

# 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](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

### Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Rd, London SE1 6HZ  
Tel: 020-7416 5000, [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

### National Army Museum

Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT  
Tel. 020 7730 0717, [www.national-army-museum.ac.uk](http://www.national-army-museum.ac.uk)

### National Maritime Museum

Greenwich, London SE10 9NF  
Tel: 020-8858 4422, [www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

### RAF Museum

Graham Park Way, London NW9 5LL  
Tel: 020-8205 2266, [www.rafmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk)

### Fleet Air Arm Museum

RNAS Yeovilton , Ilchester BA22 8HT  
Tel: 01935-840565, [www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com)

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

2 Marlow Rd, Maidenhead SL6 7DX  
Tel: 01628-34221 [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

*To find regimental museums visit [www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk) or consult Terence and Shirley Wise, A Guide to Military Museums (10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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)