

Tracing WW2 Ancestors Fact sheet

Before you start...

You need to know

1. Which service a person was in
2. The unit they served with
3. The rank they held
4. Where they serve

REMEMBER *The closer to fighting a man was the more detailed the information you are likely to find about him*

Useful addresses

The National Archives

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond ,Surrey TW9 4DU
Tel: 020-8392 5200, and www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Rd, London SE1 6HZ
Tel: 020-7416 5000, www.iwm.org.uk

National Army Museum

Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT
Tel. 020 7730 0717, www.national-army-museum.ac.uk

National Maritime Museum

Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
Tel: 020-8858 4422, www.nmm.ac.uk

RAF Museum

Graham Park Way, London NW9 5LL
Tel: 020-8205 2266, www.rafmuseum.org.uk

Fleet Air Arm Museum

RNAS Yeovilton , Ilchester BA22 8HT
Tel: 01935-840565, www.fleetairarm.com

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

2 Marlow Rd, Maidenhead SL6 7DX
Tel: 01628-34221 www.cwgc.org

To find regimental museums visit www.armymuseums.org.uk or consult Terence and Shirley Wise, A Guide to Military Museums (10th edition, 2001)

Obtaining service records

To be able to get access you will have to prove that you are the next of kin or descendent. The Ministry of Defence also charges a fee, currently £30, for this service.

Army

Ministry of Defence, Army Personnel Centre, Historic Disclosures, Mailpoint 400, Kentigern House, 65 Brown St, Glasgow G2 8EX

RAF

Ministry of Defence, PMA (CS) 2a2, Building 248a, HQ RAF PYC, RAF Innsworth GL3 1EZ.

Royal Navy

Officers aged over 60 years including Second World War RNR/RNVR, Ratings who enlisted 1924-1939 and Women's Royal Naval Service who enlisted 1939 and 1955: Navy Correspondence, MOD Repository, Government Buildings, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1RS

Ratings who enlisted 1939 onwards and Women's Royal Naval Service who enlisted 1956 onwards: Royal Navy Records, Room 86, Centurion Building, Grange Road, Portsmouth PO13 9XA

For more information visit www.veteransagency.mod.uk.

Claiming medals or replacement medals

MOD Medals Office, Building 250, RAF Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1HW, tel 0800 085 3600, www.veteransagency.mod.uk.

Further reading

Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your Second World War Ancestors* (Countryside Books, 2006)

Phil Tomaselli, *Second World War Ancestors* (Federation of Family History Societies, forthcoming)

Imperial War Museum, *Tracing Your Family History* (IWM, 2000). There are separate volumes dedicated to the Army, Navy, and Air Force

Bruno Pappalardo, *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors* (Public Record Office, 2003)

William Spencer and Simon Fowler, *Army Records for Family History* (Public Record Office, 1998)

William Spencer, *Air Force Records for Family Historians* (Public Record Office, 2002)