway after his removal.

(WA Police Record of Service of Thomas Anderson; F.H.Broomhall, *The Veterans* (Hesperian Press, 1989), B7; J.Barker, *Warders and Gaolers* (Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc, 2000), p4.)

**James Mandeville Archdeacon** (1832-1890), also Irish - from Dublin and a notable Sergeant in the Royal Artillery Regiment. He received a glowing special commendation from Field Marshal Lord Raglan for his services at the battle of Inkerman in November 1854, in which Archdeacon was twice wounded. He went on to serve in the China expedition of 1860, then left the army a few years later to become a prison warder in England. Archdeacon came out on the 'Hougoumont' in 1868 as one of the guards of the Fenian military prisoners. His career in WA was a colourful one, involving work as a warder and two terms as a police officer. Archdeacon won promotion to Lance Sergeant and received permission to spend part of his time as the drill master of two companies of the colonial defence establishment. After some years in private employment, he rejoined the police in his late 50s for a second term in office - only to die of typhoid contracted during a brief posting in the Kimberley.

See P.Conole and D.Oldman, 'The Enigmatic James Archdeacon', *The War Correspondent*, Vol.31, No.1 (April, 2013), pp15-17.

**Thomas Butler** (1828-1886), another Irishman, who enlisted in the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot at Lowcurran in Queen's County in 1847 and later transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot. Private Butler served in the Crimea and was wounded three times at Sebastopol in June 1855. He received a medical discharge and a pension in October 1855. Butler arrived in WA as a pensioner guard in December 1866. He worked briefly as a Constable in the WA Police from April 1868 until his resignation in December 1871. He acquired land south of the Swan



River and served as a member of the Enrolled Guard - probably from its formation in 1880 - until his death.

*WA Police Record of Service of Thomas Butler; Broomhall, B36-37*

**Joseph Dyer** (1828/1829-1884), a former member of London Metropolitan Police. He served in the Crimea with the Royal Mounted Staff Corps which, amongst other things, looked after disciplinary and policing matters in the army camps. Active service could hardly be avoided: he obtained promotion to Corporal and took part in the fighting at Balaklava and the siege of Sebastopol. He was one of a group of London police who were brought over to WA in 1857 to raise local standards. He did very well in the course of service in Perth and Fremantle and out in the districts at York, Busselton and Geraldton. Joseph rose through the ranks, reaching commissioned status as a Sub-Inspector in 1870. At the time of his resignation in 1876 he was officer-in-charge of the large police district based on Bunbury. He and his wife left WA because of pending staff cuts in the WA Police. They returned to England and spent their remaining years as proprietors of the well-situated Station Inn at Reigate in Surrey.

*The WA Police Record of Service of Joseph Dyer includes known details of all his prior activities before his arrival in WA. There is little archival material on his Crimean service because Staff Corps records were not very expansive.*

**James Graham** (1829-1894), a tough soldier of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot who was promoted to Sergeant in the Crimea. He fought at Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol and was badly wounded in the face during the assault on the Redan in September 1855. James arrived in WA as a pensioner guard on the 'Norwood' in 1862. He served briefly in the WA Police at Guildford in 1865 and then obtained a position as an Assistant Warder in the Convict Establishment. He worked on in the WA prison system for many years until family troubles and failing health forced him to retire in September 1889.

*See P.Conole, 'The Last Frontier: from the Crimea to the Last Frontier', The War Correspondent, Vol.29, No.2 (July, 2011), pp43-44.*

**John Grattan** (1830-1884). The name is spelled Gratten or Gratton in some WA records. Yet another Irishman, he enlisted in the 49<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot in Tipperary in 1848 and went on to serve in the Crimea. He received a slight wound at Inkerman in November 1854 and a serious one at Sebastopol in July 1855. The latter was so bad that Grattan was hospitalised at Brompton in England and given a pension later in the same year. He arrived in WA as a pensioner guard in June 1862 and eventually became a landholder at Greenough. Grattan was a member of the WA Police for a brief spell from July 1871 to October 1872. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Enrolled Guard from August to December 1880.

*Army record of John Grattan WO 97/1542/15/001 to 005; Crimea Casualty List; WA Police Record of Service of John 'Gratten'; Broomhall, B117-118*

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## *Into the Blue after the Crimea (Part Two)*

As mentioned in Part One of this series, not many Crimean War veterans joined the WA Police after hundreds started to turn up during the late 1850s. We need to account for the trend, given that a disproportionately high number of police recruits up to the mid-1850s were army veterans. The reason for the previous situation has been discussed in earlier issues of the EPG Gazette. It may have been official policy and a personal preference of Commissioner John Conroy, himself a former army officer.

