

# Boer War Records

548

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1900

To Lord Roberts Bloemfontein

South Africa

"Pathos arblast five assaulted fifteen Infantry Commissions  
Lymphetic Queensland by fishtruck belched all deploying  
inkeeper now pumpkin alr knight plagal cheatingly  
Capetown lowlock checkbook Queensland Contingents  
laymost inkeeper sparkled abstinence Commissions  
Cued spark parchment as eligible plagal him now  
pariah so received scheming and biennate gladly  
flotations aguespell malarious checkbook here  
moribund Commissions beckon fieldbook chaucery  
may seriously affect defence force here and oatmeal  
men more dieforest beeswax found in ovipositor  
of Contingents petrosely bifurcus mummifying some  
private means say tickaed miskenning darkened  
prosando about twilos names to cheatingly Capetown  
to epicurean if birchen abstinence"

Signed Lamington

DR2863 - Letter (written in code) from Lord Lamington to Lord Roberts about Queensland contingents arriving in Capetown, 3 May 1900

Research Guide to Boer War records  
at Queensland State Archives

## Research Guide to Boer War records

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Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

QSA 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:

| Name of contingent                | Port & Date of departure | Port & Date of return            |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st (Queensland Mounted Infantry) | Brisbane, 1 Nov 1899     | Brisbane, 16 Jan 1901            |
| 2nd (Queensland Mounted Infantry) | Brisbane, 13 Jan 1900    | Brisbane via Sydney, 3 May 1901  |
| 3rd (Queensland Mounted Infantry) | Brisbane, 1 Mar 1900     | Brisbane via Sydney, 13 Jun 1901 |
| 4th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) | Brisbane, 18 May 1900    | Brisbane, 5 Aug 1901             |
| 5th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) | Brisbane, 6 Mar 1901     | Brisbane, 4 Apr 1902             |
| 6th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) | Brisbane, 4 Apr 1901     | Brisbane, 17 May 1902            |

The main finding aid for records is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S Series ID (for series of records)
- A Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.**

## Military records

### Boer War index

Begin by searching the online Boer War index, [Index to Boer War Records 1899-1902](#). This index was compiled from the military service records 1899–1901 and the index to pay books 1899–1902.

If an [online QSA index](#) is available, we recommend researchers search this. The content of online indexes has been sourced directly from original records. Digitised copies of many original registers and indexes are also available in the [QSA catalogue](#), and digitised copies of some microfilmed original records are available on Reading Room computers.

### Military service records

**Record of the names of all ranks who served in the South African War [the Boer War]. 2 volumes**

01/11/1899–31/12/1901

[ITM18351](#) in [S13032](#). Military service records

## Research Guide to Boer War records

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Records may include a surname entry with 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 this register (ITM18351).

| 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 |

## Pay books

### Distribution of Pay Books

01/01/1899–31/12/1902

[S12345](#)

These pay books contain records for the South African Contingents, 1st Contingent, A and B Companies 2nd Contingent, 3rd Contingent and 4th Contingent. To find a list of soldiers in a particular contingent, use the table below to find the relevant register.

| Name of contingent                                                                 | Item ID                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A Company, 1 <sup>st</sup> South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901                   | <a href="#">ITM8863</a> |
| B Company, 1 <sup>st</sup> South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901                   | <a href="#">ITM8864</a> |
| 2nd South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901                                          | <a href="#">ITM8865</a> |
| 3rd South African Contingent, A-H, 1900 – 1901                                     | <a href="#">ITM8866</a> |
| 3rd South African Contingent, H-Y, 1900 - 1901                                     | <a href="#">ITM8867</a> |
| 4th South African Contingent, A-H, 1900 – 1901                                     | <a href="#">ITM8868</a> |
| 4th South African Contingent, H-T, 1900 – 1901                                     | <a href="#">ITM8869</a> |
| 4th South African Contingent, T-Y, 1900 – 1901                                     | <a href="#">ITM8870</a> |
| 5th South African Contingent, No. 1-334, 1901 – 1902                               | <a href="#">ITM8871</a> |
| 5th South African Contingent, No. 335 - 693 1901 - 1902                            | <a href="#">ITM8872</a> |
| 6th South African Contingent, 1901 – 1902 (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) Contingent | <a href="#">ITM8873</a> |

## Other Records

### Chief Secretary's Department

#### Appropriation Ledger for Expenditure

Circa 1/3/1900–30/9/1904

[S12346](#)

This contains Records about military expenditure include appropriation ledgers for expenditure on the South African Contingents.

