

Researching Military Records at the National Archives

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Searching the National Archives Online Catalog

- Visit www.archives.gov
 - Choose advanced search
 - Enter search term, record group or other keywords
 - Choose the format you are seeking from the headers across the top of the page
 - Click on record to view information. Record will include description of item/collection, ARC number, size and scope of the collection/series and facility location
- Access to Archival Databases (AAD)
 - Browse by category, timespan, sector, or subject
 - Indexes only, no original records, but include service number and civilian info

National Archives Regional Facilities

- National Archives have regional campuses housing federal records for all 50 states.
- Veteran's service records can be obtained online through Evetrecs for free if you are next-of-kin <http://archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>
- The National Archives I, in Washington D.C. has 'stateside' WWI records pertaining to U.S. Army Commands
- The National Archives II, in College Park Maryland has overseas unit records WWII-Gulf Wars as well as Audio/Visual materials, maps, and photograph collections.
- National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis Missouri has OMPFs, Burial Transfer Files, Court-Martial records, IDPFs, muster & monthly reports.
- National Archives, Kansas City, Kansas has some overseas & stateside military hospital records

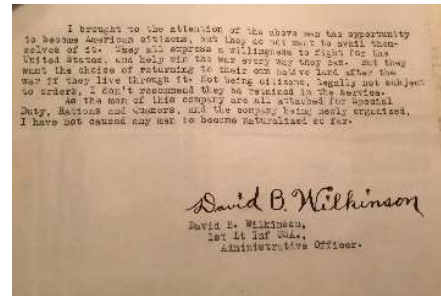
Rules and Restrictions

- A research card is required to view records at a National Archives facility. A free card will be provided (with photo ID) at the start of your visit (after a viewing of a short power point).
- Scanning & photography is allowed at no charge (restrictions apply). Copies available for .80 cents per page.
- No bags or purses allowed. Laptops, scanners and photography equipment are allowed.

National Archives I, Washington D.C.

- Record Group 393
 - Records pertaining to U.S. Army of the Continental Command
 - Engineering Corps Districts
 - Quartermaster records, etc.

- Registration & Naturalizations (by station & unit)
- Special Orders (by station)
- Record Group 15 Department of Veterans Affairs 1773-2007
 - Land Bounty Warrants
 - Military Pension Files (pre 1917)



National Archives II, College Park Maryland

- Records Group 120 American Expeditionary Forces
 - Transport lists by ship (available on Ancestry.com)
 - Casualty Reports and Cablegrams
 - Hospital/Nursing Staff Records
 - Soldier Qualification Cards
- Record Group 342 WWII POW records
- Record Group 15 Repatriated Prisoners of War records WWII-Vietnam
- Record Group 472 Vietnam (Southeast Asia) Records
- Extensive map collection on the 5th floor covering Revolutionary War to Gulf Wars.
 - Photography collections are housed on the 4th Floor
 - Indexed by subject, then box number



National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri

- Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs)
 - OMPFs are the official record of a veteran's service with the U.S. Armed Forces. Records before November 1, 1959 are open to the public using form 13173.
 - Records include military service dates, stations, schooling, transfers, promotions & decorations earned.
- Burial Case Files
 - WWI Burial Case Files are created when a soldier/sailor dies during active duty.
 - Include info about their burial, subsequent disinterment and removal to new location.
 - If remains were returned to the states; paperwork will be included detailing the process.
 - The next-of-kin was given the choice to leave their veteran interred overseas or bring their remains home to the U.S. If the veteran remained overseas; widows & mothers were brought to Europe to pay their respects between 1928 and 1931. That info, is included in the file.
- WWII Individual Deceased Persons Files (IDPF)
 - All four military branches from 1939-1975 Include reports on cause of death & findings

- Court-Martial Records
 - Index to WWI Court-Martial records lives at the National Archives II in College Park, MD.
 - Court-Martial records include: detailed list of Charges, testimony from accused and witnesses, special orders & charge sheet, record of summary court, verdict
- Morning Reports (on microfilm)
 - Collect data on unit strength and supply including movement by unit or company.
 - Remarks include monthly transfers, furloughs, promotions and hospitalizations.
- Muster Rolls & Rosters (on microfilm)
 - Muster Rolls include previous service for officers within each unit.
 - Each Soldier's service number and assignment date is provided.
 - Monthly Rosters just list soldiers per unit and company each month.
- U.S. Army Daily Sick Reports
- Merchant Marine Records



NARA Websites:



- American Battle Monuments Commission www.abmc.gov
- National Archives I Washington D.C. www.archives.gov/dc
- National Archives II College Park www.archives.gov/college-park
- National Records Personnel Records Center www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center
- National Archives Kansas City www.archives.gov/kansas-city
- National Archives Chicago Great Lakes www.archives.gov/chicago
- National Archives Atlanta www.archives.gov/atlanta
- NARA form 86 www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-86.pdf
- NARA form 180 www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-86.pdf

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