

Soldier Settlement



Research Guide to soldier settlement records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives holds a number of records about soldier settlements for the First World War and the Second World War.

Under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act 1917 and associated regulations, every discharged member of the armed forces was entitled to apply for land and financial assistance. Under the Act this included war workers, munitions workers and the dependents of a deceased soldier or sailor such as a widow, mother, sibling or child who were dependent upon his earnings 12 months prior to his enlistment.

The main purpose of this Act was to place 'willing and suitable settlers on the land'. It also aimed to open new land for settlement and at the same time to provide employment and assistance for the thousands of discharged soldiers after the wars. Another form of assistance granted to discharged soldiers was in the form of grants to build houses.

Land Selections

Land selections for soldier settlers can also be found in the land selection records listed with other types of selectors - refer to QSA's Search Procedure on Land Selections available in our Reading Room.

Registers of Selections

Circa 1/1/1885 - Circa 31/12/1981

Series ID [S13955](#)

Grazing and agricultural selections were kept in separate registers although the numbering was sequential in each Land Agent District. Some Land Agents kept registers of specific types of leases, e.g. soldier settlement. Selections under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act 1894 were also compiled in separate registers. Try Series 14000 *Index to Non-Current Lessees* to find selection numbers.

These registers of selections were under the Crown Lands Act 1884. From 1885 until the 1930s, information was recorded in volumes then, transferred to register sheets. Includes name of selector, number of selection, date the land was open to selection, Government Gazette reference, date of application, date of lease, terms of lease, payments made, transfers, changes of number - when the boundaries of Land Agents' Districts were changed and what happened to the selection, e.g. purchased, surrendered, forfeited, subdivided.

The main records from Series ID S13955 are:

Register – selections: Land Agent's District Brisbane, selections by soldier settlers

24/12/1920 - 7/7/1921

Item ID [ITM23293](#)

Register – selections: Land Agent's District of Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement at Mount Gravatt

3/5/1919 - 13/2/1934

Item ID [ITM23588](#)

Register – selections: Land Agent's District of Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (b) Enoggera

26/11/1920 - 8/7/1925

Item ID [ITM23638](#)

Register – selections: Land Agent's District of Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (c) Woombye

20/4/1921 - 8/1/1926

Item ID [ITM23639](#)

Register – selections: Land Agent's District of Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (d) Highlands

5/1/1921 - 14/8/1926

Item ID [ITM23640](#)

Register – selections: Land Agent's District of Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (e) Bald Hills. Pt

12/3/1921 - Circa 31/12/1930

Item ID [ITM23641](#)

Register – selections: Land Agent's District of Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (e) Bald Hills. Pt

22/3/1921 - Circa 31/12/1930

Item ID [ITM23642](#)

Batch file: Freehold land for soldier settlement; lists of alienated lands; Crown lands; reserves in outer Brisbane: Batch 569

1/1/1917 - 31/12/1920

Item ID [ITM25374](#)

Correspondence re freehold lands for soldier settlements, lists of alienated lands, crown lands and reserves in outer Brisbane. The file includes reports on land at Kuraby, Sunnybank, Beenleigh, Lawnton, Nerang, Currumbin and Virginia districts; a copy of a report under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1917 to 1920 and, includes maps and plans.

Selections by Discharged Servicemen

13/9/1916 - 1/12/1928

Series ID [S13911](#)

Alphabetical list of parishes showing portions allotted for selection by discharged servicemen other than in soldier settlements. Information includes name of settler; parish; portion; area; date of allotment; date of notification; under which act; number of selections; district; annotations note forfeitures, transfers, surrenders with dates. A separate page in each alphabetical sequence is used to list soldiers who had been selected at competition. Information includes portion; parish; area; under which act; selection type, number and district; and name of selector.

Papers relating to Soldier Settlement

27/3/1914 - 3/7/1931

Series ID [S13912](#)

Papers and correspondence concerning the soldier settlement schemes in the various Land Agents' districts. The files include reports, maps, letters from settlers, material relating to specific settlement areas, and a petition from residents of Taabinga.

Batch Files on Soldier Settlement

3/8/1944 - 18/5/1962

Series ID [S14034](#)

These batch files, maintained by the soldier settlement section within the Lands Department, were kept to administer the War Service Land Settlement Acquisition Act and War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act both passed in 1945, and the War Service Land Settlement Act and the War Service (Sugar Industry) Land Settlement Act both passed in 1946. There is a small amount of departmental correspondence from 1944.

