

SEARCHING BRITISH MILITARY RECORDS

BOOKS (In BCGS Library)

Register of British Military Records: How to find and use army and other military records in the Public Records Office, England

Family History Library, Latter Day Saints Call No: 929.1 LDS

An Introduction to The British Army : Its History, Traditions and Records

SWINNERTON, Iain Call No. 355 SPE

Researching English Occupations- Defence Services (Heritage Productions)

CHRISTENSEN, Dr. Penelope Call No. 929 HP HE 10

In Search of Army Ancestry

HAMILTON-EDWARDS, Gerald Call No. 355 HAM

Nelson's Navy 1793-1815 (Military History Sources for Family Historians)

GREGSON, Keith Call No. 355 GRE

The Parish Chest (Books published by family history societies) Sample Available:



Leics & Rutland Military Indexes
Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society

£5.00



Leics & Rutland Military Indexes
Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society

£5.00



List of Officers of the Somerset Local Militia 1808-1811
Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

£2.50



Manchester City Battalions 1 - Book of Honour
Manchester & Lancashire FHS

£5.10



Manchester City Battalions 2 - Rolls of Honour
Manchester & Lancashire FHS

£5.10



Memories of the Salford Blitz, Christmas 1940
Manchester & Lancashire FHS

£4.25



Men of Dukinfield
Manchester & Lancashire FHS

£4.25

The Society of Genealogists Book Store (Sample available):

My Ancestor was a Woman at War
By Emma Jolly

Researching Ancestors in the East India Company Armies
by Peter A. Bailey

My Ancestor was in the Royal Navy
By Ian Walter

My Ancestor was a Royal Marine
By Ken Divall

Amazon (Sample available)

Military Uniforms Visual Encyclopedia - ISBN 978-1908273024

Army Records: A Guide for Family Historians By William Spencer
ISBN 9781905615261

Air Force Records: A Guide for Family Historians by William Spencer
ISBN 1905625256

British Military Medals – Second Edition: A Guide for the Collector and Family
Hitosrian – ISBN 978-1526791917

WEBSITES

The British Military History website has a very good instructional guide on how to research military records. The following excerpt is an good example:

Sadly, when researching men or women who served in other related armed forces, such as the British Indian Army, or the West and East African elements of the British Army, information is more difficult to obtain. Most of the records of men who served in the British Indian Army were retained at the Regimental Centres when British India partitioned in August 1947. They are, therefore, to be found in modern day Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Individual Regimental Centres are very keen to help if they can, but locating an individual person is very difficult

Guide to Military Research

<https://www.britishmilitaryhistory.co.uk/guide-military-research/>

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/>

Familysearch.org gives some website suggestions:

- [Ancestry](#) (\$) - a subscription site, Ancestry has many British military collections ranging from the 1700s to the 1900s
- [FamilySearch](#) - a free site, FamilySearch has a few British military collections ranging from the 1700s to the early 1900s
- [Findmypast](#) (\$) - a subscription site, Findmypast has a variety of British military collections ranging from the 1600s to the 1900s
- [MyHeritage](#) (\$) - a subscription site, MyHeritage has a few British military collections ranging from the 1800s to the 1900s
- [Forces War Records](#) (\$) - a subscription site, Forces War Records has many British military collections ranging from the 1700s to the 1900s
- [Scotland's People](#) (\$) - a pay-per-view site, ScotlandsPeople has a few Scottish military collections
- [TheGenealogist](#) (\$) - a subscription site, TheGenealogist has British military collections ranging from the 1600s to the 1900s
- [Naval and Military Archive](#) (\$) - a subscription site, the NMA has British military collections from the 1800s to the 1900s. Membership can be purchased for a day, week, month, or year.

Searching British Military Records

- [Military Archives \(Ireland\)](#) - a free site, the Military Archives has many online Irish military collections
- [The National Archives \(TNA\)](#) - a free site, TNA has many online British military collections that can be found on their British military research guides
- [Anglo Boer War](#) - a free site, Anglo Boer War has a database of soldiers who fought in the Anglo Boer War
- [Soldiers of the Queen in the Second Anglo-Boer War](#) - a free site, SOTQ has a database of soldiers who fought in the Anglo Boer War
- [Roll of Honour](#) - a free site, Roll of Honour has, among other British military databases, a database of soldiers who fought in the Anglo Boer War

