

EPG GAZETTE

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ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

A Special Interest Group of the

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thanks to the Coronavirus members of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group advise:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) CANCELLED – Our AGM normally held in April is cancelled until further notice. Once we have more clarity on when a meeting can occur, we will notify members. Until then, the Committee will manage EPG matters via emails etc.

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL is soon to go out. Please be advised that this will not go out in the post so we can minimise risk for our volunteers. Only a handful of members receive it by post. If you do know anyone who receives it by post and can give them a call, we would appreciate it.

WEBSITE – this continues to be maintained, queries about the site or this notice to
enrolledpensionerforcewa@gmail.com

Convenor's Report

by Glenys Fuller

A you will see from our announcement on the first page – because of the corona virus all plans for celebrations of the Scindian and Hashemy being our first ships with Enrolled Pensioner Force members aboard is delayed. It is a shame but our health and those we love means more than anything else.

To our Medical, Ambulance and Paramedic members – Thank you for your work – And to all members Stay Safe and keep smiling.

VALE



Tony Munday 1930-30th

January 2020

It was with much sadness we noted the passing of our long term member Tony Munday who was a supportive, generous and outspoken member of our group from the early days and will be sadly missed.

Tony was a descendant of Enrolled Pensioner Guard William Munday, 1st Foot, who arrived on the Palmerston on 11th February 1861 with his wife Mary Ellen nee Hayes and their three eldest children.

On his many trips to London Tony very generously gave up his time to research the National Archives at Kew for WO 97s and ADM documents (Royal Marines) at a time when we did not have the easy access to these documents we have today. Sincere sympathy to his family.

Minden Journal

Continued

Transcribed By Jeanette Lee

August

August 1st: A delightful day. Wind very light although we have been in the NE trades for 4 days, but I am afraid we shall loose them soon: At ½ past 7 o'clock ordered to parade to address the sentence of Corporal punishment caused into effect against the boy confined last night. The preparations were 1st a grating against the bulwark tied underneath which was another for the culprit to stand upon. The Guard fell in and fixed bayonets the remainder of the men without arms. The boatswain having the cat in a handkerchief. The prisoner having taken off his jacket and undone his braces his

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trowsers (sic) down, his hands were tied and then the Doctor read his crime which was 1st for striking one of his comrades with a tin pot and when remonstrated told the party he might B... himself. Convicts named Jackson and Campbell interceded with the Doctor for him and he forgave him the 2 dozen lashes awarded. The boy seemed a very determined character but on the whole seemed rather frightened. Got for dinner Pork and Pea bullets. The rum was reported today by Griffen for being adulterated which it was investigated before the Captain and the opinion of Bolton and Campbell asked. The former asserted that it caused stupefaction induced by the liquor been drugged and the latter stated it was not so good as when we first came on board. Captain stated it was not the thing and ordered what was left in the barrel to be thrown overboard and Griffen to have his grog out of a fresh barrel. Lat 29° Long 16°. Passed this morning some part of a wreck, either the hull of a vessel or a mast. Music and dancing in the evening. Kate beginning to complain.

August 2nd: Woke this morning at ½ past 3 o'clock and found my dear Kate in labour had to get out of her bed and was sitting on the floor. Shortly after I came Mrs Mangan got up and also Mrs Foran and rendered her every assistance. I went to the Doctor who came immediately but at the critical moment if had not been for Mrs Gaunt I don't know what might have been the consequence for my dear Kate was delivered of twins (daughters). The first had a natural presentation but the second little darling came feet foremost and the poor mother had not the power to assist it the pain having ceased, therefore Mrs Gaunt had to recourse to means usually used on such occasions and when the darling creature was born it was about lifeless, quite black from suffocation when the good midwife rubbed its chest with rum and inflated its lungs by breathing into it and when it felt the life breath restored to it it cried faintly. Mrs Ramsey washed and dressed them and then they were put into a bed prepared for them in Mrs Mangan's berth. The first was born at 20 minutes past 5 o'clock and the twin at ½ past. Got 2 beds and a blanket and large linen sheet from the Doctor out of the hospital and likewise a yard and a quarter of flannel to wrap the children in whilst being washed. The women having put a clean suit on Kate, she was then removed into her own place from the table (that being the place she was confined). I certainly must forever feel grateful to all who kindly attended upon her and may God reward them two thousand fold and to Mrs Gaunt the greatest praise is due for rescuing my poor child from the tomb and to whom I am under such a debt of gratitude that I know not in what way to repay. Gratitude they say is cold so it may be with some but with me it is favours done which pecuniary remuneration never should efface. All the sailors asked very kindly respecting her and indeed the Detachment. The sailors on Saturday evening have generally a song in their quarters (which are only divided from us by a thin partition) but owing to Kate's recent accouchement went on deck and there had it- for which kindness I am very grateful verifying the old statement '*the sympathy of a tar is without ostentation springing forth from the source of pure affection, the heart.*' Their hand is always open to assist and ever ready to protect and where the tie of reparation is broken none so keenly feel it as Britain's glory- her sailors.

August 2nd: Mrs Gaunt watched until near 12 o'clock when Mrs Foran relieved her owing to the weak state of the children arising from the very frequent disposition to reject phlegm from the stomach which will do them a great deal of good. After all was over the Doctor promised the persons attending a bottle of wine which Mrs Ramsey saw delivered by the steward to the Sergt Major at 11 o'clock am but from that time nothing more was heard about it until 9 o'clock when the superior came and told Mrs

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Ramsey and Gaunt that he wished to speak to them, accordingly they went and were given a glass of wine each, of course honoured by Mrs Sergt Major who turned sick at the very smell of rum being too powerful for her ladyship's olfactory nerves but the smell from the divine port was too great a temptation she drinking of that freely which belonged to others. Who would an action unbecoming to the character of one who considered herself a brilliant of the first water. Warmed the ... by the lamp during the night for the chickees,

August 3rd: Kate had a very good night, washed last night the bed and found it this morning not the thing still left the things towing overboard, Made Kate some ... at 6 o'clock am, got some bread from the steward by order of the Captain and some sweet biscuits, made some toast which she enjoyed very much – gave Mary a bath. One of the men placed in confinement for abusing his wife. The non-com officers of the watch have received strict orders not to allow any of their respective Guards off the poop during their watch, any man infringing this order to be severely punished. Devine Service the same routine as last Sunday. The convicts have got on white trowsers (sic). Mr Ryder's child very bad, I think a slow fever. One of the men, Whitely, confined for 24 hours in a box sufficient for a man to stand upright in but not any room to sit down in for complaining for not having been relieved during Devine Service. The last born not so well.

August 4th: A delightful day. Strong wind going about 9 ½ knots. The poor little sailor boy is nearly gone. Got a large tin of soup and bouille and likewise some rice, got some castor oil for Kate, ¼ of tea and ½ lb of sugar. Washed some clothes (from les infants). A delightful moonlight night, got for dinner bouille, beef and processed potatoes – the latter very good. Mrs Wheatley (Whitely) kindly came and suckled my little babes and I am certain that was the saving of my youngest one's life. Kate doing very well indeed. The sea quite green.

August 5th: Another delightful day. Children doing very well indeed, thank God and also dear Kate. Got a small tin of concentrated gravy soup from the Doctor and gave the little ones some castor oil. The poor little sailor boy was gathered to his father at ½ past 1 this morning. Cause of death dysentery and at 20 minutes to 9 o'clock we all assembled on the greater deck to witness the solemn ceremony of a sea funeral service. The Detachment under arms. The poor little fellow was sewn up in a hammock having sufficient shot at his feet to sink it. The corpse was borne to the weather gangway by 4 men on a grating, the body covered with the Union Jack. The parson commenced the service until he came to the words "*We commit his body to the deep*" where two men raised the grating, when the body glided into the water causing when it struck the water a hollow unearthly sound, something more than can be described which must be heard to feel all that it tells to the Soul of man. Pickles served at 1 pint and a half for the month and likewise treacle. This evening Kate very unwell, vomiting and complaining of thirst. All hands turned up at 10 o'clock pm the cause is as if the prisoners had attempted to carry the ship, men turned up very quick, formed up, reported all present and then dismissed.

