

1



2



3



4

How old was your WWI soldier?

- Age range of typical soldier, 17-40
- Average birth year 1873-1900

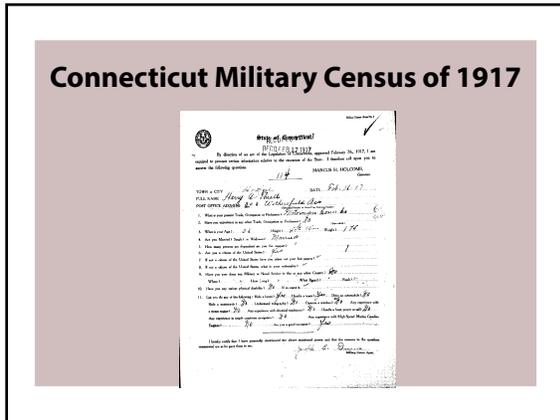


5

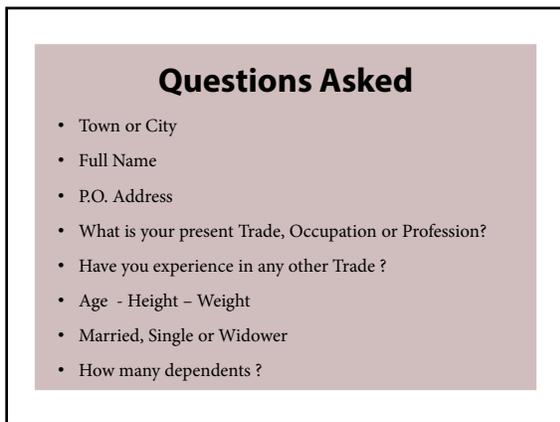
1930 U.S. Federal Census

VETERANS	
Whether a veteran of the U.S. military or naval forces mobilized for any war or expedition	
Yes or No	What war or expedition
30	31

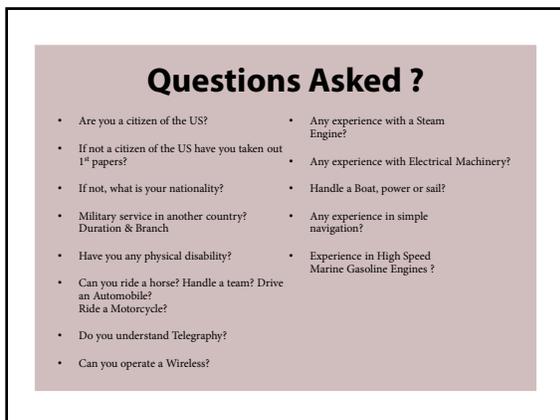
6



7



8



9

Home Resource Checklist

- ✓ Family papers
- ✓ War diaries
- ✓ Letters and postcards
- ✓ Military ephemera
- ✓ Newspaper articles and obituaries
- ✓ Oral traditions or interview older relatives



10

Military Photographs



Messengers of the Motorcycle Corps, 372nd Headquarters, 1919, Wikimedia Commons

11

Cemetery Clues

- Is there a gravestone?
- Cemetery and Burial records
- Transcribed Gravestones
- Is there a flag marker?



12

WWI Draft Registration and Records by Branch

13

Did they enlist before April 6, 1917?

- **Canadian Army** “*The American Legion*” C.E.F. 97th Overseas Battalion
– 1300 Black men volunteered
- **French Air Force** – ex. *Lafayette Escadrille*



14

Selective Service

- **1914:** U.S. Army consists of 127,588 active
- **1914:** National Guardsmen 181,620 active
- **May 18, 1917:** Selective Service Act was passed.
- **At the end of 1917** the Army had ½ million draftees and 233,000 volunteers.
- **1917-1918:** 24 million men born between 1873 and 1900 filled Draft registration cards.

15



16

Draft Registrations

- **First Registration - June 5, 1917:** For men aged 21 to 31 (born between June 6, 1886 and June 5, 1896).
- **Second Registration - June 5, 1918:** For men who had turned 21 since the previous registration (born between June 6, 1896 and June 5, 1897).
 - **August 1918** - An additional registration was done for men who turned 21 that year.

