

HOW TO FIND MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

Learning more about the military history of your family members is a great way to honour their service. Here you'll find out how you can search for New Zealand, British and Australian service files.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

SERVICE FILES BEFORE 1921

The surviving military service files of all those who served in the New Zealand Armed Forces during the Boer War (1899-1902), the First World War (1914-1918) and who were discharged from military service before 1921, are held at Archives New Zealand in Wellington. Archives New Zealand also holds records relating to many New Zealanders who served in the armed forces of other countries during the First World War.

Although access to the original military service files is restricted, digitised versions of the files can be downloaded free of charge from the Archives New Zealand Archway website:

<http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/>

Further assistance is available from Archives New Zealand:

Archives New Zealand
10 Mulgrave Street, Thorndon,
Wellington 6011, New Zealand

Tel: (04) 499 5595
General email: general.enquiries@dia.govt.nz
Research email: research.archives@dia.govt.nz
Website: <http://archives.govt.nz/>

SERVICE FILES FROM 1921

The surviving military service files of all those who served in the New Zealand Armed Forces after 1 January 1921, during the Second World War (1939-1945) and in all following periods, are held by New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Archives at Trentham Military Camp. These files have not been digitised and requests to view or receive copies of the files must be made in writing:

NZDF Archives
Personnel Enquiries
Trentham Military Camp
Private Bag 905, Upper Hutt 5140
New Zealand

Tel: (04) 527 5280
Email: persarch@nzdf.mil.nz



Access to files that relate to living persons is restricted. Full details about these restrictions and advice about how to access and interpret the files held by NZDF Archives is available from the NZDF website: <http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/>

A request form for those wishing to access or receive copies of the files held by NZDF Archives is available from a different page on the NZDF website: <http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/accessing-military-service-records.htm>

FURTHER RESEARCH

Help with decoding the most commonly used abbreviations found in New Zealand military service files is also available from the NZDF website:

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/default.htm>

Additional Information about individuals, including photographs, can often be found on the Auckland War Memorial Museum Cenotaph website:

<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx>

Information about the units in which individuals served and the campaigns in which they fought is available from a wide variety of sources. Among the most detailed are the New Zealand Official Histories published after the First and Second World Wars. Copies of these histories are available through local libraries.

Digitised versions of these histories are also available from the Victoria University New Zealand Electronic Text Centre: <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/subject-000001.html>

Excellent summaries of the New Zealand's participation in the First and Second World Wars and other conflicts are available from the NZ History Online website: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war-and-society>



BRITISH MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

SERVICE FILES BEFORE 1921

The military service files of British military personnel who served before 1921 are held at the (UK) National Archives in London. Comprehensive advice about how to access these records is available from The National Archives website:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person%5Cdefault.htm>

SERVICE FILES FROM 1921

The military service files of British military personnel who served from 1921 until the present day are retained by the UK Ministry of Defence. Comprehensive advice about how to apply for copies of these records is available from the UK Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records>

FURTHER RESEARCH

Information about the units in which individuals served and the campaigns in which they fought is available from many sources. Copies of the British Official Histories of the First and Second World Wars are available through local library services via inter-library loans. Individual regimental histories may also be available via inter-library loans. Many titles have also been digitised. One of the best means of discovering these digitised resources is to search the online database of the Open Library: <https://openlibrary.org/>

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

The military service files of Australian military personnel who served during the Boer War (1899-1902), First World War (1914-1918) and Second World War (1939-1945) are held by The National Archives of Australia in Canberra. Digital copies of the files can be downloaded free of charge.

Control over access to post-Second World War military service files is retained, for the most part, by the Australian Department of Defence.

Comprehensive advice about how to access Australian military service records of all types is available from the website of The National Archives of Australia:

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx>

FURTHER RESEARCH

There is a wealth of printed and online information available to aid further research into Australian military service records.

Nominal rolls of Australian personnel who served during the Boer War (1899-1902), First World War (1914-1918), Second World War (1939-1945), Korean War (1951-1956), Vietnam War (1962-1975) and First Gulf War (1990-1991) are available via the website of the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs: http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/nominal_rolls/Pages/index.aspx

Digitised versions of Australian Official Histories of the First and Second World Wars may be viewed and downloaded from the website of the Australian War Memorial: <http://www.awm.gov.au/histories/>

