

Pyrenees 1853 – Doctor, doctor ... give me the news ...

168 years ago on 30 April 1853 the Pyrenees brought 293 convicts including Moondyne Joe(!). The Enrolled Pensioner Guard (EPG) celebrates this anniversary with a review of the 29 EPGs on board and their family members. If you had an EPG ancestor it is worth looking at.

John Bower was the surgeon on board and his journal is on our website. My heart breaks when I read some of the stories are forbears faced - some snippets from his journal show how confronting life on board could be:

EPG Patrick Hannon had never served abroad and not left Dublin until joining the ship. He was usually healthy but on 8th March complained of headaches, lassitude and general uneasiness attended by chills and died

Ten-month-old Patrick Archer was sickly and emaciated from the time he had arrived on board; he died and was buried in England before the ship left. His mum was only 21.

Infant Ann Booth was treated for diarrhoea and appeared cured but died from meningitis “a pale an unhealthy child and scarcely had a day of health while on board” her mum was 22

The Falassy family had a rough time, the EPG was on the sick list after falling down the main hatchway and struck against the prison bar in his fall fracturing his ribs. His 2 yo daughter Margaret was treated for diarrhoea and meningitis and died soon after. Her mum also received treatment.

See all the EPGs on board and their updated profiles at

<https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/ships/pyrenees-1853/>

The journal is here:

<https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Surgeons-Log-ADM-101-62-Pyrenees-1853.pdf>