17

Draft Registrations

- **Third Registration - September 12, 1918:** For men aged 18 to 21 and 31 to 45 (born between Sept 11, 1872 and Sept 12, 1900).
- The Armistice occurs on November 11, 1918.

18

Draft Registration Questions

- Name and age in years
- Home address
- Date of birth
- Where were you born?
- What is your Nationality?
- Are you a Native of the United States ?
- Are you a Naturalized Citizen or Alien?

19

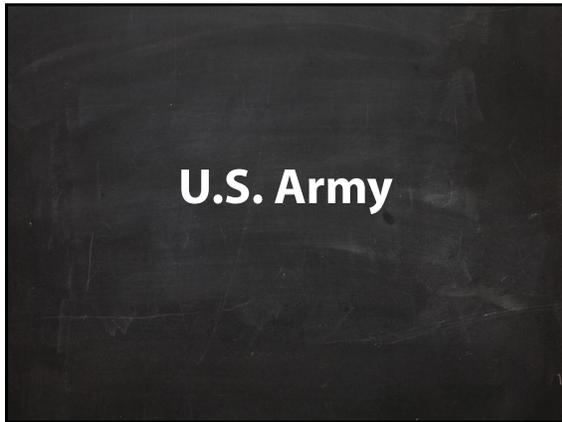
Draft Registration Questions

- Declared Intention
- Non citizen or citizen Indian
- If not a citizen which nation are you a citizen or subject?
- Father's birthplace
- Name and place of employment
- Name and address of nearest relative.
- Your race
- Signature

20

FamilySearch.org

21



25

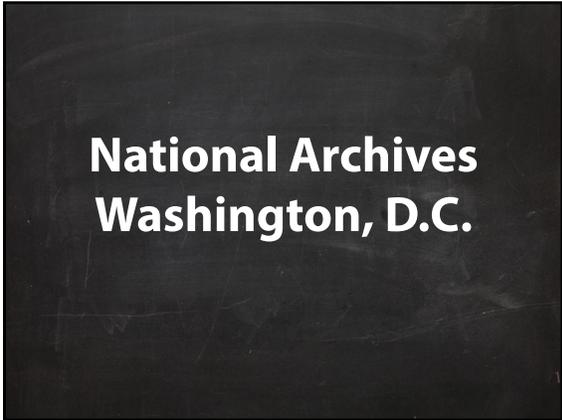
**National Personnel Records Center
(NPRC)**

- Fire of July 12, 1973
- Records Destroyed by fire and water:
 - Army
 - Enlisted men 1912-1960: Compiled service folders.
 - Officers 1917-1960: Compiled service folders.
 - Air Force
 - 1947-1964 Compiled service folders

26



27



28

U.S. Army Mobile Units – RG 391

- Infantry divisions and brigades
- Corps of Engineers Battalion and company records, muster rolls.
- 1st through 15th U.S. Cavalry Regiments
- Infantry divisions and brigades
- Field artillery regiments
- Coastal Artillery Units and Mine planters

29

U.S. Army Overseas Operations – RG 395

- U.S Army troops stationed in China 1912-1938
- A.E.F. troops in Siberia 1918-1920
- Troops stationed in Puerto Rico 1918-1919.

30

Overseas African American Regiments

- Many African Americans served in the Services of Supply section of the American Expeditionary Forces
 - Support and provide materials to other companies along the front lines.
- Under French command:
 - 93rd Infantry Division ("Blue Helmets")
 - all black division
 - 369th Infantry Regiment (Harlem Hellfighters)
 - 370th Infantry Regiment
 - Only unit commanded by black officers

31

Office of the Judge Advocate General – RG 153

- Ledgers of all A.E.F. Court Martial convictions, 1917-1919



32

Record Group 111 – Office of the Chief Signal Officer

- Includes information on the "Hello Girls", 223 women, who served as switchboard operators in England and France for the U.S. Army Signal Corps
- They were considered civilian contract employees and were not awarded veteran status until 1977
 - There are separate civilian personnel files at the National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri

33

Record Group 112 – Office of the Surgeon General

- U.S. Army Nurse Corps
- Personnel records (surgeons, medical officers)
- Hospital Records

