

**To be or not to be an Enrolled Pensioner Guard (EPG)?** On average an EPG waited 5 years after their army discharge before making the journey to WA, however:

- A “baker’s dozen” waited more than 20 years
- 150 waited only a year or so
- Some did not make it to WA - the EPG Group knows of at least 7 who died on the voyage out
- There were some who were due to come to WA but did not set sail!

The most infamous such case occurred on a Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 1856 aboard the Runnymede whilst it lay in Plymouth Sound loading convicts, its EPGs being mostly recruited from Dartmoor Prison.

**Murder on the Runnymede!** EPG-to-be Corporal William Nevin murdered Runnymede’s Sgt Major Ben Robinson who died that same Sunday.

At an inquest next day aboard the Runnymede Nevin pleaded "not guilty, it happened by accident". This plea falling on deaf ears, two months later, a contrite and by then confessed 44-year-old Nevin was hung in front of 5,000 people on August 11. It was one of 17 English hangings that year - he was buried at Cornwall’s Bodmin prison.

Ben Robinson did not die immediately, the bullet taking off a finger before entering his stomach – he cried out “I am shot”. As he lay dying in the arms of his subordinate Fenton Kinniard (Kenna), asking Kenna not to hold so tight.

Ben was buried 4<sup>th</sup> June 30 miles away at Stoke Damerel in Devon where there was a large military hospital. Patients and/or bodies could be brought directly to the hospital by boat and dropped off on the landing point, which seems to have been Ben’s fate. In any event, the Runnymede sailed the next day ... (no mucking about back then).

Tragically, Ben and Nevin were both married with 5 and 4 children respectively.

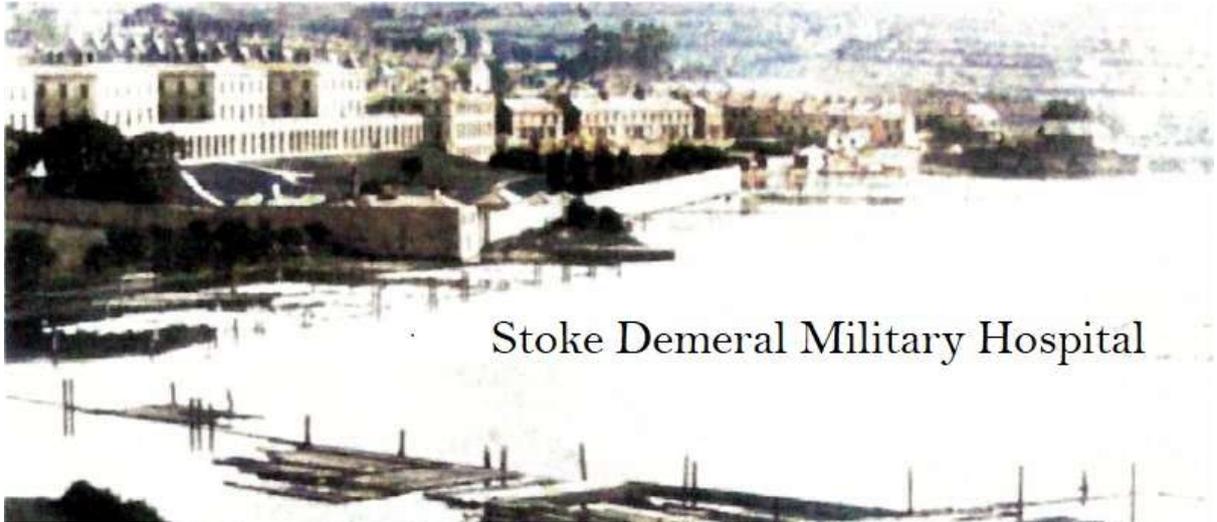
Four EPGs-to-be were required at Nevin’s trial and did not travel to Fremantle 1856 - Fenton Kinniard (Kenna), William Comer, Joseph and Daniel Sullivan – the latter three then came to WA aboard the 1857 Clara.