More Websites:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

Soldiers Wills

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#soldiers>

Post 1945 Records

<http://british-army-units1945on.co.uk/>

Veterans of UK Armed Forces

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk>

First World War – Western Front Association

<http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/>

National Army Museum

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/>

Fandom

<https://military-history.fandom.com/>

Museum of Military Medicine

<https://museumofmilitarymedicine.org.uk/>

Searching British Military Records

British Military Badges

<https://www.britishmilitarybadges.co.uk/>

Forces Net (uniforms)

<https://www.forces.net/>

Service Numbers

<https://www.qaranc.co.uk/british-army-service-number.php>

MacMillan – Important books about Battle of the Somme

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/history/somme-books-military-history-centenary>

Fold3.com

An extension of ancestry.com specializing in military records. The records are primarily USA with some British and Canadian records.

ENGLISH MILITARY REGIMENTS

Wikipedia has a list of English military regiments with a link to their history. Some of them have websites.

Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps] (as listed by Wikipedia)

Household Cavalry

- [The Life Guards](#)^[1]
- [The Blues and Royals \(Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons\)](#)^[1]

Line Cavalry

- [1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards](#)
- [The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards \(Carabiniers and Greys\)](#)
- [The Royal Dragoon Guards](#)
- [The Queen's Royal Hussars \(The Queen's Own and Royal Irish\)](#)
- [The Royal Lancers \(Queen Elizabeth's Own\)](#)
- [The King's Royal Hussars](#)
- [The Light Dragoons](#)

Royal Tank Regiment

- [The Royal Tank Regiment](#)

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Yeomanry

- [The Royal Yeomanry](#)
- [The Royal Wessex Yeomanry](#)
- [The Queen's Own Yeomanry](#)
- [The Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry](#)

Infantry

When a regiment is given as n + n [battalions](#), the first number is regular army battalions, and the second is [Army Reserve](#) battalions.

Foot Guards

- [Grenadier Guards](#) - 1 + 0 battalion^{[2][3]}
- [Coldstream Guards](#) - 1 + 0 battalion^{[2][3]}
- [Scots Guards](#) - 1 + 0 battalion^{[2][3]}
- [Irish Guards](#) - 1 + 0 battalion^[3]
- [Welsh Guards](#) - 1 + 0 battalion
- [London Guards](#) - 0 + 1 battalion

Line Infantry and Rifles

- [The Royal Regiment of Scotland](#) - 3 + 2 battalions^[4]
- [The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment \(Queen's and Royal Hampshires\)](#) - 1 + 2 battalions
- [The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment \(King's, Lancashire and Border\)](#) - 1 + 1 battalions
- [The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers](#) - 1 + 1 battalions
- [The Royal Anglian Regiment](#) - 2 + 1 battalions
- [The Yorkshire Regiment \(14th/15th, 19th and 33rd/76th Foot\)](#) - 2 + 1 battalions
- [The Royal Welsh](#) - 1 + 1 battalions
- [The Mercian Regiment \(Cheshire, Worcesters and Foresters, and Staffords\)](#) - 1 + 1 battalions
- [The Royal Irish Regiment \(27th \(Inniskilling\), 83rd, 87th and Ulster Defence Regiment\)](#) - 1 + 1 battalion
- [The Parachute Regiment](#) - 3 + 1 battalions^[5]
- [The Royal Gurkha Rifles](#) - 2 + 0 battalions^[6]
- [The Rifles](#) - 4 + 3 battalions
- [Ranger Regiment](#) - 4 + 0 battalions

Other combat arms

- [Special Air Service](#) 1 + 2 regiments
- [Special Reconnaissance Regiment](#) 1 regiment
- [Army Air Corps](#) 7 + 1 regiments

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Combat Support

- [Royal Regiment of Artillery](#) 15 + 6 regiments
- [Corps of Royal Engineers](#) 15 + 7 regiments
- [Royal Corps of Signals](#) 13 + 4 regiments
- [Intelligence Corps](#) 3 + 4 battalions
- [Honourable Artillery Company](#) 0 + 1 Regiment
- [Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers \(Militia\)](#) 0 + 1 Regiment

Combat Service Support

- [Royal Army Chaplains' Department](#)
- [Royal Logistic Corps](#) 13 + 11 regiments
- [Royal Army Medical Corps](#)
- [Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers](#) 8 + 3 battalions
- [Adjutant General's Corps](#)
- [Royal Army Veterinary Corps](#)
- [Small Arms School Corps](#)
- [Royal Army Dental Corps](#)
- [Royal Army Physical Training Corps](#)
- [General Service Corps](#)
- [Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps](#)
- [Royal Corps of Army Music](#)