34

U.S. Navy and Marines

35

National Personnel Records Center – St. Louis, MO

- Personnel records
- U.S. Navy Officers after 1902
- Enlisted men after 1885
- U.S. Marine Officers after 1895
- Enlisted men after 1904

36



37



38



39

NARA – RG26

- Muster Rolls, 1833-1932
- Honorable Discharges, 1917-1919
- Personnel and Pay cards, 1917-1921
- Officer personnel files, 1915-1929
- Vessel logbooks, 1915-1947
- Casualty and wreck reports, 1913-1936

43

Partial Available Online
This series contains records, some of which are available online.
1,183 File Units and 1 Name (with a total of 130,464 digital objects) from this series are currently online and ready to view.

Catalog.archives.gov

44

RECORD OF THE MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS OF THE DAY.
Tuesport, PaCnd.
Tuesday, January 1, 1918.

Catalog.archives.gov

45



46



47

How old was your WWII soldier?

- Age range 18-64 (as prescribed by drafts)
- Average age 26



48

Utilizing "Home Archives"

- ✓ Family papers
- ✓ War diaries
- ✓ Letters and postcards
- ✓ Military ephemera
- ✓ Newspaper articles and obituaries
- ✓ Oral traditions or interview older relatives



49

**WWII Draft
Registration and
Records by Branch**

50

Draft Registration Cards

51

Draft Registrations

- **1st Draft – Oct. 16, 1940:** Men born between Oct. 17, 1904 and Oct. 16, 1919.
- **2nd Draft – July 1, 1941:** Men born between Oct. 17, 1919 and July 12, 1920. Including those who forgot to register in 1940.
- **3rd Draft – Feb. 16, 1942:** Men born between Feb. 17, 1897 and Dec. 31, 1921.

52

Draft Registrations

- **4th Draft – Apr. 27, 1942:** Men born between Apr. 28, 1877 and Feb. 16, 1897 ("The Old Man's Draft")
- **5th Draft – June 30, 1942:** Men born between Jan. 1, 1922 and June 30, 1924.
- **6th Draft – Dec. 11-31, 1942:** Men born between July 1, 1924 and Dec. 31, 1924. And those reaching an 18th birthday on or after Jan. 1, 1943.
- **Special Draft – Nov. 16 to Dec. 31 1943.** Men born after Dec. 31, 1898 and before Jan. 1, 1926.

53

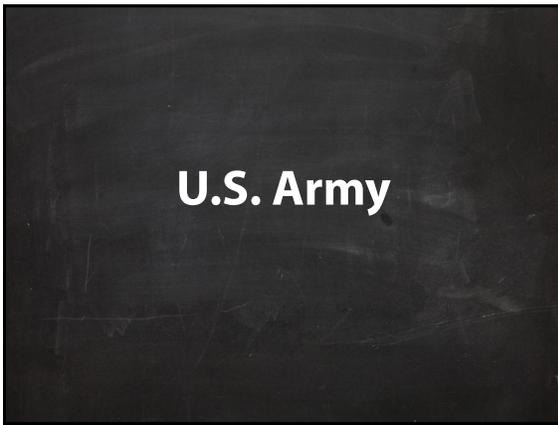
The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Family Tree, Search, Memories, Indexing, and Activities. Below that, there are links for Records, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area is titled "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" and includes a description of the collection, a "View Images in this Collection" button, and a "Citing this Collection" section with a URL and publication information.

54

WWII Draft Registration

- Full name
- Place of residence
- Age and date and place of birth
- Occupation
- Name of next of kin
- Employer's name and address
- Race
- Height
- Eye color
- Hair color
- Complexion
- Other physical characteristics
- Date and location of Draft registration
- Signature

55



56

Dog Tag as a Clue

57

Phil P J Spellman
Military • United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

SAVE EDIT SHARE

No Image Available

Document Information

Collection Information
United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Cite This Record
"United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KBY3-SMK : 5 December 2014), Phil P J Spellman, enlisted 12 Jan 1943, Ft Bragg, North Carolina, United States; citing

