WWI Service dossiers, records relating to Soldier Settlement in NSW and WWI repatriation files

Researching WWI Service records

- WWI Service files have been listed and digitised by the National Archives of Australia (NAA)
- The Australian War Memorial (AWM) holds records relating to individual soldiers. These include the Red Cross Wounded and Missing records. Private papers and sometimes photographs are also held by the AWM.
- Other sources include State/Territory Government Archives, local libraries/studies collections, historical society collections, collections of private papers and memorabilia, publications and newspapers.

Overview of Soldier Settlement

- Around 40,000 returned servicemen and women took up an offer of farming land, made possible by Soldier Settlement schemes in all the states of the Commonwealth.
- The advantages of a rural life and the availability of land for returned soldiers was promoted and advertised extensively.
- Over 9,000 soldier settlers and their families took up over 4 million acres across NSW.

NSW Soldier Settlement Scheme

- The Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, 1916 provided for financial assistance to soldier settlers in the form of an advance or loan.
- The Government Savings Bank Act, 1920 arranged for this to be distributed in NSW, through the Rural Bank.
- The Commonwealth initially made available an amount of £500 which was to be provided to each applicant to be spent on improvements including a house, sheds, fencing, livestock and implements.

NSW Soldier Settlement records

The following record series have been indexed by State Archives NSW:

- Returned Soldiers Settlement loan files, 1906-1960 (NRS 8058)
- Closer Settlement Promotion files, 1913-1972 (NRS 8052)
- Closer Settlement and Returned Soldiers Transfer files, 1907-36, 1951 (NRS 8054)
- Closer Settlement Transfer Registers, Jul 1919-Apr 1925 (NRS 8082)
- Registers of Settlement Purchase (There are multiple series of these records, which are listed on State Archives website at: https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research-guides-and-indexes/soldier-settlement-settlement-purchases-index
- Returned Soldier Settlement miscellaneous files, 1916-1939 (NRS 8056)

Searching for NSW Soldier Settlement records on State Archives website

- KeyName Search
• Search each index to the Soldier settlement records (You can search for either a person or do a search by a locality.)

Further reading on Soldier Settlement


• *‘From Bullets to Pellets’: Bankstown Soldier Settlement* by Glenys Allison in the Journal of the RAHS Vol 95, Part 2, November 2009.


WWI Repatriation files

• Case files, sometimes known as repatriation files or DVA case files, were created for each veteran seeking the services of the department, and may include medical, hospital, clinical treatment or pension files. WWI case files are held by the NAA. Many but not all these files are been listed on the NAA’s RecordSearch. Some have been digitised.

• The files may contain personal information on such matters as the veteran’s physical or mental health, disabilities, and domestic and financial affairs.

• The NAA website notes that “because much of this information may be personally sensitive, veterans' case files are not always available for public access.”

• See NAA Fact Sheet 54 (available online) for information.

Select list of websites

• The Australian War Memorial http://www.awm.gov.au/

• Commonwealth War Graves Commission http://www.cwgc.org/

• The National Archives of Australia (NAA) http://www.naa.gov.au/


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August 2017