Overseas Regiments

- [Royal Gibraltar Regiment](#) - 1 + 0 battalion
- [Royal Bermuda Regiment](#) - 1 + 0 battalion
- [Royal Montserrat Defence Force](#)
- [Cayman Islands Regiment](#) - 0 + 1 battalion
- [Turks and Caicos Regiment](#) - 0 + 1 battalion
- [Falkland Islands Defence Force](#) - 0 + 1

REGIMENTAL WEBSITES

Corps of Royal Engineers

<https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/corps-of-royal-engineers/>

First Queens Dragoon Guards

<https://www.qdg.org.uk/>

Searching British Military Records

Mercian Regiment

<https://mercianregiment.co.uk/>

The Regimental Association of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment

<https://www.devondorsetregiment.co.uk/>

The Yorkshire Regiment

<https://www.yorkshireregiment.com/>

Seaforth Highlanders Canada

<https://www.seaforthhighlanders.ca/>

List of British Military Hospitals (as listed by Wikipedia)

During the 19th and 20th centuries the British Army operated a large variety of permanent and temporary military hospitals, both at home and overseas, some of which are listed here.

At home]

- Alexandra Royal Military Hospital, Portsdown Hill, Cosham
- Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham
- BMH Cowglen Glasgow
- Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot
- Colchester Military Hospital - Colchester Garrison
- Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital - Catterick Garrison
- Duke of Connaught Unit Northern Ireland
- Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank
- Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich
- Musgrave Park Hospital
- Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley
- Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport
- Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich
- Stoke Military Hospital, Devonport
- Tidworth Military Hospital
- Military Hospital Wheatley - now Wheatley Park School
- Wool Military Hospital - Bovington Camp

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Overseas

Permanent hospital facilities established by the army overseas were often designated 'BMH' (signifying 'British Military Hospital'). The following is an incomplete list:

- [BMH Alexandria, Egypt](#)
- [Cyprus](#)
 - [BMH Dhekelia \(opened 1958\)](#)
 - [BMH Nicosia \(closed 1959\)](#)
- [BMH Dharan, Nepal](#)
- [Germany](#)
 - [BMH Hanover - closed and mobilized as 32nd Field Hospital to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War in 1990](#)
 - [BMH Rinteln - closed and now home to charity organization \(Lebenshilfe\)](#)
 - [BMH Iserlohn - closed 1990s](#)
 - [BMH Hostert - 1950s/60s](#)
 - [BMH Münster](#)
 - [BMH Wuppertal](#)
 - [BMH Berlin \(closed in 1994\)](#)
- [BMH Gibraltar](#)
- [BMH Hong Kong](#)
- [BMH Kaduna, Nigeria](#)
- [BMH Kingston, Jamaica](#)
- [BMH Malta](#)
- [BMH Nairobi, Kenya](#)
- [BMH Shanghai](#)
- [BMH Singapore - now Alexandra Hospital - part of National University Health System](#)

War memorials and cemeteries (as listed by wikipedia)

0–9

- [24th Division War Memorial](#)
- [1982 Liberation Memorial](#)

A

- [Aldershot Cemetery](#)
- [Aldershot Military Cemetery](#)
- [Ancre British Cemetery](#)
- [Andreas War Memorial](#)
- [Armada Memorial](#)
- [Armed Forces Memorial](#)
- [Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery](#)
- [Arras Flying Services Memorial](#)

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- Arras Memorial
- AT6 Monument
- Aylesbury War Memorial

B

- Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery
- Barrow Park Cenotaph
- Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel-le-Ferne
- Bayeux war cemetery
- Bilbao British Cemetery
- Black Merchant Seamen War Memorial
- Blackburn War Memorial
- Blantyre Monument
- Blighty Valley Cemetery
- Blue Beach Military Cemetery at San Carlos
- Bow Brickhill War Memorial
- Bridgwater War Memorial
- The British Cemetery Montevideo
- British Cemetery, Callao
- British Cemetery, Elvas
- British Cemetery Montevideo Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Memorial to RAF aircrew in Dębina Zakrzowska
- British Normandy Memorial
- Bromhead Memorial
- Bromley War Memorial
- Brouay War Cemetery
- Buttes New British Cemetery (New Zealand) Memorial