Name Phil P J Spellman
Marital Status Single, without dependents
Event Type Military Service
Event Date 12 Jan 1943
Event Place Ft Bragg, North Carolina, United States
Term of Enlistment Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
Race Negro
Citizenship Status citizen
Birth Year 1921
Birthplace NORTH CAROLINA

WWII Army Enlistment Record, FamilySearch

58

Birth Year 1921
Birthplace NORTH CAROLINA
Education Level 1 year of high school
Civilian Occupation Unskilled occupations in production of industrial chemicals
Military Rank Private
Army Branch Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Army Component Selectees (Enlisted Men)
Serial Number 34662295
Affiliate ARC Identifier 1263923
Box Film Number 08333.255

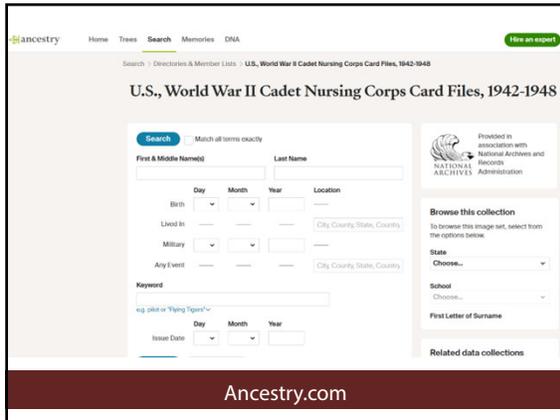
WWII Army Enlistment Record, FamilySearch

59

Women's Army Corps

- Women's Army Auxiliary Corps started on May 15, 1942 for women between ages 21 and 45 years
 - Black women were admitted with a ten percent quota
- Women's Army Corps was created on July 1, 1943
 - Classified under the ranks of soldiers

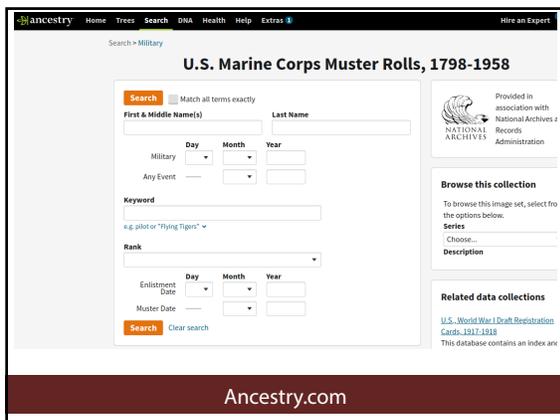
60



61



62



63

Page 10

REPORT OF CHANGES
of U. S. S. KANAWAC (TX-121)

for the month ending 1st day of September, 19 45, date of calling
from to

1	2	3	4	5
NAME	SEVER'S NUMBER	Rating and Rate of Last Station	Place of Assignment	Place of Assignment
16. EYBAMA, Andy (a)	949 05 00	Flt		
17. HALL, James Albert	378 00 02	Sto		
18. WENDELL, Frederick Braxton	612 02 73	Sto		
19. WOODKISS, Emil Joseph	202 27 08	Sto		
20. OLDSMAN, Jimmie Ray	878 17 05	Con. (T)		
21. PALMERI, Francesca (a)	256 21 15	MG1c		
22. PARKS, Ray (a)	229 70 10	Sto		
23. SAPPYFIELD, Russell (a)	627 04 22	MM1c		
24. SAPPYFIELD, Russell (a)	627 04 22	MM1c		

WWII Navy Muster Roll, 1945

67

1	2	3	4
Official Station	Standard, Qualification, Position, Location, or other information	Date of Commission or Rating	Notes or other information which should be included in change. Under this column should be placed all information which should be placed in the Official Station column of the next page.
16. ENDR	C. R.	1 Sept.	Adv. to MM3c(T). Auths BuPers O/L No. 297-44.
17. ENDR	Rec.	16 August	Received from Commander Service Division 104.
18. ENDR	Dec.	16 August	Received from Commander Service Division 104.
19. ENDR	Rec.	30 August	Received from Commander Service Division 104.
20. ENDR	Rec.	16 August	Received from Commander Service Division 104.
21. ENDR	Tran.	19 August	Tran. to RecSta. Chinese, FFT US for discharge under ALMer 194 by reason of exp. of enlistment.
22. ENDR	Rec.	30 August	Received from Commander Service Division 104.
23. ENDR	Rec.	16 August	Received from Commander Service Division 104.
24. ENDR	Tran.	19 August	Tran. to RecSta. Chinese, FFT US for discharge under ALMer 194.