August 6th: A delightful day. Wind very light- drawing ahead. Got a few things washed for the children. Kate and children doing very well thank God. Mrs Hardman finished Kate's flannel petticoat. Doctor ordered Kate a glass of beer daily at 12 o'clock and her dinner from the cuddy table. Served out with rice and vinegar. Some kind friend

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assisted me this morning in eating my rations *sans ceremony* by taking the largest piece of pork.

August 7th: Another delightful day. Wind very light. Kate and children doing very well, Kate got her beer and dinner from the cuddy also some sweet biscuit.

August 8th: Wind light but occasionally squally. Kate and children doing very well, got her beer and dinner. Had great doubts respecting the quantity of water issued to the Detachment and also I am afraid that there is a deal of underhand work respecting the issue of rations for I presume that not one man on board knows what he is entitled to. I made up the quantity for 40 men 34 women and 34 children of water and found that instead of drawing 13 horse buckets and better we were only getting 12 and $\frac{1}{2}$, presuming each horse bucket held 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons whereas report speaks that one of the buckets held only 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons and yet at this glaring fraud our Sergt Major must have been cognisant for when he or the mate hears that the men were determined to measure the buckets lo and behold the diminutive gentleman vanished and one of more portly dimensions appeared thus through the kindness of one of our own draft our benevolent intentions was frustrated. Corp Fitzpatrick asked me to make up the water which I did willingly and which he showed to the autocrat, who with dignity becoming his high office refused the worthy corporal and answer as to whether it was or was not correct. I then went to my friend Bolton who kindly made it up with me. In the evening we convened a meeting of old soldiers to take their sense upon the subject who unanimously agreed with us to take proceedings to find out in what respect we were placed in regard to our rations, the case I will class under the following heads

1st What we are entitled to as a guard

2nd What quantity of bouille are we entitled to

3rd What quantity of flour, currants and suet

4th and what do we get in place of the dram of liquor stopped

1st. As a guard we are entitled to 1 pound of meat the same quantity of biscuit, fair and just weight.

But it appears that the whole of the ration beef and pork is put on board each piece supposed to weigh beef 8 lbs, pork 4 lbs, certainly that might have been the weight when first placed in brine for the beef when boiled does not yield to each man more than 3 ozs of meat on an average. That must have been procured by the owners for to realize a greater profit and such flagrant imposition is severely open to complaint on arrival.

2nd The quantity of bouille or preserved meat is the same as the salt provisions 1lb for each. Now the actual quantity issued is 46 lbs for all hands viz 40 lbs leaving 6 lbs for 34 women and 34 children but I find that the whole is placed in a copper and a certain quantity of water added, it is served out at the same ratio as tea 1 pint for a man the same for a woman and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint for a child should still withal leaving a marked deficiency for at their own calculation it would only give 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz's and I find on reference to the scale of rations state as a guard we are entitled to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb but do we get it – certainly not.

3rd The quantity of flour we get we know not from our prima but we find we are entitled to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb but not word respecting currants that we receive and also some flour for the suet. The thing as it stands appears quite ridiculous to imagine that if Government allows flour to be issued to the troops that suet is also allowed or how do they imagine that a pudding is to be made with water only. Now where I come from, India, we were allowed 1 lb of flour and likewise of suet and if a person stops 4 months in Tilbury for the all-important office of Sergt Major he should consider whether or not he possesses

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the qualifications necessary to fulfil that of Sergt Major together with his own and look to the interest of all and not succumb to the capriciousness of those who on arrival can do him no good but should things not prove correct may be worse than the torpedo who glides smoothly along and in a moment sends forth its electricity and paralyses all your efforts.

4th We have received nothing as yet in lieu of our ½ dram unless they call mustard and vinegar but I find we are entitled to a ... also only ½ dram - ordered to my duty.

August 9th: A delightful day. Cleaned the Barracks. Kate able to get up. A small cutter passed us from Rio de Janeiro bound for Havre de Grace, hoisted French colours. Children doing well –thank God, Kate continues to get her dinner.

August 10th: Sunday, heavy rain and squally. Made the pudding after a fashion with rain water. Everything miserable all obliged to stop below which made it almost unsupportable. Got my things all wet what I expected in the Doldrums. Service only for the prisoners. Saw the first of the "*Minden Times*"; the editorial introduction speaks not well of those that have the conducting of it. Solicits contributions.

August 11th: The same as yesterday, squally and rainy, miserable. Kate and the children doing well. Expect to make the line about Friday. Another trio or rather to give some idea of the man, a brute in every sense of the word, and a parent too, but unfortunately that is a word that many have, but how do they use that authority so placed in their hands so Diocletianus would have done to torture for pleasure for in this instance for when the individual spoken of (Mangan) chastised, not satisfied in inflicting a severe flagellation but must take the object of his own ire and dashed down upon board the same as a thing inanimate. A man who professes humanity and was the first to confine a man for striking his wife but because to be a sergeant doing corporals duty that all he does should pass with impunity, I was necessitated to report his brutality and I imagine that he will have more guard over a temper that he himself if imbued with perception must be a burthen, but still could be curbed more that he apparently shows a disposition to do. A man that can behave to wife and children in the manner stated is unworthy of a name and such a one would be afraid to contend with a man disposed to take up the cudgels.

August 12th: Light winds accompanies with occasional showers. Kate and Children doing well. One of the women placed in confinement, two prisoners put in irons one handcuffed.

August 13th: Strong head winds not going our course. Kate and children doing well. A prisoner flogged – 3 dozen.

August 14th: Strong head winds not going our course. Kate and Children doing well.

August 15th: The winds the same as yesterday making no better progress. Kate and children doing well.

August 16th: The winds still the same. Kate and children doing very well. 2nd number of *The Minden Times*.

[MORE NEXT ISSUE.](#)

THE OLD BARRACKS, PERTH.

AN INTERESTING HISTORY.

HOW THE PENSIONERS LIVED.

(By Daisy M. Bates, F.R.A.S.)

(See Illustrations.)

This history of the old building which dominates not only St. George's Terrace, but practically all Perth, is not one in which fine Lords and Ladies figure, nor is it a place where high revelry reigned at any one period. Rather is it a history of humble people, men who for services "rendered to their Queen and country" were taken from the enrolled pensioners' lists of the British islands, and brought to the little West Australian settlement to end their days in the enjoyment of secured quarters and a modest daily allowance.

Much might be said in praise of these men and the wives who accompanied them in their exile. It may be safely assumed from the names of their descendants, that the majority of the pensioners, and, of course, their wives, were Irish, and to them of all others, for we Celts have a huge strain of sentimentalism mixed with our really heart-deep love of the "cuid-sod," the pain of leaving their native land—that Isle of Beauty, which it really is—must have given them many and many a wakeful night spent in hushed sorrow on the long, long voyage to far-off Western Australia, and for many days after their arrival on its sandy, unlovely soil.

They were Brave Women,

those pensioners' wives, who accompanied their husbands to the unknown land of Australia, or Oceania "as it was in our geography books." They brought the courage of their race with them, which helped them to trudge lightly over the heavy sandy tracks of those early days and treat with many a lilt and joke the sharp roughness of Colonial life as contrasted with the humble comforts of their English or Irish barrack life. Their descendants should be proud of such forbears. The old barracks, which, however, is not the oldest, since the oldest barracks were situated in what is now Barrack-street, were built in 1863 and finished in 1865, Alexander Halliday and James Britain being the contractors. It is constructed in the battlemented Tudor style, and in those early days must have been considered an imposing edifice by the residents of Perth, standing out so boldly in its red newness over the grey-green of bush and sand that sloped down towards Perth proper. Sherwood (also a brewer), the architect, also built what is now Judge Parker's house, but the battlemented Tudor embellishments of the house came later and were consonant with the rising fortunes of the family. On entering the front gate of the building, we pass through an archway, underneath what was once the clock tower, where a large clock, regulated by the old-fashioned weights, apportioned the hours of "sentry go," and the manifold others hours of duty of the pensioners within the barracks. The bell which struck the hours of the clock was also the fire bell, and was clanged loudly whenever a fire occurred.

Description of the Building.