C

- Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery
- Camphill Column, Alnwick
- Carnforth War Memorial
- Cavalry of the Empire Memorial
- The Cenotaph
- Chatham Naval Memorial
- Chicheley War Memorial
- Chindit Memorial
- Contay British Cemetery
- County War Memorial, Nottingham
- Croydon Cenotaph

D

- Delville Wood South African National Memorial
- Derby War Memorial
- Diamond War Memorial

Searching British Military Records

- Douglas War Memorial
- Duhallow Block

E

- Eleanor Cross, Sledmere
- Equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, Aldershot
- Equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, Glasgow
- Exeter War Memorial

F

- Far East prisoners of war
- Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery
- Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery

G

- Grangegorman Military Cemetery

H

- Haddenham War Memorial
- Hall of Memory, Birmingham
- Hamilton Road Cemetery, Deal
- Harlow Hill Cemetery
- Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres
- Hermanville War Cemetery
- Hitcham War Memorial
- Holme Valley War Memorial
- Hottot-les-Bagues War Cemetery
- Hoylake and West Kirby War Memorial
- Hughes Memorial, Corris

I

- International Bomber Command Centre
- Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial

J

- Jerusalem War Cemetery, Chouain

K

- Korean War Memorial, London

L

- La Délivrande War Cemetery
- Lascar War Memorial
- Lazaretto Point War Memorial

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- [Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery](#)
- [Lincoln Cathedral](#)
- [Lowestoft Cemetery](#)
- [Luss War Memorial](#)

M

- [Maiwand Lion](#)
- [Manchester Cenotaph](#)
- [Mikra British Cemetery](#)
- [Monmouth War Memorial](#)
- [Monument to the King's Liverpool Regiment](#)
- [Morecambe and Heysham War Memorial](#)
- [Moreton-in-Marsh and Batsford War Memorial](#)
- [Muslim Burial Ground, Horsell Common](#)
- [Mutiny Memorial](#)

N

- [Naphill War Memorial](#)
- [National Memorial Arboretum](#)
- [City War Memorial, Nottingham](#)

O

- [Old Burial Ground, Royal Hospital Chelsea](#)

P

- [Pembroke Dock Military Cemetery](#)
- [Pembroke Military Cemetery](#)
- [Pietà Military Cemetery](#)
- [Pitlochry War Memorial](#)
- [Plymouth Naval Memorial](#)
- [Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#)
- [Poulton-le-Fylde War Memorial](#)
- [Preston Cenotaph](#)
- [List of public art in Caerphilly County Borough](#)

Q

- [Quéant Road Cemetery](#)

R

- [Radnage War Memorial](#)
- [RAF Chapel](#)
- [Rainham War Memorial](#)
- [Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery](#)
- [Red Farm Military Cemetery](#)
- [Redheugh Gardens War Memorial](#)

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- [Rheinberg War Cemetery](#)
- [Rifle Brigade War Memorial](#)
- [Rochdale Cenotaph](#)
- [Rolls-Royce Battle of Britain Memorial Window](#)
- [Royal Air Force Memorial](#)
- [Royal Artillery Memorial](#)
- [Royal Naval Cemetery](#)
- [Rue-du-Bois Military Cemetery](#)
- [Ryes War Cemetery](#)

S

- [Saint-Charles-de-Percy War Cemetery](#)
- [Saint-Manvieu War Cemetery](#)
- [Scarborough War Memorial](#)
- [South African War Memorial, Cardiff](#)
- [Southampton Cenotaph](#)
- [Southport War Memorial](#)
- [Spalding War Memorial](#)
- [Statue of Captain Albert Ball](#)
- [Stoke and Wexham War Memorial](#)
- [Stokenchurch War Memorial](#)

T

- [Liverpool Scottish Memorial, Railway Wood](#)
- [Thiepval Memorial](#)
- [Thornton-Cleveleys War Memorial](#)
- [Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery](#)
- [Tirah Memorial](#)
- [Todmorden War Memorial](#)
- [Tower Hill Memorial](#)
- [List of ships named on the Tower Hill Memorial](#)

U

- [Uden War Cemetery](#)
- [United Nations Memorial Cemetery](#)

V

- [Valençay SOE Memorial](#)
- [Valkenswaard War Cemetery](#)
- [Victory Over Blindness](#)