WWII Navy Muster Roll Cont'd, 1945

68

WAVES

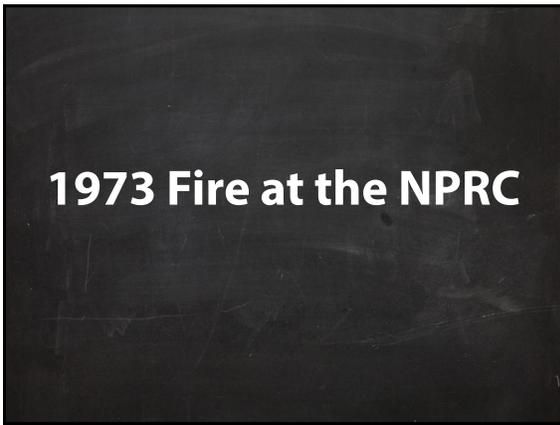
- Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service was started on July 30, 1942 after President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Navy Women's Reserve Act
- Established the Women's Reserve as a branch of the U.S. Navy Reserve during WWII to fill shore duty roles so men could be sent for sea duty
- Women who served in the WAVES have Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF's) like male soldiers



69



70



71

National Personnel Records Center

- Holds the Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) for Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy
- These files are the service records for a member of the military

72

The 1973 Fire



- Shortly after midnight on July 12, 1973, a fire was reported at the NPRC in St. Louis, Missouri.
- The fire was on the 6th floor and burned out of control for 22 hours.
- Fire was officially called out on July 16th.

73

Impact of the Fire

- Records destroyed include Army and Air Force:
 - Army: Enlisted men (1912-1960) and Officers (1917-1960) compiled service folders (80% destroyed)
 - Did not impact records for retirees and reservists who were alive on 12 July 1973.
 - Air Force: 1947-1964 compiled service folders (75% destroyed)
 - Surnames starting with "Hubbard" and through the end of the alphabet
- Navy and Marine service records survived!

74

Did Any of the Service Records Survive?

- Approximately 6.5 million burned and water damaged records were recovered
- The NPRC established a "B" registry file (Burned files) and "R" registry file (Reconstructed files)

75

What Other Records Survived the Fire?

- NPRC staff removed the following files for safekeeping:
 - Operating records
 - Computer Index for holdings
 - More than 100,000 reels of morning reports for Army (1912-1959) and Air Force (1947-1959)

76

Records to Reconstruct a Veteran Service Record

77

Types of Records

- Discharge Papers
- Military Service Abstracts
- Morning Reports
- Unit Rosters
- Final Pay Vouchers
- Award Citations
- Unit Histories

78

Discharge Papers

- Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214)
- Required to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veteran's organizations

79

Information on DD214

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date and place of entry into active duty• Home address at time of entry• Date and place of release from active duty• Home address after separation• Last duty assignment and rank• Military job specialty• Military education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decorations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign awards• Total creditable service• Foreign service credited• Separation information (type of separation, character of service, authority and reason for separation, separation and reenlistment eligibility codes)
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80

Obtaining Copies of Discharge Papers

- Order a copy from the National Personnel Records Center
- Contact State Adjutant General's Office
- Contact County Clerk's Office (veterans were requested to file a copy locally)
- Contact State Archives (many WWI records already moved)

81

Military Service Abstracts

- Key details from a soldier's military including:
 - Muster in date
 - Engagements
 - Injuries
 - Discharge information
 - Birthplace
 - Occupation
 - Residence
- National World War I Museum and Memorial has a list of online World War I databases
- FamilySearch Wiki has a list of databases on FamilySearch/Ancestry/Fold3

82

Ancestry.com

83

NY National Guard Abstract, WWI.
Ancestry.com

84

Why Use Morning Reports?