Mr. Howra, the watchmaker of those days, held the contract for the regulation and winding up of all Government clocks, and he journeyed up weekly and gladdened the hearts of the children of the barracks, who loved to watch him open the casements and adjust the weights. Excitements ran small in those days. On the right of the archway were six cells for drunken or refractory pensioners, and on the left was the guard-room (although this appears to be a matter of uncertainty, since what is now known as the guard-room adjoins what used to be the bakehouse.) Over the cells and guard or orderly room on the first floor were four large rooms, two on each side, used as store-room, ward-room, or orderly room, office and children's school-room. These have now been transformed into offices for the Minister for Works, the Under-Secretary and staff. Over these again, on the second floor, were four more large rooms, used doubtless as store-rooms, etc., now the offices of the Engineer-in-Chief and staff. These completed the front of the building.

From the top of the tower, which is reached by a stairs and ladder, a most comprehensive view of Perth is obtained; the view taking in all the points of the compass, so that one wondered whether probable raids by the aborigines were thought of in planning the building, as, if an outlook were constantly kept from the top of the tower, no one could approach the building from any side without being observed. The building is a little over 40 feet in height. From the ground floor to the clock-room floor, the height was 14ft. 7in.; from the floor of the clock-room to the office above about 9ft. 9in.; and from the office floor to top of lead flat was 16ft. 10in.—in all 41 feet 3 inches. This disposes of the central part of the building. The wings projecting from either side contained each

Thirty-three Rooms, Eleven on Each Floor.

On the ground floor, the first room on the left entering from the archway was the canteen, which was opened for two hours twice daily, at 12 noon and at 6 p.m. How the thirsty men must have watched for the opening of the canteen! and what a rush of business would be transacted in the all too short two hours of its opening! There was no need for the canteen bell to ring the opening of the doors, I am sure! The angles of the wings on each floor were occupied by the married Sergeants-Major and Sergeants, who were allotted three rooms each for themselves their wives and families. There were six of these three-roomed apartments in the building, all the rest being married privates' quarters, each private having two rooms. Of the thirty-three rooms which each wing contained, twenty-four were twelve feet square, and ten or twelve feet in height. These were the married privates' quarters, and I have been told that a man and his wife and ten children have lived in one of these tiny homes.

The living rooms (all the living rooms opened on to the verandahs, there being but one entrance to all of them) had a fireplace, dresser, with crockery, table, and forms—no chairs. The bed-room held wooden pegs over which a curtain was drawn, and an iron bedstead and bedding, children's cots, perhaps, but where the cots could be placed is a mystery. Sheets and blankets were also allowed all, with the broad-arrow marked upon them. The sergeants' quarters, although they possessed three rooms, were not nearly as comfortable as the two-roomed homes of the married privates. Two of the rooms, being in the angles of the building were of irregular triangular shape and small size, and it must have needed some "contriving" to fit in the regulation furniture supplied. There being but

One Entry to Each Set of Rooms.

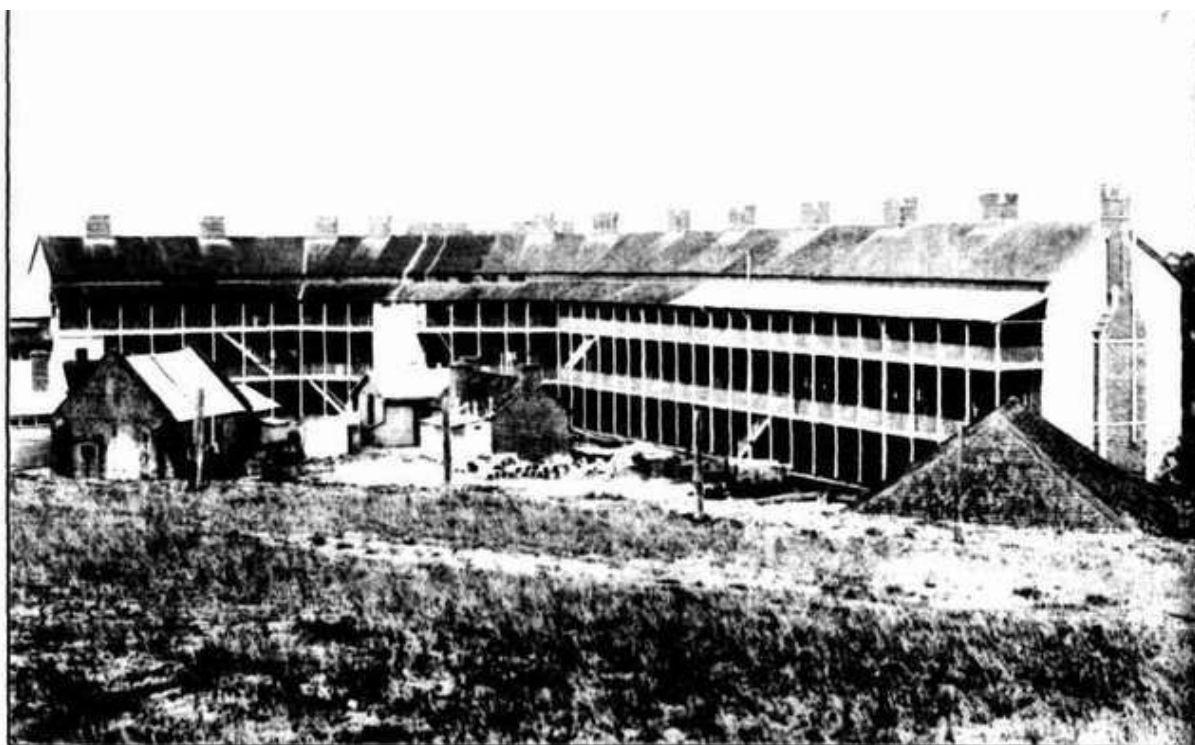
one went through the living room to the bedroom of each. All the bedroom windows looked out upon the terrace, but being "Tudor built," not much view could be obtained from them unless one were moderately tall. However, the lives of the occupants were too busy to allow them time to think of scenery, and such abstract things. (It is possible that one of the large rooms in the centre of the building was a single men's or "widowers" sleeping room.) Sergeant-Major McCarthy was in charge in the early sixties, the pensioners then numbering probably 1 sergeant-major, 5 sergeants, and 24 married privates. Doubtless some single men or soldiers were also quartered in the barracks, as I understand that some men from the 12th and 16th regiments were called away to Melbourne during the riots there, and also to New Zealand at the time of the Maori war.

Colonel Harvest, who resided at Mount House, was in command of the barracks, and from all accounts appears to have been a sort of mixture of "the Bull of Bashan and the Sucking Dove."

The pensioners mounted guard daily and nightly at the old prisons, and a corporal and three privates guarded Government House from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., their hours at the latter being two hours on and four hours off. Their guard-room is still standing near Mr. Feakes's cottage, in Government Gardens. A sentry was stationed inside the barrack gates. The present Under-Secretary's office was Col. Harvest's office in those days, and here he and Captain Finnerty adjudicated on the drunks and recalcitrants and administered a "jacketing" to those who fell from grace. Courts-martial were also held in this office.

The Rations Allotted

to the married pensioners were 1½ lbs of meat per day, and weren't there rare rows when the meat was being cut up, and distributed! For some had to take the scrag ends, since a beast was not all composed of sirloin! and a sheep had only two good mutton legs! Black sugar, tea and flour were also supplied and besides this the married men received 3/6 per day, not a princely sum in those days, but then the pensioners' wives and daughters did not vie with their richer fellow-citizens in extravagance of dress and ornaments, and a pensioner's wife and daughter told me that in those days "they never want



A REAR VIEW OF THE OLD BARRACKS AT THE TOP OF ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, THE EARLY HISTORY OF WHICH IS RELATED BY MRS. DAISY M. BATES, F.R.A.S., ON PAGE 43.

ed a pound when it was necessary to spend one." They were all able to save something weekly from what we would now consider very meagre pay. Single men received 1/- per day besides their rations. There were two bakehouses for the married and single men, where the cooking of each was done, the "bakers" being drawn from the pensioners themselves. The wash-house adjoined the bakehouses, and near them was the engine house, which contained a fire engine. Where is that fire engine now, one wonders? Close to the engine room, a well was sunk, and from here the water was pumped as far as the hose reached. Two other wells were sunk in the court or barrack yard, and worked with a windlass, and the water in these was "the best that could be tasted." The refuse water from the wash-house had to be taken over to the hill, where Parliament House now stands, the clothes lines being also on this rise. Much grumbling was indulged in over this necessary arrangement, which must have been most tiring during the hot summer months.

