Boer War Records

Research Guide to Boer War records at Queensland State Archives

To Lord Roberts, Bloemfontein
South Africa

"Pathos abated. Five assaulting fifteen. Infantry Commission
lymphatic Queensland by fishbrick filched all deploying
innskeep now punchin alknight pleasal chetoingly
Capetown livelock checkbook Queensland Contingent,
caymost innkeeper sparkled abstinence Commissions
and spark parchment as dastard pleaseal how
punch to percious schemeing and bieenate coldly
flotations ajeespell malariasin checkbook here
surround Commissions beekon fieldbook Chanary
may seriously affect defence force here and oatmeal
with more diserest receivory found in ovipositor
of Contingent. Retrosely bigotry mummering some
private means say ticked mistening bisdarkened
prosando about tolos names to cheetingly Capetown
to epicureous if birchen abstinence."

Signed Lamington
Queensland State Archives holds records relating to the six contingents of the Queensland Defence Force which fought in the Boer War from 1899 to 1902 in South Africa.

The records are mainly organised by contingent. The departure and return dates for the six Queensland contingents are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of contingent</th>
<th>Port and date of departure</th>
<th>Port and date of return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st (Queensland Mounted Infantry)</td>
<td>Brisbane 1 Nov 1899</td>
<td>Brisbane 16 Jan 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd (Queensland Mounted Infantry)</td>
<td>Brisbane 13 Jan 1900</td>
<td>Brisbane via Sydney 3 May 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd (Queensland Mounted Infantry)</td>
<td>Brisbane 1 Mar 1900</td>
<td>Brisbane via Sydney 13 Jun 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen)</td>
<td>Brisbane 18 May 1900</td>
<td>Brisbane 5 Aug 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen)</td>
<td>Brisbane 6 Mar 1901</td>
<td>Brisbane 04 Apr 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen)</td>
<td>Brisbane 4 Apr 1901</td>
<td>Brisbane 17 May 1902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to find service personnel who served in the Boer War

Search the online Boer War indexes on the Queensland State Archives’ website under the heading War.

1. Index to Military Service Records, 1899–1901
2. Index to Pay Books, 1899–1902

Index to Military Service Records, 1899-1901

This index is compiled from Item ID ITM18351, Military service records. The details listed for each surname entry include rank and name, regimental number, company, marital status, period of service, casualties, discharge, medals, address, and other remarks.

To find a list of soldiers in particular contingents, use the table below to find the relevant pages in the register Item ID ITM18351, Military service records:
Contingent | Pages
--- | ---
1st Contingent | 1 – 22
2nd Contingent | 29 – 42
3rd Contingent | 47 – 73
4th Contingent | 81 – 113
5th Contingent | 121 – 166
6th Contingent | 177 – 210

**Index to Pay Books 1899-1902**

This index is compiled from Series ID S12345, Distribution of Pay Books, 1899–1902. It contains distribution of pay books for the South African Contingents, 1st Contingent, A and B Companies 2nd Contingent 3rd Contingent, and 4th Contingent, listed by surname.

To find a list of soldiers in a particular contingent, use the table below to find the relevant register:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of contingent</th>
<th>Item ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Company, 1st South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Company, 1&quot; South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd South African Contingent, A-H, 1900 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd South African Contingent, H-Y, 1900 - 1901</td>
<td>ITM8867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th South African Contingent, A-H, 1900 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th South African Contingent, H-T, 1900 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th South African Contingent, T-Y, 1900 – 1901</td>
<td>ITM8870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th South African Contingent, No. 1-334, 1901 – 1902</td>
<td>ITM8871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th South African Contingent, No. 335 - 693 1901 - 1902</td>
<td>ITM8872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th South African Contingent, 1901 – 1902 (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) Contingent</td>
<td>ITM8873</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Records

Chief Secretary's Department

**Appropriation Ledger for Expenditure**  
Circa 1/3/1900–30/9/1904  
Series ID **S12346**

Queensland State Archives’ records about military expenditure include appropriation ledgers for expenditure on the South African Contingents

Queensland Patriotic Fund

**Rolls of Men Who Served in South Africa and Returns of Those Who Were Killed or Wounded**  
Circa 1/1/1900–31/12/1902  
Series ID **S15243**

In January 1900 various patriotic funds were amalgamated into one under the name of the Queensland Patriotic Fund. The Queensland Patriotic Fund aimed to distribute funds to disabled Queensland volunteers and the dependants of volunteers who lost their lives during their tour of duty.