- Track a soldier's movements from start to finish, when the soldier entered and exited the company.
- This can allow you to create a timeline of the different battles they served in overseas.

85

Accessing Morning Reports

- The original microfilm reels that were saved from the 1973 fire are held at the NPRC in St. Louis, Missouri
- There is a digitization project to add these records to Fold3. Currently these records are complete through 1939.
 - No current ETA on when WWII records will be added.
- For WWII records, you will need to visit or hire a researcher in NPRC to search the microfilm reels for the morning reports you need.

86

Where the Company was stationed →

Service Number and listing for Michael Doherty →

Morning Report, 1944, NPRC, St. Louis, Missouri

87

Unit Rosters

- Monthly personnel rosters were created at the company level
- Rosters list the name of individual, service number, rank, and other grade information
- Copies of most monthly rosters can be found at the National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri
 - 1912-1943
 - 1947-1959
 - Records were destroyed for units serving in World War II from 1944-1946

91

COMPANY "I"			
2/Sgt Martin D Byerly	36051822	Cpl Charles B Shea	32812004
Cpl Graham Horrell	2898621	Pfc John A Anderson	34110340
Pfc Edward G Bond	37070525	Pfc Lee J Dutton	33410000
Pfc George J Dooliver	36570840	Pfc Barry L Dunn	32610011
Pfc William E Foster	12154225	Pfc Rufus Harris	34403477
Pfc Richard L Kinade	26767647	Pfc Clayton A Kriker	34110060
Pfc Dentar E Lane	36831807	Pfc John H Lyons	37142728
Pfc Donald J Madison	36647662	Pfc Arthur F Watson	34110052
Pfc Russell H Mayberry	35822074	Pfc Reginald P Miller	33600478
Pfc George H Nelson	36832648	Pfc Michael J Ostrowski	20109804
Pfc Anthony J Peltimate	33972072	Pfc Lawrence J Press	36846881
Pfc Walter J Fydo	36832282	Pfc Richard Sashkof	33794868
Pfc John T Sigas	36845031	Pfc Stephen H Schneider	34812229
Pfc John D Sedleck Jr	35919883	Pfc Billy B Stokes	38102226
Pfc Ira D Hare	34892041	Pfc Kenneth J Wright	32484884
Pfc Clyde E Anderson	26782200	Pfc James T Sallay	34730028
Pfc Bumer B Baker	36374883	Pfc Roy J Barth	33644884
Pfc Raymond E Souquet	35775066	Pfc Jack Brinkman	42541181
Pfc Morris Brodsky	32987984	Pfc Guy J Bugt	34671226
Pfc Harper Burdette	34528487	Pfc Barbara J Subbar	28977791
Pfc Albert Cross	31400792	Pfc Michael J Deberry	42038000
Pfc Howard L Dunn	12174621	Pfc John Petko	44010079
Pfc Richard S Long	36849092	Pfc Chester A Wajshar	36849891
Pfc Frank Kolshorri	36099723	Pfc Harry Hognosky	33780888
Pfc Thomas D Murphy	35032172	Pfc Phillip A Nelson	37070782
Pfc George A Beak	33464832	Pfc Frank H Payne	42010386
Pfc Amos H Piko	37124336	Pfc Lewis F Poore	28102183
Pfc Henry L Priester	42024876	Pfc Edward Ryzynski	42061138
Pfc Henry O Schmidt	42042330	Pfc Milton J Swerin	24400791
Pfc Guy J Sherrill	35849895	Pfc Johnnie Slawey	34491184
Pfc Adolph E Shurell	36833028	Pfc Calvin C Rainey	26648493

Roster, Company I, 45th Infantry, NPRC, St. Louis, Missouri

92

Final Pay Vouchers

- Final payment made to soldier and/or family
- Alternative record for the DD214 (Report of Separation)
- This is usually the only surviving record of a soldier's personnel file

93

Information Provided on Final Pay Vouchers

- Name
- Serial number
- Grade or rank
- Home address (generally valid for three months following discharge)
- Unit assignment at discharge
- Place and date of entry
- Place and date of discharge
- Previous organization
- Character of service
- Discharge authority
- Years of service
- Signature of veteran.

