Police gazettes

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This brief guide provides the main series of records about police gazettes held at Queensland State Archives.

The QSA references for these records are in ArchivesSearch (the Queensland State Archives catalogue).

Historical police gazettes are a very useful source of information for genealogists and local historians. These gazettes hold details of matters reported to police throughout Queensland and copies are available at Queensland State Archives from 1864.

The Police Gazettes contain information on topics such as:

- persons apprehended
- prisoners tried at the District and Supreme Courts
- complainants
- deserter’s from His Majesty’s Service
- escaped prisoners
- persons suspected of committing offences
- prohibited immigrants (ship’s deserters)
- personnel changes in the Police Force including discharges
- wife and child deserters
- missing persons
- prisoners discharged from custody
- summons and warrants

Note: In addition to the records listed below, a complete set of Police Gazettes for the years 1864–1945 are available on CD for researchers to use on the Public Search Room computers.

Indexes

**Index to Police Gazettes**
Police Department
Circa 1/1/1897–31/12/1971
Series ID 930
Access: 65 years

These indexes are arranged chronologically, and alphabetically.
(There are no cumulative indexes for the Police Gazettes between 1864 and 1896. These years are self indexing).

In addition to the Series ID 930, indexes arranged in alphabetical order by name are at the beginning of most of the Police Gazettes. Browsing is a good idea as the indexes do not always list individuals included as part of a published departmental list. For example, police gazettes include lists of qualified Justices of the Peace, chemists and druggists, medical practitioners and the recipients of licenses issued by the Treasury Department.
Administration arrangements: From 1898, in addition to the main alphabetical listing, there is a list at the end of the index describing the changes that have occurred in the police service since the last Police Gazette was published.

Queensland Police Gazettes

Queensland Police Gazettes
Police Department
22/7/1864–17/10/1997
Series ID 798
Access: 65 years

If there is no separate, cumulative index, search the Police Gazette for the required year because these volumes often contain indexes. (There are no cumulative indexes for the Police Gazettes between 1864 and 1896. These years are self indexing).

The bound Police Gazettes may also contain copies of the Photographic Supplements or Weekly Wanted Lists for that year. If they do not, check the item list to see if the Photographic Supplements and/or the Weekly Wanted Lists have been bound separately. The separate volumes may also contain their own indexes.

The Queensland Police Gazette continued as a hardcopy publication until 17 October 1997.

Photographic Supplements

In addition to the standard gazette, the Police Department produced photographic supplements of individuals wanted on various charges and photographic weekly wanted lists. From 25 October 1976 the weekly wanted lists were referred to as Crime Circulars.

The police gazette photographs in the photographic supplement may include the Prisoner's number; most are on the collar of the prisoner’s shirt. This number can be used to access Series ID 3693, Photographic Records, Descriptions and Criminal Histories of Prisoners - (Males and Females).

The Queensland Police Gazettes also contain other photographs of discharged prisoners, missing persons or individuals wanted in connection with an offence. To locate these photographs, look for the person’s name.