Three Sergeants sailed on the Runnymede although which, if any, were a replacement for Robinson is not clear ... check the Runnymede out:

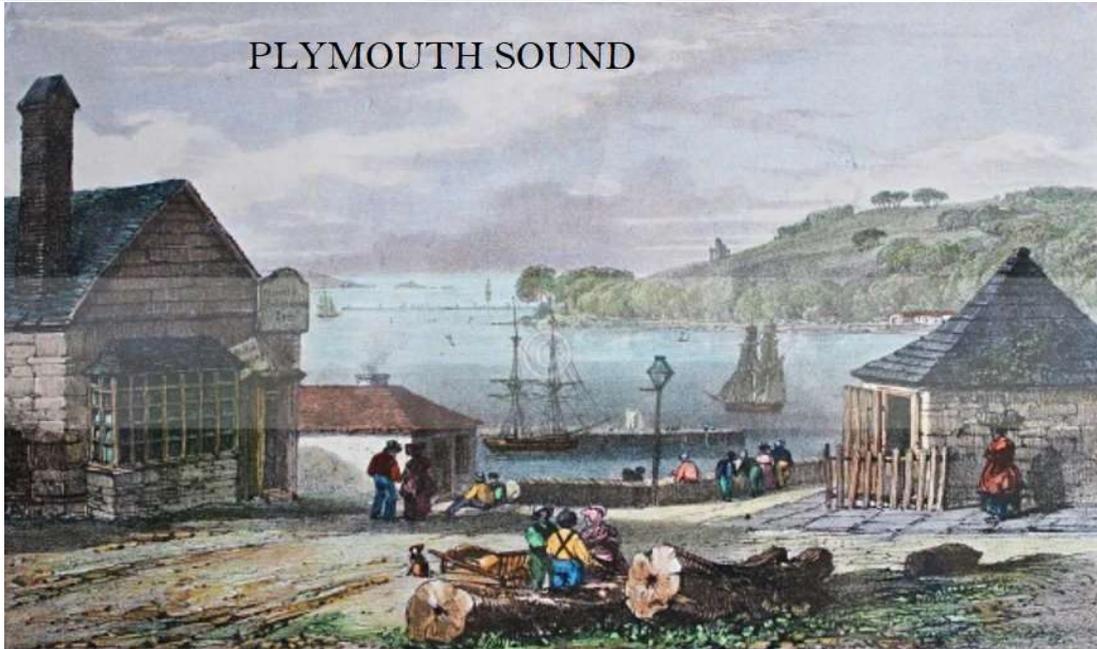
<https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/ships/runnymede/>

[ Page 92 ]

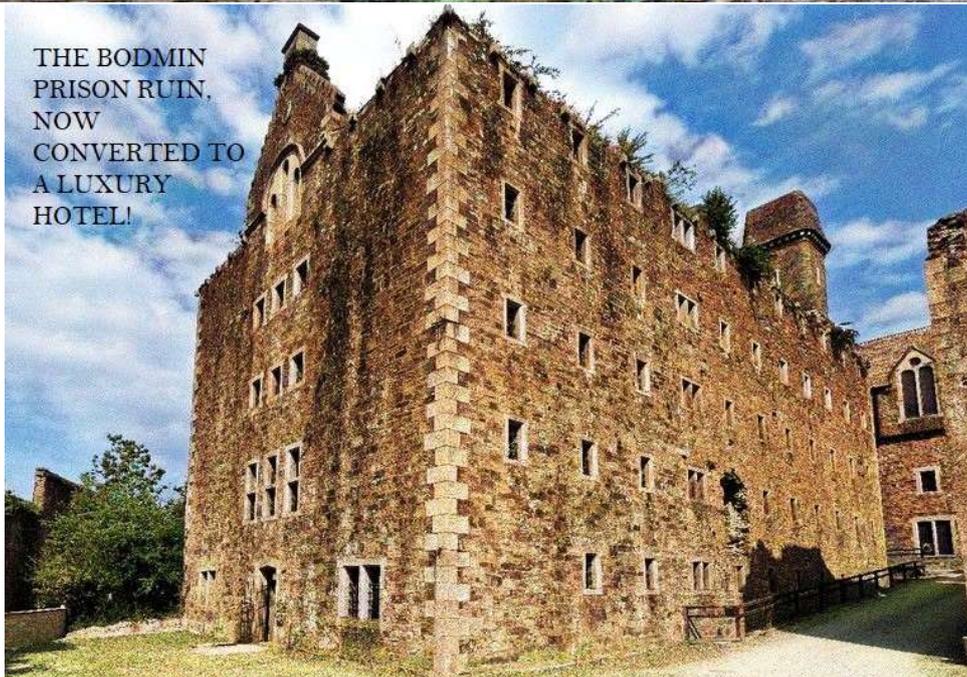
<b>BURIALS in the Parish of Stoke Damerel, in the County of Devon, in the Year 1856</b>					
Name.	Abode.	Died.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Benjamin Robinson No. 727	4th Convict Ship Runnymede		June 4		Wm. H. Reed Rector



Stoke Demeral Military Hospital



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