

## BOER WAR RECORDS

Please note – this guide is not intended to be exhaustive but to provide some useful resources to start your research. A larger record of website links can be viewed on the FamilyHistoryWA website's Resources>Links page. **You can filter by 'Region' or 'Subject'.**

### **AUSTRALIA**

#### **National Archives of Australia**

<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records>

The National Archives of Australia holds an extensive collection of defence and war service records relating to every conflict Australia was involved in from 1899 to 1975 (including army, navy and air force). This link provides an overview.

The direct link to Boer War information is <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records/army-boer-war-1899-1902>.

Individuals can be searched for via the [Recordsearch](#) function.

#### **Australian War Memorial**

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

The Australian War Memorial website has a wealth of information including official histories, unit war diaries, military records such as embarkation records, nominal rolls, photographs, red cross files, rolls of honour and some personal items such as diaries. The period covered includes the Boer War through to modern conflicts.

[Understanding the Memorial's collection page](#) provides a number of guides to researching a person, unit or event <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/understanding-the-memorials-collection>.

Search for an individual via '[People](#)' to see what information is held by the AWM.

#### **Official records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa**

<https://archive.org/stream/officialrecordso00murr#page/n5/mode/2up>, also <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1416414>.

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## **Army Museum of Western Australia**

<https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>

The Army Museum of Western Australia has an archive comprised of both official documents and personal items for individuals (many donated by family members). This includes items related to nurses and medics who served.

The Army Museum is happy to answer any queries relating to information they hold on nurses or medics who served, or the general history of hospitals in war operations. They can be contacted via [info@armymuseumwa.com.au](mailto:info@armymuseumwa.com.au). The Military SIG Convenor can also be contacted with queries or to assist with liaison with the Army Museum.

The records in the Army Museum's archive are in the process of being digitised in order to make them publicly available online. The digital images are being uploaded to the Western Australian Military Digital Library (WAMDL) and can be viewed via [www.wamdl.com.au](http://www.wamdl.com.au). These include individual's records, nominal rolls for Western Australian nurses 1925 – 1946, a scrapbook of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps 1951 – 1972 and autograph albums. New images are being uploaded regularly.

Local historian, Mr John Sweetman is an expert on the Boer War and a volunteer at the Army Museum. He can provide information on Western Australian involvement and assist with research into WA troops. Mr Sweetman can be contacted via the Army Museum or contact details can be provided by the Military SIG Convenor.

## **State Library of WA**

<https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/>

The State Library of WA has a number of online e-resources that could assist in your research including e-books, e-newspapers and magazines, audio, films and photographs. You will need a current state library card to access these resources from home (if you are a Western Australian resident, you can apply for a library card at <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/our-services/membership/join-now>). Type 'Boer War' into the search box to see what they hold.

## **OTHER WEBSITES**

**The Australian Boer War Memorial** - <https://www.bwm.org.au> - this project aims to commemorate the sacrifice of Australian soldiers during the second Anglo-Boer War 1899. Contact details for the Western Australian committee is [here](#).

**Graves and Memorials of Australians in the Boer War** - <https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/boerwar>.

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## **UNITED KINGDOM**

### **UK National Archives**

Always go to the UK National Archives guides first. They will tell you what has survived and even if FindMyPast or Ancestry have the records. Each guide has links to take you directly to the section at the National Archives.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?search=boer+war>

TIP - downloads may be free if you access the National Archives via the State Library of Western Australia (you will need log in with your State Library card. This is [free](#) to apply for).

Many of the service records (if they exist) can also be accessed via either **FindMyPast or Ancestry**. Both are subscription websites, however if you are a Perth based resident, you can use the FamilyHistoryWA library subscription. You can visit the Research Centre at 48 May Street, Bayswater during normal opening hours. Community libraries may also have a library subscription you can use.

### **OTHER WEBSITES**

#### **Soldiers Of The Queen In The Second Anglo-Boer War 1899 - 1902**

Index of soldiers, sailors and nurses which identify the unit/regiment in which they served (includes Australia and other countries).

#### **Who Do You Think You Are – ‘How to find Boer War service records’**

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/tutorials/military/boer-war-records/>

This blog provides information on the best websites to find UK Boer War service records.

#### **Roll Of Honour – <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Boer/>**

This website details UK Boer War Memorials and also provides links to external websites.

**ALSO** - Most British Regiments have a Museum in the UK, plus unit histories.

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## **NEW ZEALAND**

**Archives New Zealand** - <https://archives.govt.nz/>.

The NZ Archives has a number of [research guides](#) with advice on how to search for Boer War and WW1 personnel files, unit diaries, maps and plans. WW1 service records have been digitised.

## **CANADA**

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx>

Library & Archives Canada has an extensive collection of records relating to the service of Canadians in a number of conflicts. WW1 personnel files for soldiers, nurses and chaplains who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force have been digitised.

The Canadian Letters and Images Project provides an online archive of the Canadian experience as told through letters and images <https://www.canadianletters.ca/>.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

**South Africa Military Records** - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/South\\_Africa\\_Military\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/South_Africa_Military_Records)

Family Search wiki page on South African military records including links to various websites.

**National Archives Of South Africa** - <http://www.national.archives.gov.za/>

Includes database of the South African Genealogical Society on gravestones.

**South African Military History Society** - <http://samilitaryhistory.org/>

A group dedicated to the study of military history in South Africa.

**South Africa War Graves Project** - <https://www.southafricawargraves.org/>

The goal of this project is to photograph every South African & Rhodesian war graves.

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## OTHER RESOURCES

Don't forget the value of resources held by libraries! The FamilyHistoryWA library has a number of books on the Boer War. View the catalogue via the FamilyHistoryWA website. The Murdoch University Library also has a number of military related books that may help you in your research and are accessible for non-students to view <https://www.murdoch.edu.au/library/>.

- *Mostly Unsung Military History Research and Publications*. Booklets of ABW records. [milhis@alphalink.com.au](mailto:milhis@alphalink.com.au). 'Publications for sale' newsletter. Research undertaken in Kew, UK.
- Book. *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*. Lt Col. P. L. Murray (1911) or *Australian Contingents to the South Africa War*.
- Book, *We Wander the Battlefields* by 'Midge' Carter and Trish Woodman. Ph: 0435 221 056 or [trishw23@inet.net.au](mailto:trishw23@inet.net.au). Anecdotes of ABW and Zulu wars experiences and details of some WA involvement. Well known historian who grew up in South Africa.
- National Archives research guide: *The Boer War. Australians and the War in South Africa, 1899-1902* by Craig Wilcox.

## Groups

- SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans of Australia). Veterans of recent African conflicts, not ABW, but the meetings at RSL Belmont sometimes feature ABW topics and they are always present at the Kings Park ceremonies.
- [Military History Society of WA](#).
- [Military Historical Society of Australia \(WA branch\)](#)
- Boer War Memorial Association, Perth. Meetings about 4 times a year, newsletter, organizes Kings Park ceremony. Contact John Sweetman as above or David Thomas, [david@r2rservices.com.au](mailto:david@r2rservices.com.au).

## ALSO

- You Tube video clips of South African battle sites by Midge Carter on website <https://battlefieldwanderers.net/>.
- Rose's Round-Up. Monthly email newsletter packed with ABW stories, mostly Karoo area. Fascinating information, brilliant effort. [Rosewillis705@gmail.com](mailto:Rosewillis705@gmail.com).

For further queries please contact the Military Interest Group convenor on [military.sig@fhwa.org.au](mailto:military.sig@fhwa.org.au).