### Queensland Patriotic Fund

### Rolls of men from all contingents who served in South Africa with returns of those killed or wounded (Patriotic Fund of Queensland records) [Boer War] [Gall collection/Gall estrays]

Circa 1/1/1900–31/12/1902

[ITM91807](#)

In January 1900, various patriotic funds were amalgamated into one under the name of the Queensland Patriotic Fund. This fund aimed to distribute funds to disabled Queensland volunteers and the dependants of volunteers who lost their lives during their tour of duty. This included 1st and 2nd Queensland Contingents, 3rd and 4th Queensland Contingents, and the 5th and 6th Queensland Contingents.

### Abbreviations of Boer War Ranks

The following abbreviations are used in Boer War records held at QSA.

| Abbrev.       | Rank                                               |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Artif         | Artificer                                          |
| Bugl          | Bugler                                             |
| C Sergt       | Company Sergeant or Color Sergeant                 |
| Capt          | Captain                                            |
| Capt Chap     | Captain Chaplain                                   |
| Co Sgt        | Company Sergeant or Color Sergeant                 |
| Corpl         | Corporal                                           |
| CSM           | Company Sergeant Major                             |
| Far Sgt       | Farrier Sergeant                                   |
| Farrier Sergt | Farrier Sergeant                                   |
| Frst Sgt      | First Sergeant                                     |
| Lieut         | Lieutenant                                         |
| Lieut Col     | Lieutenant Colonel                                 |
| Major         | Major                                              |
| Pvte          | Private                                            |
| Q M Sgt       | Quartermaster Sergeant                             |
| QMS           | Quartermaster Sergeant                             |
| RSM           | Regimental Sergeant Major                          |
| Sergt         | Sergeant                                           |
| Sergt Major   | Sergeant Major                                     |
| Spl SO        | Supply Stores Office or Specialist Service Officer |
| Staff Sergt   | Staff Sergeant                                     |
| Supt Capt     | Supplementary Captain                              |
| Supt Lieut    | Supplementary Lieutenant                           |
| Vet Capt      | Veterinary Captain                                 |
| Vet Sergt     | Veterinary Sergeant                                |

### National Archives of Australia records

The National Archives of Australia holds other series of records relevant to researchers including those listed below.

#### **Absent lists**

- List of men absent from regiment QDF, 1901–1902

#### **Medal, clasps and awards**

- Nominal rolls & lists of medals & clasps, NSW military forces 1899-1907
- Lists of medals & clasps, NSW Defence 1899-1902

#### **Medical records and examinations**

- Medical records, 1900-1901
- Register of medical examinations – 1st contingent 1899

#### **Pay records**

- Pay lists & pay instruction rolls, QDF, 1900-1902
- Pay lists for “H” Company 4th Contingent
- Pay sheets of the 5th and 6th contingents, 1901-1902
- Contingent pay ledgers, NSW forces, 1899-1908
- Index to pay ledgers NSW military forces, 1899-1902
- Registers of pay, NSW forces, 1900-1903
- Pay ledgers, NSW forces, 1899-1902

#### **Registers of Returned Soldiers**

- Registers of return soldiers of Queensland Defence Force who served 1901-1903

#### **Rolls of Contingents**

- Alphabetical roll, Western Contingent, 1900-1903
- Nominal rolls of Victorian Contingents, 1900
- Nominal rolls, 3rd Mounted Rifles and 3rd NSW Imperial Bushmen, 1901-1902
- Nominal roll of Bethune’s mounted infantry for service, 1899-1901
- Nominal rolls and lists of medals and clasps for NSW military forces, 1899-1907
- Nominal rolls of battalions for service in South Africa, 1902

#### **Service Rolls**

- Service rolls of contingents, Queensland Defence Force, Boer War 1899–1901

### Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).  
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.