Mrs. Clinton's baby was the first girl baby to be born in the barracks, and naturally her advent was the occasion for a fine "christening" to take place, when her health was drunk in tea, beer, and whisky, according to the taste and fancy of the drinkers. The young boys belonging to the barracks were known amongst their confreres in the town as

The "Barrack Shiners."

In the lowlying lands of West Perth, towards Leederville, warders and older pensioners lived in several two-roomed cottages, built for them by the Government, and so many of these were built in the district, that the place was known as Pensioners' Village. These pensioners were allowed a certain sum to build these cottages, but one man, Houston, a tailor, refused to accept the money, and, as I am told, "the Queen had to build him a house in Murray-street (which still stands near the Empire Hotel), the house costing £250. There's Houston for you!"

The young sons of Pensioners' Village were known as the "Swamp Shiners," and many a battle royal occurred between the Barrack and Swamp Shiners. The parties met for cricket, football or hurley or some game that boys delight in, but no game ever ended between them without a fight for mastery, one or the other side of "Shiners" coming out second-best. There were dances and wakes, too, amongst them, either of which brought excitement in their train. A plate of salt and one of soil were always placed on the body of the corpse, these being supposed to be effectual in keeping the body from swelling.

The square inside the barracks yard was bricked over and washed daily; and neatness and cleanliness reigned throughout. Not a single article of any kind, chair or table, was allowed on the verandahs, which were also scrubbed daily, and whatever temptation the mothers might have had to place their babies and the little one's toys on the spacious balcony, it had to be resisted, for a breach of this rule meant a "jacketing." Every night at 10 "Taps," as they were called, sounded, that is,

The Corporal went Round to every Door and tapped to know if the inmates were within. The father or mother answered; and the man went on. If no answer came a report had to be made. Are we to believe that the daughters of this regiment found no way of communicating with their citizen lovers? And must we think that the sons of the regiment also abided by the rules obtaining? Even before Kipling invented the term "there has been a 'shut-eye' sentry in every regiment, who because of his own youth, was merciful to the younger generation. We may be sure that "Lights out" at 10 p.m., did not always mean sleep for the young lads and lasses, who stole to many a town dance and found their way safely back to the parent nest at this or that time in the morning. Love finds a way through bars, locks and sentries, said my lovely friend, who is now in the 60's. "We were well watched, but we managed it all the same, and when lights had to go out we got sheets and quilts and hung them over the table and got under it and read stories. We even did our washing after blocking windows doors and keyholes, so that we should have it first on the line next day. There was many an escape we had, and if we had been caught by the Colonel it would have been all up with us, providin' his mood was wrong with him; but we had a friend here and there, who helped us, and never a girl or boy who was real wishful to go to a dance, but got there all right."

The Dances and Lovers' Meetings

were well-earned in the fears and heart throbs that preceded them as the young girl or boy glided from shadow to shadow until well away from possible espionage. There were not many tell-tales amongst the little band of pensioners, and a kindly feeling and friendly appears to have prevailed amongst them, except, perhaps, during the division of the meat, but little quarrels of that kind did not lengthen beyond the day, for she who got the scrap end to-day might secure the join to-morrow, and so peace came to her.

These little happenings filled up their daily lives, which ran on in slow course for years. In 1873 a Fives or Tennis Court—unroofed—was built, and was called a skittle alley by the frequenters. This gave amusement to the men when off duty, but there were no privileges granted the women, who continued to find their own amusements as best they might. However, they could always gossip, for that resource appears to be open to all women from my lady in her boudoir to the black woman in her maia, and so many little "I thought so!" "Oh, really now!" "She never!" and such like comments enlivened the hours of idleness few as they were, amongst the women.

Fire at the Barracks.

In 1887 a fire broke out in one of the rooms in the barracks, just over the archway near the east wing and burnt both wing and lower floor, the old clock sharing in the destruction. A number of prisoners had to be allowed out to try and quench the flames, and both men and women helped in fetching water from river and wells. The fire-engine was hard at work, and several sailors were commandeered to pump water from the river below, the sailors singing their chanties as they pumped the water up from the river. The fire was not subdued until the flames had just reached the west wing, and the ruins were smouldering for many days afterwards. No lives were lost, but a prisoner had a leg broken. Some other prisoners were reprieved, because of the special effort they made to save life and property. The little personal possessions of the pensioners and their wives, who lived in the east wing were all destroyed, and cherished little tokens from their old homes were mourned for many a day; pictures of home or parent, little mementoes in sampler or antimacassar, the hundred and one little things that these home lovers had brought with them to the new country to keep reminding them of the old, all these went in the blaze, together with marriage lines, good conduct medals and certificates for this or that service. The homeless families had to sleep on the hills above the barracks, making holes in the sand to rest their bodies until accommodation was found for them elsewhere. The clock bell that was fire and alarm bell as well—was it destroyed in the fire, I wonder, or where is it? Across the road from the barracks, in the building that is now part of the High School, was then the pensioners' hospital, Sergeant Scanlan being in charge, and here the injured prisoner was taken, and any others who had met with slight accidents while fighting the fire. The hospital also became a temporary refuge for some of the homeless pensioners. Measles and whooping cough filled the ward, of the hospital on one or two occasions, but the excellence of the site upon which the barracks were built (it is said to have been one of the best-built places in Perth) the order and cleanliness of the pensioners' lives, and the clearness and purity of the West Australian climate, prevented any outbreaks of illness occurring and mitigated greatly the risks of infection from imported diseases, and so except when the measles and whooping cough epidemics arrived,

There was Very Little Serious Illness

amongst the band of pensioners and their wives and families. Both men and women were sturdy, healthy sons and daughters of the home soil; a fact evidenced by the extreme longevity of many of them, and colds and "rheuma," now so common amongst the younger generation, were thrown off without help from doctor or medicine. "We did a good day's washing, and our colds soon left us." The natives helped them very fitfully in some of the wood cutting and carting. They tell me the natives used to "winnow" wheat by lifting it in bucketsful and emptying it out on a sail cloth spread in the open, the wind blowing the chaff away—a very primitive winnowing machine.

Pensioners' widows were allowed to retain their quarters after their husbands' death, but when the Public Works Department took over the building, the widows were allowed 8/- per week for rent in lieu of the quarters, which had so long been their homes. Partitions have now been removed between the old sets of rooms, but one or two are still intact to show what they once were like. The bakehouses, wash-house, store-rooms and engine room are still standing, but alterations have been made with them, too. The old powder magazine, with its strong buttresses has not been touched, and retains its possession of the ground whereon it was built so many years ago, but everything else is rapidly changing and soon the old shingle roofs of many of the outbuildings will rot away and their places will be taken with the hideous corrugated iron, which adds so much to the heat of summer days, and the cold of winter nights. The history of the barracks is but a chronicle of the doings of humble folk, who, however, came to this country in the capacity of soldiers serving Her Majesty, which they did right-faithfully, and who can say more of Governor or administrator?

The old barracks which has apparently many more years of life left in it, may fitly serve as a reminder to the sons and daughters of these fine capable men and women, for whose home it was built, that they in their turn should do their best to maintain the traditions for which their fathers and mothers exiled themselves from their beloved homeland.

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EPG GAZETTE

October 2020

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ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

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**No Meetings until
Covid Restrictions
Enable us to have
Full access
To
Our Meeting Rooms
At Unit 4
May street premises.**



October 2020

Convenor's Report

by Glenys Fuller

Dear Members

Thank you for your loyalty over the recent troubled times, we still have over 100 members of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard (EPG) Special Interest Group (SIG) ... consistent with past numbers.

As you can appreciate, organising gatherings, meetings and outings for the group has been difficult and will remain so for the rest of this calendar year.

Our main activities over the last six months have been:

- Production of the EPG Gazette
- Membership renewals
- Maintaining our Facebook page
- Updating and reviewing our website (special thanks to Jeanette Lee for her work on this)

Your Committee has recently met and has made the following decisions to sustain the EPG SIG

- Because of our reduced activity all current memberships are extended until the end of 2021
- The EPG Gazette will continue to be electronically published six monthly or sooner, until things return to normal
- The Committee elected at the 2019 AGM under Convenor Glenys Fuller will stay in place until an AGM can be organised for later in 2021
- There will be no General meetings or outings organised for the balance of 2020
- We will continue to maintain our website and Facebook pages

Thank you to all members for your support.

