

THE LINEAGE OF 1ST BATTALION - THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT

VOLUNTEER SYDNEY RIFLE CORPS 1854-1860

In 1851, the Government of NSW, with the sanction of HM Imperial Government, authorised the establishment of a Volunteer Corps to be based in Sydney. However, all the planning came to nothing.

With the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1854 a local volunteer force was raised of which the Infantry component consisting of six rifle companies known as the Volunteer Sydney Rifle Corps was formed. At its peak the size of the volunteer force was 389 men. It was not considered a success. It is from the Volunteer Sydney Rifle Corps that 1st Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment claims direct descent.

The first Commanding Officer was Major Thomas Wingate. The original uniform was a dark green frock coat with black velvet facings and black shoulder straps with trousers of similar material

1st REGIMENT, NEW SOUTH WALES RIFLE VOLUNTEERS 1860 - 1878

In 1860 as the British Army units were being sent to the Maori War in New Zealand, enthusiasm in the volunteer forces was revived as a result of public meetings NSW attempted to raise a volunteer force of 1,700.

A total of 1,644 volunteers enlisted. The volunteer Sydney Rifle Corps ceased to exist being subsumed into the 1st Regiment, New South Wales Rifle Volunteers which was made up of 20 Rifle Companies which were later organised into a Battalion and Regimental structure.

with a black bold stripe. A forage cap to match was worn with the numeral 1 and a bugle as a badge. One of its first duties was to guard the Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint.

The first known public appearance of the Regiment was on the occasion of the opening of an Industrial Exhibition at the Museum, when it formed a Guard of Honour for the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Charles Fitzroy.

The Regiment also formed a Guard of Honour for the Governor at the opening of the railway to Parramatta and attended the Queen's Birthday Review on which occasion they were brigaded with the Dorsetshire Regiment.

Public interest in the Volunteer Regiment was slight and for some years the unit struggled for existence.

It is from the 1st Regiment, NSW Rifle Volunteers that 19th Battalion, The Royal NSW Regiment claims descent.

At this time a change in uniform was made, the newly adopted dress being grey with black facings, an infantry shako and a brown belt.

On 18th May, 1861, Lady Young, on behalf of the ladies of Sydney, presented the Regiment with an unofficial Regimental Colour. In 1868 the Regiment took part in a Review before HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.



Above: New South Wales Rifle Volunteers Badge 1854-60

Below: New South Wales Volunteer Rifleman circa 1855





Above: Cross belt plate worn by Officers of New South Wales Infantry circa 1870-80

Below: Officers uniform New South Wales Infantry 1885



Shortly afterwards, an attempt was made on the Prince's life which caused great excitement in Sydney. As a result, the Regiment had to supply many guards on public places.

Another change in uniform was made the following year, when scarlet tunics, dark blue trousers with scarlet pipings were adopted. The shako was

THE FIRST REGIMENT NSW VOLUNTEER INFANTRY 1878 - 1903

Payment for part-time volunteers was approved in 1878 and the Sydney Battalion was absorbed into the First Regiment Infantry. During the peaceful years that followed, the purely metropolitan nature of the unit was extended to include companies at Goulburn, Wagga Wagga, Moss Vale and Mudgee.

Members of the First Regiment Infantry would take part in two conflicts. In 1885, a detachment of one Officer and seventy five Other Ranks from the First Regiment sailed with the NSW Contingent for the Soudan, the first occasion on which Australian troops served abroad.

Although the contingent arrived in North Africa at the end of the campaign, and contributed very little

FROM 1903 UNTIL 1970

1903 With the Federation of the states into the Commonwealth of Australia the colonial titles were changed thus the First Regiment New South Wales Infantry title was re-designated to 1st Australian Infantry Regiment (1 AIR) (Militia) reference **GO 298/1903**.

1908 1st Battalion 1st Australian Infantry Regiment reference **MO 87/1908**.

retained but some years later it was replaced with a white helmet.

The first volunteer encampment for continuous training in New South Wales was conducted during Easter 1873, at Ham Common near Richmond. Subsequent camps were held in the Campbelltown area.

to the fighting their activities were recognised by being awarded the First Regiment Battle Honour of "SUAKIN 1885". This Battle Honour is emblazoned on the Regimental Colour of all the Battalion of The Royal New South Regiment.

In 1898 members of the First Regiment of Infantry also took part in the Second Boer War as individual volunteers and in a number of contingents from New South Wales. The Battle Honour of SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1902 was also awarded.

Note: In 1901 the First Regiment NSW Volunteer Infantry was re-designated as 1st Infantry Regiment.

1912 Part of 1st Battalion 1st Australian Infantry Regiment reformed as 21st Infantry (Sydney Battalion) reference **MO 277/1912**.

