

INFORMATION ON CLASSES OF DOCUMENTS

Class	WO 97
Title and Catalogue link	WO 97: Royal Hospital Chelsea: Soldiers Service Documents - 1760-1913
Size / Scope	6383 pieces – approximately 6 million images
Physical format and condition	Individual documents for each soldier, often running to four or five pages, and generally handwritten. Pieces 1 – 1475 have been placed on microfilm (on 1062 films) – the rest exist in original format
Popularity	WO 97 is a very popular series and it ranked 2nd overall in the reading rooms at The National Archives between 1st February 2006 and 15 th February 2006. The analysis of requisition requests has placed this series 2 nd in the table of most requested records for the last 4 years.
Copyright clearance	Crown Copyright
Research Guide	British Army: Soldiers' Discharge Papers, 1760-1913
Possible areas for indexing	Soldier's name, place of birth, regiment(s), year of discharge, covering dates of service – these have so far proved sufficient for the Friends of The National Archives index
Any other relevant information	<p>All records were scanned regardless of condition. In scanning the originals it became clear that some documents were not in alphabetical order. This series is currently being resorted by the Friends of The National Archives and re-filmed. As at 13th June 2006 pieces 1 to 1539 have been completed. However, as the re-filming are not carried out in a sequential order there may be parts where re-filming have not yet being completed.</p> <p>The documents have no image or folio numbers to link them easily with transcription data.</p> <p>Additional finding aid is available in the reading rooms at The National Archives.</p>