Website: <https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/593346994190403>

Minden Journal

Continued

Transcribed By Jeanette Lee

August

August 1st: A delightful day. Wind very light although we have been in the NE trades for 4 days, but I am afraid we shall loose them soon: At ½ past 7 o'clock ordered to parade to address the sentence of Corporal punishment caused into effect against the boy confined last night. The preparations were 1st a grating against the bulwark tied underneath which was another for the culprit to stand upon. The Guard fell in and fixed bayonets the remainder of the men without arms. The boatswain having the cat in a handkerchief. The prisoner having taken off his jacket and undone his braces his trowsers (sic) down, his hands were tied and then the Doctor read his crime which was 1st for striking one of his comrades with a tin pot and when remonstrated told the party he might B... himself. Convicts named Jackson and Campbell interceded with the Doctor for him and he forgave him the 2 dozen lashes awarded. The boy seemed a very determined character but on the whole seemed rather frightened. Got for dinner Pork and Pea bullets. The rum was reported today by Griffen for being adulterated which it was investigated before the Captain and the opinion of Bolton and Campbell asked. The former asserted that it caused stupefaction induced by the liquor been drugged and the latter stated it was not so good as when we first came on board. Captain stated it was not the thing and ordered what was left in the barrel to be thrown overboard and Griffen to have his grog out of a fresh barrel. Lat 29° Long 16°. Passed this morning some part of a wreck, either the hull of a vessel or a mast. Music and dancing in the evening. Kate beginning to complain.

August 2nd: Woke this morning at ½ past 3 o'clock and found my dear Kate in labour had to get out of her bed and was sitting on the floor. Shortly after I came Mrs Mangan got up and also Mrs Foran and rendered her every assistance. I went to the Doctor who came immediately but at the critical moment if had not been for Mrs Gaunt I don't know what might have been the consequence for my dear Kate was delivered of twins (daughters). The first had a natural presentation but the second little darling came feet foremost and the poor mother had not the power to assist it the pain having ceased, therefore Mrs Gaunt had to recourse to means usually used on such occasions and when the darling creature was born it was about lifeless, quite black from suffocation when the good midwife rubbed its chest with rum and inflated its lungs by breathing into it and when it felt the life breath restored to it it cried faintly. Mrs Ramsey washed and dressed them and then they were put into a bed prepared for them in Mrs Mangan's berth. The first was born at 20 minutes past 5 o'clock and the twin at ½ past. Got 2 beds and a blanket and large linen sheet from the Doctor out of the hospital and likewise a yard and a quarter of flannel to wrap the children in whilst being washed. The women having put a clean suit on Kate, she was then removed into her own place from the table (that being the place she was confined). I certainly must forever feel grateful to all who kindly attended upon her and may God reward them two thousand fold and to Mrs Gaunt the greatest praise is due for rescuing my poor child from the tomb and to whom I am under such a debt of gratitude that I know not in what way to repay. Gratitude they say is cold so it may be with some but with me it is favours done which pecuniary remuneration never should efface. All the sailors asked very kindly respecting her and indeed the Detachment. The sailors on Saturday evening have generally a song in their

quarters (which are only divided from us by a thin partition) but owing to Kate's recent accouchement went on deck and there had it- for which kindness I am very grateful verifying the old statement '*the sympathy of a tar is without ostentation springing forth from the source of pure affection, the heart.*' Their hand is always open to assist and ever ready to protect and where the tie of reparation is broken none so keenly feel it as Britain's glory- her sailors.

August 2nd: Mrs Gaunt watched until near 12 o'clock when Mrs Foran relieved her owing to the weak state of the children arising from the very frequent disposition to reject phlegm from the stomach which will do them a great deal of good. After all was over the Doctor promised the persons attending a bottle of wine which Mrs Ramsey saw delivered by the steward to the Sergt Major at 11 o'clock am but from that time nothing more was heard about it until 9 o'clock when the superior came and told Mrs Ramsey and Gaunt that he wished to speak to them, accordingly they went and were given a glass of wine each, of course honoured by Mrs Sergt Major who turned sick at the very smell of rum being too powerful for her ladyship's olfactory nerves but the smell from the divine port was too great a temptation she drinking of that freely which belonged to others. Who would an action unbecoming to the character of one who considered herself a brilliant of the first water. Warmed the ... by the lamp during the night for the chickees,

August 3rd: Kate had a very good night, washed last night the bed and found it this morning not the thing still left the things towing overboard, Made Kate some ... at 6 o'clock am, got some bread from the steward by order of the Captain and some sweet biscuits, made some toast which she enjoyed very much – gave Mary a bath. One of the men placed in confinement for abusing his wife. The non-com officers of the watch have received strict orders not to allow any of their respective Guards off the poop during their watch, any man infringing this order to be severely punished.

Devine Service the same routine as last Sunday. The convicts have got on white trowsers (sic). Mr Ryder's child very bad, I think a slow fever. One of the men, Whitely, confined for 24 hours in a box sufficient for a man to stand upright in but not any room to sit down in for complaining for not having been relieved during Devine Service. The last born not so well.

August 4th: A delightful day. Strong wind going about 9 ½ knots. The poor little sailor boy is nearly gone. Got a large tin of soup and bouille and likewise some rice, got some castor oil for Kate, ¼ of tea and ½ lb of sugar. Washed some clothes (from les infants). A delightful moonlight night, got for dinner bouille, beef and processed potatoes – the latter very good. Mrs Wheatley (Whitely) kindly came and suckled my little babes and I am certain that was the saving of my youngest one's life. Kate doing very well indeed. The sea quite green.

August 5th: Another delightful day. Children doing very well indeed, thank God and also dear Kate. Got a small tin of concentrated gravy soup from the Doctor and gave the little ones some castor oil. The poor little sailor boy was gathered to his father at ½ past 1 this morning. Cause of death dysentery and at 20 minutes to 9 o'clock we all assembled on the greater deck to witness the solemn ceremony of a sea funeral service. The Detachment under arms. The poor little fellow was sewn up in a hammock having sufficient shot at his feet to sink it. The corpse was borne to the weather gangway by 4 men on a grating, the body covered with the Union Jack. The parson commenced the service until he came to the words "*We commit his body to the deep*" where two men raised the grating, when the body glided into the water causing when it struck the water a hollow unearthly sound, something more than can be described which must be heard to feel all that it tells to the Soul of man. Pickles served at 1 pint and a half for the month and likewise treacle. This evening Kate very unwell, vomiting and complaining of thirst. All hands turned up at 10 o'clock pm the cause is as if the prisoners had attempted to carry the ship, men turned up very quick, formed up, reported all present and then dismissed.

August 6th: A delightful day. Wind very light- drawing ahead. Got a few things washed for the children. Kate and children doing very well thank God. Mrs Hardman finished Kate's flannel petticoat. Doctor ordered Kate a glass of beer daily at 12 o'clock and her dinner from the cuddy

table. Served out with rice and vinegar. Some kind friend assisted me this morning in eating my rations *sans ceremony* by taking the largest piece of pork.

August 7th: Another delightful day. Wind very light. Kate and children doing very well, Kate got her beer and dinner from the cuddy also some sweet biscuit.

August 8th: Wind light but occasionally squally. Kate and children doing very well, got her beer and dinner. Had great doubts respecting the quantity of water issued to the Detachment and also I am afraid that there is a deal of underhand work respecting the issue of rations for I presume that not one man on board knows what he is entitled to. I made up the quantity for 40 men 34 women and 34 children of water and found that instead of drawing 13 horse buckets and better we were only getting 12 and ½, presuming each horse bucket held 5 ½ gallons whereas report speaks that one of the buckets held only 4 ½ gallons and yet at this glaring fraud our Sergt Major must have been cognisant for when he or the mate hears that the men were determined to measure the buckets lo and behold the diminutive gentleman vanished and one of more portly dimensions appeared thus through the kindness of one of our own draft our benevolent intentions was frustrated. Corp Fitzpatrick asked me to make up the water which I did willingly and which he showed to the autocrat, who with dignity becoming his high office refused the worthy corporal and answer as to whether it was or was not correct. I then went to my friend Bolton who kindly made it up with me. In the evening we convened a meeting of old soldiers to take their sense upon the subject who unanimously agreed with us to take proceedings to find out in what respect we were placed in regard to our rations, the case I will class under the following heads

1st What we are entitled to as a guard

2nd What quantity of bouille are we entitled to

3rd What quantity of flour, currants and suet

4th and what do we get in place of the dram of liquor stopped

1st. As a guard we are entitled to 1 pound of meat the same quantity of biscuit, fair and just weight.