1913 21st Infantry (Sydney Battalion) now 21 (Woollahra) Infantry reference **MO 493/1913**.

1914-1919 1st Australian Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force.



Private Sydney Battalion
1861

1915 22nd Infantry Regiment raised reference **MO 405/1915**.

1918 21st (Woollahra) Infantry and part of 22nd Infantry Regiment joined to form 5th Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment.

21st Battalion Senior Cadets and part of 22nd Battalion Senior Cadets joined to form 6th Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment.

Part of 22nd Infantry Regiment becomes part of 5th Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment reference **MO 284/1918**.

1921 Part of 2nd Battalion and 5th Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment joined to form 1st Battalion reference **MO 95/1921**. Note: Unofficially adopted the title East Sydney Regiment which was confirmed in 1927.

1930 1st and 19th Battalions linked to form 1st/19th Battalion reference **AAO 351/1930**.

1939-1947 2/1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF raised.

1941 1st/19th Battalion unlinked now 1st Australian Infantry Battalion reference **AHQ A08/1941**.

1942 1st Australian Infantry Battalion linked with 45th Australian Infantry Battalion now 1st/45th Australian Infantry Battalion on 18th September 1942

1944 1st/45th Australian Infantry unit disbanded on 6th April 1944.

1957 1st Commando Company re-designated 1st Infantry Battalion (Commando) (The City of Sydney's Own Regiment reference **AHQ Directive 1st November 1957**. Note: Re-organised as a three Company Battalion, less Support Company on 31 March 1959.

1960 Now designated 1st Company (Commando) (the City of Sydney Company) 1 RNSWR.

1965 Re-established as a Battalion and re-designated 1st Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment (Commando).

1970 Relinked with 19th Battalion now designated 1st/19th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment.

THE LINEAGE OF 19TH BATTALION THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT

19th Battalion the Royal New South Wales Regiment claims descent from the following units.

1860-1862 1st Regiment New South Wales Volunteers (The South Sydney Volunteer Corps).

1862-1868 The Sydney Battalion New South Wales Volunteer Rifles.

1868-1876 The Suburban Battalion New South Wales Volunteer Rifles.

1876-1878 1st Regiment New South Wales Volunteer Infantry.

1878-1901 2nd Regiment Volunteer Rifles.



The badge of the 1st Australian Infantry Regiment.

It is important to note that both 1st Battalion RNSWR and 19th Battalion RNSWR both claim lineage from this Regiment.

NOTE: In the bottom scroll of the badge the words PRIMUS AGATE PRIMUS the motto of 1st Battalion RNSWR

1901-1903 1st Infantry Regiment.

1903-1908 1st Australian Infantry Regiment reference **GO 298/1903**.

1908-1912 1st Battalion, 1st Australian Infantry Regiment.

1913 19th Infantry raised from part of 18th Infantry. **MO 403/1913**.

1914 19th Infantry now 19th (Kuring-Gai) Infantry. **MO 561/1914**.

1915 22nd Infantry raised reference **MO 405/1915**.

1915-1918 19th Australian Infantry Battalion Australian Imperial Force raised for overseas service in World War One

1918 19th Kuring-Gai Infantry now 2nd Battalion 19th Infantry Regiment (Kuring-Gai Regiment).

19th Battalion Senior Cadets now 3rd Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment (Kuring-Gai Regiment).

Part of 22nd Infantry Regiment now 2nd Battalion 19th Infantry Regiment. Part of 22nd Battalion Senior Cadets now 3rd Battalion 19th Infantry Regiment reference **MO 364/1918**.

1921 2nd Battalion and 5th Battalion of 19th Infantry Regiment and part of 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment now 19th Battalion reference **MO 95/1921**.

1930 19th Battalion linked with 1st Battalion now 1st/19th Battalion reference **AAO 351/1930**.

1940-1947 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion Australian Imperial Force raised for service overseas in World War Two.

1941 1st/19th Battalion unlinked. 19th Battalion linked with 20th Battalion and designated 20th/19th Battalion.

Part of 19th Infantry Battalion transferred to Darwin Defences (Darwin Mobile Force) as Darwin Infantry Battalion.

Darwin Infantry Battalion redesignated as 19th Infantry Battalion (The South Sydney Regiment). 20th/19th Battalion unlinked reference **AHQ AO 8/1941**.

1943 19th Infantry Battalion redesignated 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF and accepted into the AIF.

1945 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF disbanded. 21st July 1945.

1966 19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment was raised as a Special Conditions unit and was unofficially known as "The Bushmen's Rifles".

1970 19th Battalion again linked with 1st Battalion and designated as 1st/19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment.