



## WW2 Service Records

Military service records are public records - records generated by central government - and are therefore not held by Local Authority Archive Services. If you are interested in accessing a World War Two service record the following advice may help you.

For reasons of confidentiality World War Two service records are closed – in other words they are not generally available for public consultation. However, it is possible for service personnel themselves or their descendants to access information about their military service.

The Ministry of Defence retain the following service information:

- British Army - service records after 1920
- Royal Navy – until 1971 Royal Navy personnel were given their service records upon discharge. For the period prior to 1972 The Ministry of Defence retains salary records only. These provide name, number and rank and list the names and dates of ships and shore bases but do not provide detailed service information.
- Royal Air Force – officers' service records from 1922 onwards and airmen's service records from 1924.

The service person or their widow or widower can obtain copies of service information without charge but must complete an application form and provide details of name, rank and service number and evidence of identity. Wider relatives can apply for access to a family member's service record but must complete an application form, provide evidence of relationship and pay a fee of £30. Detailed information about accessing records and downloadable forms can be accessed via the Veterans-UK website or alternatively there is a free telephone helpline.

### Contact Details

Website: [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

E-mail: [veterans-uk@mod.uk](mailto:veterans-uk@mod.uk)

Telephone: 0808 1914 2 18

## Accessing Earlier Service Records

Earlier service records are held by The National Archives (TNA) in Kew, London. The Research Guidance section of TNA website provides useful information about holdings and how to access. World War One service records for 'other ranks' and some pension records have been made available on the Ancestry website ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)). This is a subscription site but we do offer free access to it in our Study Centre at Woodhorn.

## Contact Details

Website: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
E-mail: Via contact form on website.  
Telephone: 020 8876 3444

Northumberland Archives is committed to providing a quality service to all its users and therefore this information is also available in Large Print and via the Internet. The Internet address is:

[www.northumberlandarchives.com](http://www.northumberlandarchives.com)

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