But it appears that the whole of the ration beef and pork is put on board each piece supposed to weigh beef 8 lbs, pork 4 lbs, certainly that might have been the weight when first placed in brine for the beef when boiled does not yield to each man more than 3 ozs of meat on an average. That must have been procured by the owners for to realize a greater profit and such flagrant imposition is severely open to complaint on arrival.

2nd The quantity of bouille or preserved meat is the same as the salt provisions 1lb for each. Now the actual quantity issued is 46 lbs for all hands viz 40 lbs leaving 6 lbs for 34 women and 34 children but I find that the whole is placed in a copper and a certain quantity of water added, it is served out at the same ratio as tea 1 pint for a man the same for a woman and ½ pint for a child should still withal leaving a marked deficiency for at their own calculation it would only give 6 ½ ozs and I find on reference to the scale of rations state as a guard we are entitled to ¾ lb but do we get it – certainly not.

3rd The quantity of flour we get we know not from our prima but we find we are entitled to ¾ lb but not word respecting currants that we receive and also some flour for the suet. The thing as it stands appears quite ridiculous to imagine that if Government allows flour to be issued to the troops that suet is also allowed or how do they imagine that a pudding is to be made with water only. Now where I come from, India, we were allowed 1 lb of flour and likewise of suet and if a person stops 4 months in Tilbury for the all-important office of Sergt Major he should consider whether or not he possesses the qualifications necessary to fulfil that of Sergt Major together with his own and look to the interest of all and not succumb to the capriciousness of those who on arrival can do him no good but should things not prove correct may be worse than the torpedo who glides smoothly along and in a moment sends forth its electricity and paralyses all your efforts

4th We have received nothing as yet in lieu of our ½ dram unless they call mustard and vinegar but I find we are entitled to a ... also only ½ dram - ordered to my duty.

August 9th: A delightful day. Cleaned the Barracks. Kate able to get up. A small cutter passed us from Rio de Janeiro bound for Havre de Grace, hoisted French colours. Children doing well – thank God, Kate continues to get her dinner.

August 10th: Sunday, heavy rain and squally. Made the pudding after a fashion with rain water. Everything miserable all obliged to stop below which made it almost unsupportable. Got my things all wet what I expected in the Doldrums. Service only for the prisoners. Saw the first of the “*Minden Times*”; the editorial introduction speaks not well of those that have the conducting of it. Solicits contributions.

August 11th: The same as yesterday, squally and rainy, miserable. Kate and the children doing well. Expect to make the line about Friday. Another tiro or rather to give some idea of the man, a brute in every sense of the word, and a parent too, but unfortunately that is a word that many have, but how do they use that authority so placed in their hands so Diocletianus would have done to torture for pleasure for in this instance for when the individual spoken of (Mangan) chastised, not satisfied in inflicting a severe flagellation but must take the object of his own ire and dashed down upon board the same as a thing inanimate. A man who professes humanity and was the first to confine a man for striking his wife but because to be a sergeant doing corporals duty that all he does should pass with impunity, I was necessitated to report his brutality and I imagine that he will have more guard over a temper that he himself if imbued with perception must be a burthen, but still could be curbed more that he apparently shows a disposition to do. A man that can behave to wife and children in the manner stated is unworthy of a name and such a one would be afraid to contend with a man disposed to take up the cudgels.

August 12th: Light winds accompanies with occasional showers. Kate and Children doing well. One of the women placed in confinement, two prisoners put in irons one handcuffed.

August 13th: Strong head winds not going our course. Kate and children doing well. A prisoner flogged – 3 dozen.

August 14th: Strong head winds not going our course. Kate and Children doing well.

August 15th: The winds the same as yesterday making no better progress. Kate and children doing well.

August 16th: The winds still the same. Kate and children doing very well. 2nd number of *The Minden Times*.

August 17th: Sunday. A delightful day but unfortunately the wind continues still. Kate and children doing well. Devine Service at ½ past 10 o'clock. Dr Barry gave a very good sermon on the different descriptions of Grace and had he time I doubt not but it would have been very instructive. Had another perusal of *The Minden Times*, the most juicy one about a detached cottage to let, alluding to the recent confinement of a man to his wife in the sentry box. The former for shaking her and the latter for drinking his grog where she would have remained only for a prisoner who would not work and for insubordination was placed in irons, and after all in spite of the orders given not to walk about would do so and consequently the Doctor put the handcuffs on and so was placed in confinement so liberating the incarcerated this was on the 13th.

August 18th: Still delightful weather but a head wind going well through the water. But do not expect to make the line before Sunday. Sergt Major threatened to confine the first man whose piece misfires, but *entre nous* I am thinking that he will think ere he does so. All the watch the independents have spoken their sentiments so plain not to be misunderstood. Kate and children doing well.

August 19th: Still a head wind going heavily through the water but very warm. No awning spread. Washed things taken down after dinner. Rain from 10 to 11pm and winds freshened.

Pass the equator at midnight – great alarm amongst the women respecting the visit of Neptune.

Got a copy of the rations we are entitled to. A ship in sight.

August 20th: Another delightful day. Captain, first and second mate busy taking a lunar and found the difference between London time and us is 1 hour 20 minutes –advance. Spoke (to) the *Angel of Liverpool* at ½ past 8 o'clock. Sighted another but too far to speak to her. A dispute between the Sergt Major and Sergeant Ramsey respecting his children's water, the former asserts that it is drawn but I positively deny it for all that is returned after is 108 whereas it should be 110. I gave a statement to Ramsey for his information, there is a screw loose some where or how comes it that he can get a small beaker full of fresh water daily holding more than 4 gallons. About ½ past 6 o'clock had a visit from His Oceanic Majesty, then a Royal Barber commenced operations first on the butcher and then on two others but the ceremony was not what I had seen owing to the prisoners we have on board. The ceremony was concluded by the Captain ordering grog for the sailors, after which the Detachment partook of his generosity when the fiddler struck up. The Ball opened by Mr Maddox (matelot) and Miss Jemima Fleetham, another gentleman decorated in women's attire, which caused great merriment, after which Maddox favoured us with a song "*Her Majesty's Favourite Monkey*." Washed. Kate not well got some peppermint and aniseed for her, which done her a great deal of good. The eldest child very restless all night.

August 21st: A delightful day. Got the SE trades going about 8 knots. Set the ... sail. Doctor spoke to the Sergt Major to serve out to the women their extra allowed oatmeal, butter, rice, treacle. Pickles – but he takes his time but let him beware how he plays with us for a the present time we (the men) are entitled to 2 pints of oatmeal together with mustard, pepper etc. Doctor ordered Kate wine in lieu of beer but when I went to get the wine allowed to her to have she had to have beer and dinner until Saturday. The barrel not sufficient to contain the allowance of water drawn, still have 2 days due, and yet the women cannot get water to boil the rice or oatmeal. Made up the quantity of bouille allowed which is lbs 49, 2ozs tea, 1lb 6ozs sugar...

August 22nd: Another delightful day. Going direct south expect soon to see *Crux Australis*. Washed. Kate and children doing well. The children have slight eruptions of the skin, but they are drying fast. The prisoners are served out with wine mixed with their lime juice. The Hospital assistant convict Ogle placed in confinement. The women served out with butter and treacle. The Trades freshened towards 8 o'clock going delightfully up to 12 o'clock pm, obliged to go and sleep on deck through the infernal rats dancing a polka over me which is anything but agreeable particularly when they promenade beneath the blankets Oh! How pleasant to feel their tiny feet and perhaps a nibble. Lat 7°23 Long 21°43

August 23rd: During the middle watch from ½ past 2 o'clock until past 4 o'clock am squally accompanied with rain, in fact after the squall had past the wind lulled to almost a calm but after keeping us in suspense for a short time springing up. I found this morning at 6 o'clock am that she was going 8 knots. Women served out with oatmeal, pickles. Doctor and Captain visited Kate this morning the latter seemed quite pleased with the young Mindeners, asked me when they were to be christened. Found he was anxious on the subject so spoke to the parson Dr Barry who will christen them tomorrow immediately after Devine Service. Lat 10°8 Long 23°16. An investigation respecting Corp Mangan's chastisement of a girl decided by the Doctor. That the girl not been his daughter he has no right to punish her, but whenever she behaves to require chastisement to take her to the Doctor where he will settle her account with her. Idiocracy is to a great extent prevalent on board particularly in one individual of the Guard (Walsh) who on retiring to rest laid his razor open alongside of him and found so by his wife who questioned him on the subject but received no answer but he arose and immediately put them away. It quite frightened poor Kate but if I find any more such work I will certainly put a stop to it. At 5 o'clock we had an auction of the effects of the sailor boy who died on the 4th. John Dwyer

(seaman) auctioneer. The whole realised £1/16/-. Saturday night the sailors dancing etc. This evening Mr Ryder's child expired in great pain by being inwardly convulsed at 12pm.