W

- [Wagoners' Memorial](#)
- [War Memorial Cross, Beeston](#)
- [War Memorial of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers](#)

Searching British Military Records

- [War Memorials \(Local Authorities' Powers\) Act 1923](#)
- [Welsh National War Memorial](#)
- [West Hartlepool War Memorial](#)
- [Winslow War Memorial](#)
- [Wormhoudt Communal Cemetery](#)

Y

- [York and Lancaster Memorial, Sheffield](#)

Newspapers

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices>

<https://www.amdigital.co.uk/collection/service-newspapers-of-world-war-two>

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/>

<https://thewarhorse.org/>

<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/alicante/magazines-newsletters/the-legion-and-membership-e-newslette> (Royal British Legion Magazines & Nesletters)

<https://vimeo.com/rblremembrance> (Royal British Legion Video Library)

National Archives Research Guides

British Army soldiers up to 1913

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-soldiers-up-to-1913/>

Births, marriages and deaths in the armed forces

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/birth-marriage-death-armed-forces/>

British Army muster rolls and pay lists c.1730-1898

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-muster-rolls-pay-lists-1730-1898/>

Searching British Military Records

Navy ships' log books

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-ships-voyages-log-books>

Navy operations in the First World War

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-operations-first-world-war/>

Royal Navy operations in the Second World War

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-operations-second-world-war/>

Merchant Navy ships' records: crew lists, musters and log books

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/merchant-navy-ships-records-crew-lists-musters-and-log-books/>

National Archives Online records

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/birth-marriage-death-armed-forces/>

Royal Navy registers of reports of deaths on ships (1893–1950)

Download, for free, digital microfilm copies of indexes to registers of reports of deaths on Royal Navy ships in [ADM 104/102–108](#) and the respective registers themselves in [ADM 104/109–118](#) and [ADM 104/122–139](#). The registers include name, age and rank of each seaman, the ship on which they were serving at the time of their death, with the date, place and cause of their death.

Royal Navy registers of killed and wounded (1854–1911 and 1914–1929)

Searching British Military Records

Download, for free, digital microfilm copies of the Royal Navy registers of killed and wounded 1854–1911 and 1914–1929 in [ADM 104/144–149](#). Indexes to these records for 1915–1929 are in [ADM 104/140–143](#). The registers include name, age and rank of seamen, the ship on which they were serving and the date, place and circumstances of their injury or death.

British Army and Royal Navy birth, marriage and death records (1730–1960)

Search for a range of different types of [British Army and Royal Navy birth, marriage and death records](#) (charges apply), including baptism and burial records and registers of marriages and deaths, at Ancestry.co.uk. The records span a variety of year ranges between 1730 and 1960 and are from multiple [ADM](#) and [WO](#) record series.

Indexes to births, marriages and deaths in the armed forces (1761–1995)

Search [indexes to the regimental registers, British Army chaplains' registers, army returns and service departments registers](#) in the military section on findmypast (charges apply). The related certificates can be obtained from the [General Register Office](#).

The indexes to the regimental registers give a name, place, year and regiment.

Army chaplains' registers (1796–1880) relate to births, marriages and deaths overseas. The index gives a name, place and date range of two to three years.

Service departments registers of births and marriages (1956–1965) relate to army, navy and air force births and marriages abroad.

Royal Navy seamen wills (1786–1882)

Search and download [wills of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel](#) (charges apply) from ADM 48.

Records available only at The National Archives in Kew

To access these records you will either need to [visit us](#), [pay for research](#) (charges apply) or, where you can identify a specific record reference, [order](#) a copy (charges apply).

Army registers of baptisms, marriages and burials in UK and overseas garrisons (1808–2007)

Browse Discovery, our catalogue, in record series [WO 156](#) to see which garrison records are held by The National Archives. The registers are relatively few in number and mainly date from the 20th century.

RAF Chaplaincy Board registers of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials (1919–2009)

Browse our catalogue, in record series [AIR 82](#) for registers of baptisms, confirmations, burials, and marriage (including banns) which were kept at various RAF stations in the British Isles and overseas. The records are searchable by name of RAF station/country and not by name of individual.

Royal Navy Chaplaincy records of baptisms, marriages and burials (1845–1998)

Browse in [ADM 338](#) for registers of baptisms, marriages and burials by the Chaplain of the Fleet. These will mostly cover Royal Navy personnel but can also include civilians of any national.