



Military Personnel Records at the National Archives at St. Louis:

Official Military Personnel Files and Auxiliary Records

Official Military Personnel Files

The National Archives at St. Louis holds Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of former military service members for the dates listed below. These records have been accessioned into the holdings of the National Archives and are open to the general public 62 years following a military service member's discharge, retirement, or death in service.

Branch of Service	Rank	Range of Discharge Dates	
Air Force	Officers and Enlisted	September 25, 1947	Current archival date*
Army, Army Air Corps, & Army Air Forces	Officers	July 1, 1917	Current archival date*
	Enlisted	November 1, 1912	Current archival date*
Coast Guard	Officers and Enlisted	January 1, 1898	Current archival date*
Marine Corps	Officers	January 1, 1905	Current archival date*
	Enlisted	January 1, 1895	Current archival date*
Navy	Officers	January 1, 1902	Current archival date*
	Enlisted	January 1, 1885	Current archival date*

**To determine the current archival date, subtract 62 years from the current date. For example, on April 13, 2013, the archival date was April 13, 1951.*

Military service records for individuals whose service terminated before the dates above are held by the Textual Archives Services Division, Washington, D.C. 20408.

The OMPFs for individuals whose service terminated less than 62 years ago are held by the National Personnel Records Center – Military Records, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138.

If medical records are filed within the OMPF (usually Army and Air Force), they are also archival and open to the public.

The 1973 Fire

On July 12, 1973, a fire at the previous National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) location destroyed approximately 80% of Army records of personnel discharged between November 1, 1912 and January 1, 1960 and approximately 75% of Air Force records of personnel (surnames from Hubbard, James E. through Z) discharged between September 25, 1947, and January 1, 1964.

A complete listing of the records that were lost is not available. Duplicate copies of the destroyed records do not exist, nor was a microfilm copy ever produced.

Auxiliary Military Records

Auxiliary military records have been acquired in order to assist in the reconstruction of records lost in the fire. Some examples include:

- Army General Courts-Martial Case Files
- World War I Burial Files
- Selective Service System Records
- World War I Award Cards
- Military Applications for Headstones
- Morning Reports and Unit Records

For more information on auxiliary record groups, please visit our website at:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/index.html>

Requesting an Archival OMPF

Photocopies of archival OMPFs are available for a fee.

- a. Online (eVetRecs) – Requests may be submitted online at:
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> Please note this website is only for veterans and their immediate next-of-kin (spouse that has not remarried, son, daughter, father, mother, sister, or brother of deceased veteran).

- b. Postal Mail - To request an OMPF via postal mail, please complete a Military Records Request Form (SF-180)* or send a letter with the veteran's complete name used during service, service number or social security number, branch of service, and dates of service to:

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138

**A copy of the Military Records Request Form (SF-180) may be found at:*

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

Requesting Auxiliary Military Records

Photocopies of archival auxiliary military records are available for a fee.

- a. Postal Mail - Please send a letter with the record group* you are interested in, veteran's name, service number (if available), date of birth, and years of service to:

National Archives & Records Administration
National Archives at St. Louis
P.O. Box 38757
St. Louis, MO 63138

- b. Email - Please send the record group* you are interested in, veteran's name, service number (if available), date of birth, and years of service to stl.archives@nara.gov

**Due to the specific information needed to search Selective Service System records, please download a Selective Service Request Form and send it to stl.archives@nara.gov or mail it to the P.O. Box shown above. A request form may be found at: www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/selective-service*

Visiting the Archival Research Room

The Archival Research Room is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. CST. To make an appointment, please contact 314-801-0850 or send an email to stlarr.archives@nara.gov.

Additional information concerning the Archival Research Room is available online at:

www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/archival-research-room