



THE ADMINISTRATION OF PORT ARTHUR PENAL SETTLEMENT,

1830 - 1844

by

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STATEMENT

To the best of my knowledge and belief this thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any University. Furthermore, it contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

SUMMARY

The setting of Port Arthur in time and place is outlined in the general framework of transportation to Australia and in the particular context of secondary penal discipline. The records of a sample of Port Arthur convicts are examined and compared with a sample of all transportees. The two men most concerned with the establishment and control of Port Arthur during its first decade, Lieutenant Governor George Arthur and Captain Charles O.'H. Booth, are placed in this setting, with an assessment of their background, abilities and image. Discussion of the problems of organisation and policing, given the limits on government spending and the lack of experienced prison officers, leads to an examination of crime and how it was punished at secondary penal establishments. Day to day life of the prisoners and the use made of their time and labour is described, as is the provision made for their welfare in the form of health services, religion, schooling and leisure time. How far the Port Arthur myth conflicts with the facts of life at the settlement is examined, and the justification for the myth is questioned.