94

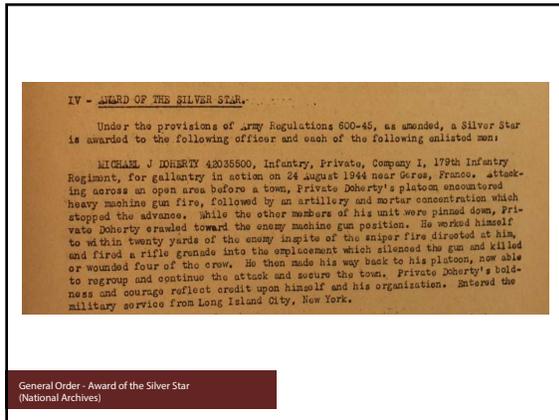
Final Pay Voucher, Alfred Schild, NPRC, St. Louis, Missouri

95

Award Citations

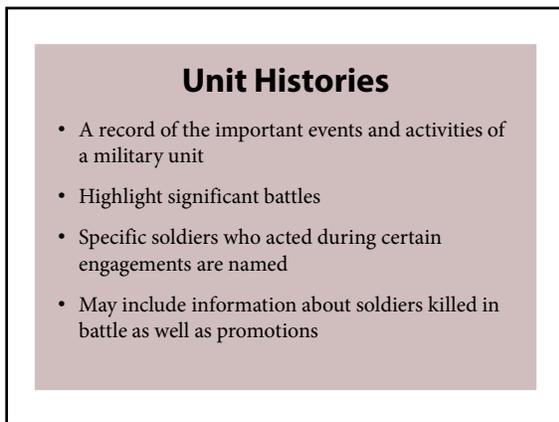
- These were awarded for acts of gallantry in action
- Known as general orders
- Record Group 407 – Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1905-1981 – NARA Archives II (College Park, Maryland)

96

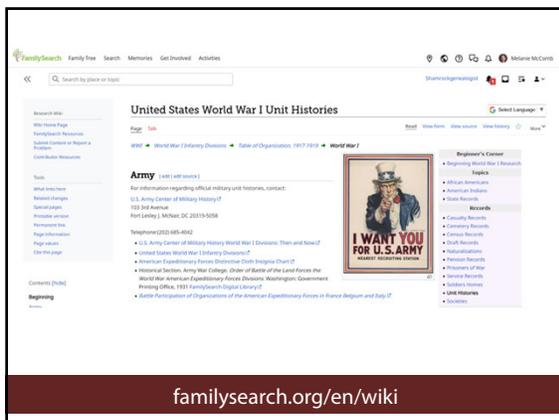


General Order - Award of the Silver Star (National Archives)

97



98



familysearch.org/en/wiki

99

**Former Islander
In Lively Action
With U. S. Forces**

WITH THE 45th DIVISION OF THE 7th Army in France – Crawling to within 20 yards of a German machine-gun emplacement, Private Michael J. Doherty of 21-15 45th Avenue, Long Island City, knocked it out with a rifle grenade. The action occurred on the 45th "Thunderbird" Division's front in France when Doherty's company was halted in its advance by the [German] gunners."

islandnewspapers.ca

109

"The gun didn't shoot any more. In a little while we all worked our way to the position and found the grenades had done the work. The gun was finished," Doherty concluded.

Doherty's wife, Mrs. Rose Doherty, and their three-year-old son, Michael Jr., make their home at the Long Island City address. The soldier has been awarded three campaign stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

(Pvt. Michael J. Doherty is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Doherty, Vernon Bridge, P. M. T. He enlisted in the U. S. 7th Army, 45th Division, and has been in Italy for the past two years. Michael has two brothers in the Canadian Army: Cpl. Owen Doherty in France, and Cpl. Dennis Doherty in Holland.)

islandnewspapers.ca

110

Review

1. Learning the branch of the military and the years when your ancestor served are crucial to find records.
2. Don't overlook international military records (such as Canada, France, and England) when looking for their records.
3. If your ancestor's service record was lost in the 1973 fire, seek out the alternative record sets discussed.
4. And remember, not all records are online. Seek out the relevant records in each repository to learn about your ancestor's military service.

111



112



113



114



115



116