August 24th: Sunday - A delightful day – going beautifully, slight shower at 10 o'clock. Devine Service at ½ past 10 o'clock am. A very good discourse by Dr Barry immediately after service we had the funeral, four of us bearing the corpse (sewn up in canvas) covered with the Union Jack for a pall. I felt it more than anything I ever witnessed to see the little innocent about to be launched into the deep surrounded by four souls struck with the solemnity of the scene and even the vessel seemed to forget its giddy flight riding steady over the waves until the ocean had received its lovely burthen. Had bouille for dinner and potatoes.

In the afternoon Dr Barry performed Devine Service in our Barracks accompanied by two hymns sung by four of the convict boys concluding it with a short dissertation on the resignation to the Will of God alluding to the events of the day, illustrating it with vicissitudes of Job when he lost his children, his lands when the messengers one after the other brought him evil tidings he exclaims "*Naked came from my mother's womb, nothing I take out. The Lord giveth the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord*" and the second example was from the Book of Kings of the holy woman who lost her son. Immediately after the service Dr Barry baptised my two little sweets, the youngest named Elizabeth Minden and the eldest Ellen Minden. For the former Mr Bolton and wife stood, a person of great intelligence and respectability and one from the first commanded my respect, and one who I am certain belongs to gentle blood and a man withal been a soldier can justly form an opinion upon man and things and whose advice I would take in any difficulty and one of whom I shall endeavour to make a friend of. The sponsors for the latter are Mr and Mrs Foran another respectable couple but of course I intend to have my little babes christened again at Swan River for mere sprinkling of water will not suffice nor would I have it done only to oblige the Captain. The Doctor was present. Kate returned thanks to the Doctor and also to the Captain, the latter in particular for his kindness in allowing her fresh provisions from his table but although the Doctor has struck off the beer etc the steward will still continue the fresh provisions for a longer period for which I am very grateful. Doctor allows Kate 2 glasses of good old port daily in lieu of her beer.

August 25th: A delightful day going beautifully. Kate and children doing well. Got some farinaceous food from the Doctor for the infants. Women served out with caraway seed, great call today upon the water. Barrel for water to make oaten cakes, 36 baked in our small oven. Since the extras have been served out our cook is kept very busy. Lat 16° 38. Doctor ordered Kate some concentrated gravy soup but could not get it – not having come up out of the hold. Fell on a calm.

August 26th: A delightful day but a dead calm. The business of the morning opened with very sharp words between the 2nd mate and one of the Guard names Haynes. The case is this: in the routine of duty it is the fortune of a Watch to be on duty for a fortnight. On washing day this man Haynes was one of them and being for guard at 4 o'clock am bought up a shirt to wash and took it to the west side of the quarterdeck where the mate enquired in a jocular manner if all the men were for sentry. He, Haynes, said he must wash some time if not now he would in the forenoon. Well, said the mate, as you are so stiff you should wash and ordered the man off the quarterdeck where a few more words took place, when the man answered he would not wear a dirty shirt for him or any other man for a fortnight. High words having passed between them brought the Captain on deck who asked Mr Reed what was the matter, he then called Sergeant Ramsey who told the officer how it happened. It was then investigated before the Doctor who stopped the man's grog for a week. In the evening a squabble between the Doctor and Captain respecting the convicts occupying parts of the ship "*In fact,*" says the Captain "*you Doctor have the command, what with your tailors, carpenters, and knitters there moving about, even the Guard have not had a place to smoke. I endeavoured to make the wives and families of the Guard comfortable when they first came on board but it is there I was baulked, for my part I can*

live anywhere, in the main top or the mast head, take my cabin, my cuddy, Sir, but I must and will have a place kept clear for my men to work the ship. You allow, Sir, what would not be permitted in a common tap room Boking, since you have been on board you have acted according to your instructions? Certainly not” and a long list of other things followed which ended by the Doctor leaving the Captain the undisputed possession of the poop. The whole being caused by one of the Guard going up the weather side.

August 27th: A delightful day. Light winds doing very well. Weather very cold. Cape pigeons saw a very large shark some distance from the ship. Kate and children doing very well.

August 28th: A delightful breeze, going 8 knots. Several Cape pigeons and one albatross, caught a pigeon. Kate and children doing well.

August 29th: Delightful weather, going beautifully. Kate and children doing well.

August 30th: Another delightful day, going splendidly all from 10-11 knots. The children four weeks old. Kate taken very bad with a pain in her insides. Sat up all night in great agony.

August 31st: Had to bring the Doctor down at ½ past 1am. Castor oil to be given ½ and hour after should it not give ease but it did. Children very restless had to get Mrs Whitely to suckle my poor little ones. May God bless her and reward her for it, for Kate’s suck apparently is leaving her and I am afraid that I am going to lose my poor Kate for I am certain she has caught cold in her insides and if not stopped may bring on inflammation where nothing can save her, gave her the castor oil this morning and in the evening, hot fomentations which gave her great relief – gave another composing draught – bowels open.

September

September 1st: My poor dear Kate as bad as ever, put on a mustard plaster at ¼ to 12 o’clock, kept it on for 25 minutes, another dose of medicine. The Captain gave up the goats milk for the use of the children - found great relief from the plaster. Voice better, got beer and port wine. Going 11 knots all day and night.

September 2nd: Kate better, thank God, able to sit up without pain, children fed on biscuit powder and milk. Going delightfully. Got a 1lb of sugar from the Doctor and likewise some tea. Going 10-11 knots all day and 12 knots during the night. Kate got her wine and beer.

September 3rd: Blowing very fresh obliged to reef topsails, weather we are to expect off the Cape. Vessel heaves very much and weather intensely cold. A fire would be a great acquisition. Kate much better and the children doing very well, during the night warmed the children’s food over the lamp. The barometer has fallen 32° since we left the Equator.

September 4th: The weather the same as yesterday, weather very puffy, blowing at times so that it makes the “*Minden*” wince but she rides triumphant braving its power. Kate doing very well and children.

September 5th: The wind dying away and not going our course. We are now off the Cap de bon Esperance and really I know not why the Spaniards should have given it such a name for it is invariably bad weather off it and whense the application of good (bon). Kate and children doing well but poor Kate at present has no relish for anything saving her cup of tea and toast. The women are to be served out with 19 lbs of flour on Monday. Caught several Cape pigeons.

September 6th: The wind has died away. Tacked ship several times. One of the Detachment (Walsh) broke open his wife’s box for the purpose of throwing her clothes over board but was stopped, made a prisoner of and placed in confinement, his wife removed and placed with the single women. Mr Gaunt’s daughter found a letter addressed to Amelia McLaughlin by a convict with who she is keeping company and they intend to get married on arrival. So much for vitiated taste. Oh! How delectable a convicted felon for a son-in-law. Washed.

September 7th: Sunday. Light winds doing a little better this morning, a vessel in sight. Another man confined for refusing to go down for his biscuit. Saw *The Minden Times* – not worth reading. Bought a bottle of ink, price a little stick of tobacco. Got Kate’s boots returned after being soled and heeled, price 1/-. Expect to be at Swan River in 7 weeks which is very possible.

Vessel going very steady. Saw two albatrosses. Never found such a scarcity of aquatic birds and vessels, in fact we seem alone in the wide waste of water, not even a fish condescends to honour us with a visit. Weather still keeps very cold, very glad of a comfort and a great coat and occasionally a warm at the cook's fire. Even the pipe does not so much cheer as formerly yet still it has its comforts particularly when the Independents meet and crack their jokes of bygone days or spice so many tales of Regimental notoriety of quaintness of character or reckless daring or how men contrived to take in a Sergeant who thought himself sharp and yet with his own weapons is foiled. Kate improving, children doing very well. Found a letter of love lore but cannot decipher it properly, intend to paste it up for the benefit of the public.