Copies of the following Queensland Patriotic Fund records are in the Public Search Room, with these cover titles:

1. 1st and 2nd Queensland Contingents, QPF/33 Pt. 1
2. 3rd and 4th Queensland Contingents, QPF/33 Pt. 2
3. 5th and 6th Queensland Contingents, QPF/33 Pt. 3
4. 1st, 3rd and 7th Battalions Commonwealth. Queensland Units, QPF/33 Pt. 4
5. Soldiers reported as wounded, killed or died in South Africa, QPF/33 Pt. 5.

Abbreviations of Boer War Ranks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbrev.</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artif</td>
<td>Artificer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bugl</td>
<td>Bugler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Sergt</td>
<td>Company Sergeant or Color Sergeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt Chap</td>
<td>Captain Chaplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co Sgt</td>
<td>Company Sergeant or Color Sergeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpl</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Archives of Australia

Queensland State Archives holds a number of microfilm copies of relevant records from the National Archives of Australia. These can be viewed in the Reading Room.

Absent lists

- List of men absent from regiment QDF 1901–1902, Z4070, Item ID ITM662688

Medal, clasps and awards

- Nominal rolls & lists of medals & clasps, NSW military forces 1899-1907, Z4078 - Z4080, Item ID ITM662712, Item ID ITM662713, Item ID ITM662714
- Lists of medals & clasps NSW Defence 1899-1902 Z4072 Item ID ITM662700

Medical records and examinations

- Medical records 1900-1901, Z4069 Item ID ITM662683
- Register of medical examinations – 1st contingent 1899, Z4070 Item ID ITM662689

Pay records

- Pay lists & pay instruction rolls, QDF 1900-1902, Z4067 Item ID ITM662677
- Pay lists for “H” Company 4th Contingent, Z4069 Item ID ITM662681
Pay sheets of the 5th and 6th contingents 1901-1902, Z4071 Item ID ITM662695
Contingent pay ledgers, NSW forces 1899-1908, Z4073 - Z4075 Item ID ITM662703,
Item ID ITM662704, Item ID ITM662705
Index to pay ledgers NSW military forces 1899-1902, Z4081 Item ID ITM662717
Registers of pay, NSW forces 1900-1903, Z4075 - Z4078 Item ID ITM662706,
Item ID ITM662707, Item ID ITM662708, Item ID ITM662709
Pay ledgers, NSW forces 1899-1902, Z4080 - Z4081 Item ID ITM662715 and Item ID ITM662716

Registers of Returned Soldiers
- Registers of return soldiers of Queensland Defence Force who served, Z4067-Z4069
  Item ID ITM662678, Item ID ITM662679, Item ID ITM662680

Rolls of Contingents
- Alphabetical roll, Western Contingent, 1900-1903, Z4069 Item ID ITM662682
- Nominal rolls of Victorian contingents, 1900, Z4071, Item ID ITM662694
- Nominal rolls, 3rd Mounted Rifles and 3rd NSW Imperial Bushmen 1901-1902, Z4072,
  Item ID ITM662701
- Nominal roll of Bethune’s mounted infantry for service 1899-1901, Z4078 Item ID ITM662711
- Nominal rolls and lists of medals and clasps for NSW military forces 1899-1907, Z4078 - Z4080
  Item ID ITM662712, Item ID ITM662713, Item ID ITM662714
- Nominal rolls of battalions for service in South Africa 1902, Z4081 Item ID ITM662718

Service Rolls
- Service rolls of contingents, Queensland Defence Force, Boer War 1899–1901, Z4073,
  Item ID ITM662702

For more information contact the National Archives of Australia. The National Archives reference service

Need more information?
Check our online catalogue ArchivesSearch.
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can email an archivist.