

Queensland State Archives

Brief Guide 35

Soldier Settlement

Under the *Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act and Regulations of 1917*, every discharged member of the armed forces was entitled to apply for land and financial assistance. Included also in the terms of the Act were war workers, munitions workers and the dependents of a deceased soldier or sailor (i.e. widow, mother or child) who were dependent upon his earnings 12 months prior to his enlistment.

The purpose of this Act was to place "willing and suitable settlers on the land." Its dual aim was to open new land for settlement and at the same time to provide employment and assistance for the thousands of discharged soldiers after the war. Another form of assistance granted to discharged soldiers was in the form of grants to build houses.

Queensland State Archives holds a number of records that deal with the different facets of soldier settlement for World War 1 and World War 2.

N.B. Queensland State Archives does not hold service records. Request for access to, or copies of, World War service records should be addressed to:

Defence Service Records
National Archives of Australia
PO Box 7425
Canberra BC, ACT 2610

LAND RECORDS

LAND SELECTIONS

Land selections for soldier settlers are found in the selection records with all other selectors. Other records include the following series:

Register of Perpetual Lease Selections, Soldier Settlement Groups
Lands Department

A register of perpetual lease selections in the various Soldiers Settlement groups in the Land Agent's district centred on Brisbane.

01/12/1920 - 31/07/1921

PRV9754/1/1

Alphabetical List of Parishes

Lands Department

A list of parishes showing portions allocated for selection by discharged servicemen other than in Soldier Settlements.

01/01/1916 - 31/12/1925

PRV9756/1/1

Correspondence on Soldier Settlement

Lands Department

This correspondence deals with miscellaneous issues including rent, annual reports, staff, valuations, statistics and includes maps and newspaper cuttings.

03 /08/1944 - 8 /05/1962

PRV9883/1/1-45

Files re Lands open for Soldier Settlement

Lands Department

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.

These files can be accessed via the card index in the Finding Aids Area, which gives an alphabetical list, by name of selector and a file reference.

01/01/1915 - 31/12/1961

PRV9884/1/1-81

Freehold Land for Soldier Settlement: Batch 69

Lands Department

Correspondence re freehold lands for soldier settlements, lists of alienated lands, crown lands and reserves in outer Brisbane. Reports on land at Kuraby, Sunnybank, Beenleigh, Lawnton, Nerang, Currumbin and Virginia

districts. Copy of report under the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1917* to 1920. Includes maps and plans.

01/01/1917 - 31/12/1920
PRV9869/1/304

Papers and Correspondence concerning Soldier Settlement Schemes Lands Department

Papers and correspondence concerning the Soldier Settlement schemes in the various Land Agents' districts.

01/01/1916 - 31/12/1931
PRV9757/1/1

Soldiers Settlement Ledgers Lands Department

The ledgers record various monetary transactions, such as wages paid, repairs, road construction and other government projects. Details in the ledgers include date, voucher number and item description.

08/11/1917 - 30/10/1929
PRV9755/1/1-28

SURVEY OFFICE

Plans of Soldier Settlement Leases Survey Office

These survey plans provide information such as type of soil, type of trees or grass, diagrams of homesteads or woolsheds, and the location of windmills, tanks, dams, wells and bores. The plans were probably drawn up in the late 1940s.

PRV15421/1

Soldier Settlement Batches Survey Office

These batches contain material relating to the resumption of land for war service land settlement purposes. Material held may include reports on particular portions of land, guidelines for determining if the land is suitable for a desired purpose, analysis of soil samples etc. Maps and plans are also included.

01/08/1932 - 11/12/1962
RSI4856/1/1-138

NON-COMPETITIVE LEASES

These were leases, which gave preference to discharged soldiers, and have their origins at the time of World War 1.

Non-Competitive Lease Files

Lands Department

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 regarding the lease.

01/01/1883 - 31/12/1991

PRV14779/1/1-2732

Access: 30 years

Register of Perpetual leases

Lands Department

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.

01/04/1917 - 01/01/1937

PRV9665/1/1

Register Sheets for Leases on Crown Lands – Non-Competitive Leases

Lands Department

Register sheets record non-competitive lease number, name and address of lessee, lease commencement date, land agent's district with real property description, Gazette notification date, area quantity, rental particulars and other details.

01/01/1915 - 31/12/1981

RSI 3890/1/1-7

Access: 30 years

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS

Photographic Album – Soldier Settlement in Queensland

Lands Department, Survey Office, Photographic Branch

A fascinating pictorial record showing settlers clearing and farming newly opened land.

01/11/1916 - 31/01/1920
SRS181/1/1

LOAN RECORDS

Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1917 Loan Register

Queensland Government Savings Bank

This Loan Register records financial assistance granted to applicants for the purpose of erecting or purchasing dwelling houses. Information includes the applicant's name and address, cost of dwelling and particulars of the land.

16/7/1917 - 19/12/1919
SRS3960 /1/1

HS (Housing for Servicemen) Loan Register

State Advances Corporation

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 and other particulars.

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, while the Queensland Government Savings Bank advanced the financial assistance.

17/07/1944 - 07/12/1945
SRS3956/1/1