Files re Lands Opened for Soldier Settlement

Circa 1/1/1915 – Circa 31/12/1961

Series ID [S14035](#)

A typical file includes maps of the property, notification in the Government Gazette, description of the land, reports by the surveyor and a schedule of tenure. The card index to Soldier Settlement in the Finding Aids Area of the Public Search Room provides an alphabetical list by selector's name, with a file reference.

Soldiers Settlement Ledgers

8/11/1917 - 31/12/1929

Series ID [S13910](#)

These ledgers recorded departmental expenditure in the Soldier Settlement Branch. Accounts were kept separate and headed with the name of the area or function, e.g. New Sites; Saw Mill Stanthorpe; Retail Store Beerburum; Road Construction; Canning Factory; Pikedale Co-operative C J & P Coy Ltd., Stock Atherton, General Expenses - Ridgeland, Training Farm Stanthorpe. The first volume includes trial balances for each account.

File - land selection [Beerburum]

- [ITM3011228](#), File – land selection: DAVIES, Morgan 24/12/1920 - 8/8/1932
- [ITM3011229](#), File – land selection: JENNINGS, Ernest Alfred, 24/12/1920 - 08/08/1932
- [ITM3011234](#), File – land selection: HUBNER, Ernest John, 24/12/1920 - 08/08/1932
- [ITM3011235](#), File – land selection: BURNETT, John, 15/12/1920 - 08/08/1932
- [ITM3011237](#), File – land selection: DUNCANSON, George, 23/12/1920 - 16/02/1945
- [ITM3011239](#), File – land selection: McDERMOTT, John Thomas, 23/12/1920 - 08/08/1932
- [ITM3011240](#), File – land selection: RICKETTS, Jesse Rose, 23/12/1920 - 19/04/1926

Survey Office

Plans of Soldier Settlement Leases

Undated

Series ID [S18295](#)

Survey plans of soldier settlement, mostly the Toowoomba area. These survey plans provide information such as type of soil, e.g. dark grey clay soil with slight surface sand, and type of trees or grass, e.g. open gum forest with dead ringbarked trees, diagrams of homesteads or woolsheds, and the location of windmills, tanks, dams, wells and bores.

Soldier Settlement Batches

1/8/1932 - 11/12/1962

Series ID [S10205](#)

These batches are about resumption of land for war service land settlement purposes. Includes reports on portions of land, guidelines for determining if land is suitable for a desired purpose, analysis of soil samples, maps and plans.

Non-competitive leases

These leases gave preference to discharged soldiers, and have their origins at the time of the First World War.

Registers for Non-Competitive Leases

27/2/1917 – 31/12/1981

Series ID [S9549](#)

The register is a record of both Town and Country leases. Details include name of lessee, date of the commencement of the lease, a description of the land, area measurement and rent details.

Non-Competitive Lease Files

Circa 1/1/1882 - 9/11/1997

Series ID [S17964](#)

Access: 30 years

These files were created by the Lands Department to record all the documentation relating to the granting of non-competitive leases. Included in a typical file is a copy of the lease, related documents often pertaining to special conditions applicable to the lease and all correspondence about the lease.

Loan records

Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1917 Loan Register

16/7/1917 - 19/12/1919

Series ID [S3960](#)

Register for discharged soldiers' loans and financial assistance to applicants for the purposes of erecting or purchasing dwelling houses. Information includes the applicant's name and address, cost of dwelling and particulars of the land.

Housing for Servicemen (HS) Loan Register

17/7/1944 - 7/12/1945

Series ID [S3956](#)

This Loan Register records financial assistance to applicants for the purposes of erecting or purchasing dwelling houses. Each register includes information such as date of application and approval, amount applied for, applicant's name and address, valuations of dwelling, land and fencing. Applications were for a perpetual lease selection, perpetual town lease or perpetual suburban lease. The Department of Public Lands was responsible for the allocation of land, and the Queensland Government Savings Bank advanced the financial assistance.

Photographs

Photographic Album – Soldier Settlement in Queensland

8/11/1916 – Circa 31/01/1920

Series ID [S181](#)

Photographs of soldier settlement at Beerburrum, Mount Gravatt, Stanthorpe and Pikedale.

Photograph Album - Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement Vice-Regal Visit

6/11/1916

Series ID [S18681](#)

On 6 November 1916 the Governor of Queensland, Sir Hamilton John Goold Adams, visited the Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement. These photographs are of the official party, settlers, and activities in the area.

War Service Records

Requests for war service records for service personnel should be addressed to National Archives of Australia (NAA). The NAA offers a reference service [Ask us about the collection](#) and can be contacted by phone on 1300 886 881 or by email at <mailto:archives@naa.gov.au>.

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).

Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.