

A Pensioner Guard at Waterloo?

By Jeanette Lee

[Edward Tierney](#)

Over the years when someone has come up with the idea their pensioner served at Waterloo we have looked somewhat askance and generally it has been proven a mistake, however while looking at the sick list of the Convict ship Ramillies I came across one Edward Tierney who had not shown up on any data base although MS James had mentioned a Richard Tierney, pensioner aged 70, buried in Skinner Street Cemetery- a red herring as it later turned out.

On a WO22 for London 2nd West for another Ramillies pensioner it also listed an Edward Tierney of the 27th Foot regiment who was also transferred to Western Australia in 1854. After looking at the various WO 22s and 23s established it was definitely the man on the Ramillies. Strangely there were two dates for discharge 13 December 1826 and 23 October 1838.

The WO 97 threw up a few anomalies as it had added 2 years' service for Waterloo. He had joined the regiment as a fifteen year old on 21 May 1813 and despite being underage for 3 years he still had the Waterloo notation. Further investigation showed Edward Tierney(sic) was awarded the Waterloo medal.

Attached to the WO97 was a page that said he was discharged from with New South Wales Veterans Corps 1838 aged 40 with "Marquis of Hastings" written across the top which was one of the ships transporting members of the Corps to Australia one of the other ships was the John Barry.

It appears that the British government acknowledging that many of the younger men discharged from the British Line regiments although no longer suitable for combat and marching duties could be utilised for Garrison duties and accordingly Veterans Companies were set up –one of these being the New South Wales Veterans Corps on 12 September 1825 by Royal proclamation. Despite the very liberal terms of employment with pay rates for a private being 1/3 per diem plus rations and a grant of land the Corps was not a success and disbanded in 1838.

Edward Tierney was born in c1798 at Kilmore Ballina Mayo and enlisted in the 27th regiment of foot when he was fifteen years of age on 21 May 1813. He served with the 27th for 12 Years and 196 days seeing service in the East Indies, West Indies with 2 years added for his service at Waterloo before being discharged on 13th December 1836. (Apparently service at Waterloo was estimated as being 2 years despite the actual time spent there.)

His description at the time of his discharge was height 5 feet 6 inches, brown hair grey eyes with a fresh complexion; his pension was for six pence per diem. Discharge was due to varicose veins in the right leg and a slight wound in the left. Retirement does not appear to have agreed with Edward as he re-enlisted in the Royal New South Wales Veteran corps and

was shipped off to Sydney on the Marques of Hastings in 1827. Edward was discharged on 23 October 1838 and eventually returned to England in 1853 where he was accepted as a Convict Guard on the Ramillies. By this time his length of service was made up to 18 years 6 months and his pension increased to nine pence per diem.

Name:	Edwd Tierny
Service Date:	1815
Service Place:	Belgium
Campaign or Service:	Battle of Waterloo
Regiment or Unit Name:	1st Battalion 27th Foot

Ancestry

Edward and his wife did not remain in Western Australia as he was paid in Calcutta from 1st January 1857 where he died on 18th January 1858. What happened to his wife or indeed who she was we do not know. When Edward left Western Australia £4/15/1 was deducted from his pension the cost of his wife's passage to Western Australia otherwise she is not mentioned.

Subjoined is the identical Proclamation of his Majesty ;---

" Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 18th September, 1825.—Notice to the out-pensioners, belonging to his Majesty's Royal Hospital, at Chelsea (including those transferred from Kilmainham Hospital), who reside in London and its neighbourhood.

" His Majesty having been pleased to approve of the formation of three veteran companies, for service in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, each to be composed of three serjeants, three corporals, and fifty privates, for the purpose of being employed as superintendents and overseers of convicts, in addition to their military duty ; and that such companies should consist of volunteers of the out-pensioners of this establishment, who shall have borne good characters while in the army, and whose subsequent conduct shall have been such as to recommend them for the service in question ; a preference being, however, given to those pensioners who were discharged as non-commissioned officers, or who have acted in in that capacity :