Things had obviously changed by the time the Crimea warriors arrived. A couple of interesting statistics emerge from examination of the records of those who did don blue uniforms. Firstly, the overwhelming majority of the twelve clearly identified Crimean War veterans joined at a rather advanced age for law enforcement work. Only one man was in his twenties (Joseph Dyer – see Part One) and all the rest fell into the 35 to 45 year age bracket.

A couple of older veterans had specialised skills (James Archdeacon and Edward James were training officers). Matthew Smith got the most senior job because he was exactly the kind of man the hierarchy wanted: an officer and a gentleman and an administrator of proven skill, as revealed by his army record. Less well connected aging ex-soldiers may have been accepted because of the social credit factor, ie, a smattering of valiant army

veterans in blue helped raise public respect for the police of the day.

Perhaps fewer veterans received a welcome into the police because of demographics. Larger numbers of free settlers were now arriving, including fit and healthy young males. When Superintendent William Hogan intensified recruitment efforts from 1861 onwards the young men will have been seen as better prospects than old soldiers. A hard reality, but the worm turned rather quickly as numerous sons of EPF men found their way into the police as part of this same process of obvious generational change.

For present purposes, the final six were:

**Edward James** (1831-1887), a Londoner who had a reasonably distinguished military career and served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoons (Inniskillings) during the Crimean conflict. He arrived in WA on the Naval Brigade in February 1874. He left the EPF to serve in the WA Police for four years until poor health got the better of him. Commissioner Matthew Smith re-appointed Edward as the police Drill Instructor in late 1886, not long before the old soldier died. See our article 'Sergeant Major Edward James' in the *EPG Gazette*, Vol.14, No.1 (January 2013), pp4-5.

**Michael Monaghan** (1835-1914). This 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot soldier from Galway joined in his teens and won plaudits and decorations from Britain, France and Turkey for his deeds under the walls of Sebastopol. After arriving in WA he served in the WA police from 1863 to 1868 – with mixed results. He then moved to South Australia and engaged in a criminal career that earned him two terms of imprisonment (burglaries were the issue). Time and Michael's ability to cover his tracks healed all wounds. By the time he died Michael was a revered veteran of his community and the subject of a good deal of sentimental attention. See our article 'Kindly Discretion', *Between the Lines*, Vol.18, No.3 (March 2013), pp5-6.

**Daniel O'Connell** (1832-1922). A Crimean War and Indian Mutiny veteran of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards (Carabineers), he had a

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spectacular and very long WA Police career. Daniel escaped serious harm in the Crimea but received a severe leg wound at Delhi in 1857. He walked with a permanent limp for the rest of his life. However, the wound did not prevent him from leading from the front during hazardous episodes, such as the Goldfields riots of 1899. The officer worked on until his 69<sup>th</sup> year and retired as a Sub-Inspector in charge of the Agricultural District based on Northam. Members of his family liked the Avon valley and settled there. We outlined his life and services in 'Ancient of Days', *Western Ancestor*, Vol.12, No.5 (March 2013), pp187-189.

**Walter Randall** - a soldier whose life and career requires more research. He fought in the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny as a trooper in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers and arrived in WA on the 'Hastings' during May 1877. His WA Police Record of Service shows the newly arrived warrior served twice, first from 1877-1880 and then 1881-1884. Walter was living in Perth at the time of the Diamond Jubilee banquet for veterans in 1897 (Broomhall, p129).

**Edward Roach** (1829-1893) - another Irishman, from Belmullet in County Mayo. He fought in the Crimea in the ranks of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, arrived here on the 'Racehorse' in August 1865 and joined the WA Police for work in Fremantle. He was dismissed for being 'under the influence' while on duty in May 1866 (Oldman, D. 2013 *Manuscript*, Broomhall, B242 and WA Police Record of Service of Edward Roach).

**Matthew Skinner Smith** (1836-1887), the son of a British general and a member of a family with a tradition of East India Company service dating back to 1756. Matthew fought with distinction at the siege of Sebastopol as a teenage officer in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot and later took part in the China War of 1860. After reaching the rank of captain he married in England and moved into civilian life, settling in WA in the late 1860s. He took charge of the WA Police as a Superintendent in 1871 and died whilst holding the upgraded title of Commissioner. Matthew Smith held other high public offices as well in the course

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of his life in the colony. As a man of power and influence he operated within the inner circles of colonial administrative and social life. The gentleman was arguably the most successful of the Crimean veterans who settled among us. He always took a benevolent interest in the welfare and activities of EPF men and commanded the Enrolled Guard when it was formed in 1880. See Broomhall, pp77-80 and Conole, P. 'Matthew Skinner Smith, Ensign to Captain, 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot Crimean War and Commissioner of Police in Western Australia', *The War Correspondent*, Vol.27, No.4 (January 2010), p35.

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