September 8th: A truly delightful day going splendidly. The women served out with flour 19 lbs 8 ozs and a child 9 lbs 12 ozs and likewise rice, great demand for ovens. Cakes very plentiful in the market, the oaten cake in complete abeyance- all look particularly pleasant, quite an agreeable change- all sit down to tea in very good humour one with the other. Kate doing well and likewise the children.

September 9th: Under double reef Topsails, a continuing rain. Wind slightly fair. Kate improving children doing well.

September 10th: The same as yesterday but in the evening cleared up with a delightful strong wind from the southwest, clear frosty moonlight night. Washed some things and dried them. Vessel rolls and pitches tremendously, several ill, both men and women. Guard continues of the Quarterdeck and for a Guard room they have a small cabin on the starboard side which is very comfortable in cold weather and on a rainy day. Found out that the ship's butcher is a second of Hollands and is perfectly acquainted with my father, intend to send my journal home by him it will save some postage.

September 11th: Another close reef topsail day and rain- decks very slippery. The fourth mate, Mr Charlton, had a very severe fall cutting his forehead and also a cut on the cheek bone, the Malar bone. Vessel rolling very much, found great difficulty in feeding the children. The sea occasionally makes a clean sweep from the forecabin to the Quarterdeck drenching everything in its road. The poor butcher got drenched. Rain ceasing ½ past 6 o'clock pm to all appearances will clear up.

September 12th: A fine morning, foul wind, great washing and hanging up of clothes washed since Tuesday. Made some ... sauce did not like it for rather salty. Mrs Foran released intends to appeal for false imprisonment. Got a tin of farinaceous food, circulated a notice not to take in the flats respecting a large supply of French coats etc. on board for disposal intend to post up a list of prices, ½ past 2 o'clock today a prisoner died after a *Coup de Soleil* and will be buried at 5pm. Long 5°40 E Lat 35°

September 13th: Strong winds, going on course, furling our Royal and Top Gallant sails and are going under topsails. A delightful day but very cold. Kate quite recovered, children doing very well. In the evening rain. Mr Campbell's child very bad, got a hot water bath and an embrocation, got some soothing medicine apparently inflammation caused by exposure to the cold and light clothing.

September 14th: Sunday. Slight wind and slight rain, Service between decks for the prisoners. Captain read prayers for the sailors in the cuddy. Dr Barry read service for the women in the Barracks. Mr Campbell's child very bad no hope. At 3 o'clock square yards, set studding sails, sails fore and aft. Wind very light. Had a plum cake for dinner. Sent Mary on deck. Weather much warmer, clear and delightful afternoons. The Captain lent the Guard a work on Australia that gives a bad account of the Colony, the Doctor sent a Kalendar (sic) that there is a Bishop at Perth, all are in anticipation of going ashore in 5 weeks. May God send it for my part I will be heartily glad so that Kate may be able to get a few more comforts and take exercise which is impossible for her to take in her present weak state. She is quite attenuated and will take some time for to recover her strength. Am enabled to write with pleasure today vessel going without

any motion and the sun is favouring us through the stern ports. We are not 11 weeks on board – 8 from Plymouth and 34 days since we passed the line and not yet passed the Cape. To a certainty we are in the latitude of it but not the longitude. We have to run a little bit further to the Southward and then we commence to do our eastward.

September 15th: Quite a summer's day. Wind very light, hardly moving through the water. A vessel in sight, gaining upon her very fast at ½ past 2 o'clock pm signalled her and found her to be *the Chalmers of Sunderland* bound for Ceylon, 71 days out. Gordon and Wilson quarrelled and brought before the Doctor, sentenced to 7 days deck cleaning and change of berths. Kate went on deck today for the first time in 17 days stopping up for half an hour; Doctor gave her a chair out of the cuddy to sit on. Spoke to the Doctor about going to my Duty which I would not have done, only by accident I heard that several men of my watch spoke about it and seem to murmur whereas God only knows if they had to do all I have had since Kate has been ill this time they would little envy me. May God grant that they may never be so situated, and this proceeded from men who to my face speak fair and behind my back they speak other things. If they are men why not speak what they have to say and not so contrive that I should receive their opinion through another channel.

September 16th: Another delightful day, going beautifully, Served out with butter, oatmeal, rice, mustard, pepper, vinegar, and pickles. Going 11 knots all day opposite Table Bay, will pass the Cape point tomorrow.

September 17th: Another delightful day, strong winds going about 11 knots. Washing day, obliged to take the things down after been up about one hour and a quarter. I found one of the little children's night gowns with the arm torn out. Towards evening the wind not so strong.

Rain during the night.

September 18th: Wind very light, scarcely going anything still the day very cool. Saw large quantity of land birds. Toward evening the sky looked angry and dark, so much so that the Captain furled everything saving the topsails and foresail and the former was double reefed. Lightning very vivid, to all appearances it will be a terrific night. Rain in torrents.

September 19th: A delightful morning going splendidly – fair wind. Kate improving children doing well.

September 20th: Another delightful day. Going about 11 knots all night and the same today. Kate improving the children doing well.

September 21st: Sunday. A delightful day. Going still about 11 knots, weather cool. No Devine Service until the afternoon. Kate and children doing well. A vessel in sight – spoke to her about ½ past 2 o'clock and found her to be the *Amy Robsart* from Newcastle bound to Point de Gaul, Ceylon, 96 days out, all well, laden with coals. Wind rather light, towards evening a fine breeze sprung up.

September 22nd: Doing delightfully, expect to be in Swan River in 20 days which will win my wager. Green reported about the lamp so that I cannot warm my children's food at night as I was wont, also respecting the water that no non-com officer was fit to be trusted with the keys to the water barrel.

September 23rd: A delightful day, giving 11 knots for the last 24 hours which leaves us from Swan River 3222 miles – but little cold, a difference of 6° between the Cape and this. Sleet and occasional squalls, glad to sit alongside the galley fire. Kate got some beef for dinner. Heavy rain in the evening got some biscuit powder for the children served out with ... Long 48°8

September 24th: Another delightful day going splendidly. Saw several black fish of a large size. Weather very cold. Kate and children are doing well.

September 25th: Still going delightful, expect to see the Island of St. Pauls on Tuesday. Children doing well 48°8

September 26th: A delightful day going 11 knots but under double reef topsails, blowing a gale accompanied with rain. Children doing well.

September 27th: Still doing well, wind not so strong, set our top gallant sails again and studding sails. Long 58°18. Saw the chart of our route. Mr Campbell's child died and buried.

September 28th: Sunday, a beautiful day. No Devine Service on deck. Going 10 knots, a vessel in sight, a Dutchman, left her a long way astern.

September 29th: Morning very hazy and slight rain but the afternoon delightful and warmer, quite a change. Kate making Mary a frock, she also went on deck and walked for a short time, Mary got a bad cold. Made a wager for a bottle of grog that we will be anchored on the 20th of next month. Washed. Kate has had green peas for dinner. All in great spirits in anticipation of a speedy termination of the voyage. The Island of St. Paul's is situated in 78 degrees of longitude but owing to our light winds today we will not make it until tomorrow. A great number of land birds hovering around us and a large number of albatrosses Long 75°80.

September 30th: A delightful day, very cold – glad to warm my fingers at the galley fire. During the day squally with rain, going about 10 knots. Passed the Island of St Paul's, distance 13 miles at ½ past 9 o'clock pm, had a view of it. Going 11 ½ knot at the time of passing it. This island is celebrated for its hot springs and for fish. For those who fish immediately put them in the hot springs and they are soon ready for use. 80°. The Captain calculated upon 10 or 12 days more to arrive at our destination, may God grant it, for I shall be very glad when Kate is on shore to stretch her limbs and be able to have a fire to warm the poor little infants by and get that nourishment which she so much requires although to a certainty she gets fresh meat from the cuddy yet with all there is nothing like sitting down to your own joint.

More next Issue

Editor's note:

I will be putting another issue out for Christmas – Any new information will be sent then. Keep safe and happy researching or adding to your family tree.

Gillian