

Boer War Records

548

3rd May 1900

To Lord Roberts Bloemfontein

South Africa

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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

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

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 st South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901	ITM8863
B Company, 1 st South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901	ITM8864
2nd South African Contingent, 1899 – 1901	ITM8865
3rd South African Contingent, A-H, 1900 – 1901	ITM8866
3rd South African Contingent, H-Y, 1900 - 1901	ITM8867
4th South African Contingent, A-H, 1900 – 1901	ITM8868
4th South African Contingent, H-T, 1900 – 1901	ITM8869
4th South African Contingent, T-Y, 1900 – 1901	ITM8870
5th South African Contingent, No. 1-334, 1901 – 1902	ITM8871
5th South African Contingent, No. 335 - 693 1901 - 1902	ITM8872
6th South African Contingent, 1901 – 1902 (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) Contingent	ITM8873

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 including those listed below. Interested researchers may wish to submit an [online enquiry](#) to the NAA.

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.