

HERITAGE HUB SOURCE LIST TRACING MILITARY ANCESTORS

This source list gives an introduction to the records available, most of which are held nationally rather than at local centres. The archives and reference books listed here are held at the Heritage Hub which also offers free internet access to enable you to research online. Do ask staff for assistance.

Please note that the Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Service is not responsible for the content of the websites and external links given here.

GENERAL WEBSITES

- **National Archives, Kew** - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Formerly the Public Records Office, National Archives is the major UK repository for military records from the British army, navy and air force, including colonial and dominion forces. This is your first point of information giving an overview on what is available, with digitised records on the Documents Online pages. The website also offers detailed guides to research.
- **National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh** - www.nas.gov.uk
Includes an online record guide to military records. The main NAS record of individuals in the Scottish army before 1707 is the series of muster rolls. Post 1707, official military records are held by The National Archives at Kew.
- **National War Museum of Scotland** - www.nms.ac.uk/warmuseum
The Museum at Edinburgh Castle features uniforms, insignia and equipment, medals, decorations, weapons, paintings, ceramics and silverware, all of which throw light on Scotland's military history, from world-changing events to the everyday life of Scottish servicemen, with documents, photographs, diaries and official documents.
- **Imperial War Museum, London** - www.iwm.org.uk
Holds an extensive collection of private diaries, letters, papers and unpublished memoirs; also a series of biographical files on holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross. Online guides on tracing ancestry in the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force.
- **Military Service Records** - www.veterans-uk.info/
Provides information on accessing personnel service records. Records prior to the 1920's are held at the National Archives (see above) and are freely available for public access. For more recent records, strict rules are in place on releasing information only to proven next of kin, confirmed by birth certificate and death certificate. A fee will also be charged. Specific details for each service are given online.
- **Wartime Records** – www.forces-war-records.co.uk
A definitive location for military records from WW2, WW1, Boer War, Crimean War and back to 1630.
- **Ancestry** - www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.com
Two commercial subscription/pay-as-you-view-sites that host a substantial collection of military databases ranging from First World War records to listings of Scottish soldiers in colonial America. New on the Findmypast website are the Chelsea Pensioner Service Records 1760-1913.
- **Military Genealogy** – www.military-genealogy.com
A commercial site launched by the Naval and Military Press, with a number of databases, including the Men of the Battle of Waterloo 1815, and the National Roll of the Great War, which, unlike many other listings, contains details of men and some women who survived the conflict.

- **Military Medals** – www.military-medal.co.uk
A starting point for identifying medals.
- **British Battles** – www.britishbattles.com

ARMY RECORDS

WEBSITES

- **National Army Museum** – www.national-army-museum.ac.uk
Covers military history of the British Army, Indian and colonial forces prior to independence, with regimental histories, military biographies etc. Online guide to researching a soldier's military career.
- **Army Museums Ogilby Trust** - www.armymuseums.org.uk
Definitive guide to the regimental and corps museums of the British Army throughout the United Kingdom, with an online guide to military ancestor research
- **British Army Website** - www.army.mod.uk
The official website on today's army Includes information on career structure, regiments, medals and awards.
- **India Office** - www.bl.uk/collections/oiofamilyhistory/familymilitary.html
The British Library website includes a section on India Office papers relating to army officers and soldiers from the early 17th century.
- **Regimental Museums** – note that individual regiments have their own web sites.

ARCHIVE COLLECTION

The Heritage Hub holds a large collection of lieutenancy and militia records for the Borders, largely spanning the time of the Napoleonic Wars. See the separate source list for details.

BOOK COLLECTION – please ask staff for further assistance, as the list below gives only a selection of titles available.

<i>Imperial War Museum</i>	<i>Tracing your family history: army.</i>
<i>Spencer, William</i>	<i>Army records: a guide for family historians</i>
<i>Beckett, Ian F W</i>	<i>The First World War: the essential guide to sources in the UK National Archives</i>
<i>Fowler, Simon</i>	<i>Army service records of the First World War</i>
<i>Fowler, Simon</i>	<i>Tracing your First World War ancestors</i>
<i>Holding, Norman</i>	<i>The location of British Army records 1914-1918</i>
<i>Holding, Norman</i>	<i>More sources of World War 1 army ancestry</i>
<i>Livingstone, Alastair</i>	<i>Muster roll of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's Army 1745-46</i>
<i>Mackinnon, Colonel</i>	<i>Origin and Services of the Coldstream Guards</i>
<i>Mcwatt, David</i>	<i>Letter to the officers...Berwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry</i>
<i>Maxwell, Sir Herbert</i>	<i>The Lowland Scots regiments</i>
<i>Oram, Gerard</i>	<i>Death sentences passed by military courts of the British Army 1914-1924</i>
<i>Paul, W. Pratt</i>	<i>The Lowland regiments</i>
	<i>Prisoners of War British Army 1939-1945</i>
<i>Spencer, William</i>	<i>Army records: a guide for family historians</i>
<i>Swinnerton, Iain</i>	<i>Identifying your World War I soldier from badges and photographs</i>
<i>Weir, , Rev Robert</i>	<i>A history of the Scottish Borderers Militia</i>
<i>Woolward, W A</i>	<i>The Lothians and Border Yeomanry</i>

NAVAL RECORDS

WEBSITES

- **Naval Biographical Database** - www.navylist.org
Information on individuals associated with the Royal Navy. Currently covers the period 1660-1800s.
- **Sailing Ships of the Royal Navy** – www.cronab.demon.co.uk
- **Modern Navy** – www.royal-navy.mod.uk
The official Ministry of Defence website.

BOOK COLLECTION

<i>Dobson, David</i>	<i>Scottish maritime records 1600-1850</i>
<i>Imperial War Museum</i>	<i>Tracing your family history: Royal Navy</i> <i>Tracing your family history: Merchant Navy</i>
<i>Pappalardo, Bruno</i>	<i>Tracing your naval ancestors</i>
	<i>Prisoners of War Naval and Air Forces of Great Britain and the Empire 1939-1945,</i>
<i>Public Record Office</i>	<i>Using Navy records (Pocket guides to family history)</i>

AIR FORCE RECORDS

WEBSITES

- **Fleet Air Arm Museum** – www.faam.org.uk
For information on archives, aircraft and artefacts connected with British naval aviation.
- **Royal Air Force Museum** – www.rafmuseum.org.uk
The library and archive collection holds a wide range of material relating to personnel.

BOOK COLLECTION

<i>Imperial War Museum</i>	<i>Tracing your family history: Royal Air Force</i>
	<i>Prisoners of War Naval and Air Forces of Great Britain and the Empire 1939-1945</i>
<i>Spencer, William</i>	<i>Air Force records for family historians</i>

WAR MEMORIALS AND ROLLS OF HONOUR

WEBSITES

- **The Commonwealth War Graves Commission** - www.cwgc.org
The starting point for tracing a wartime casualty. The Debt of Honour Register offers a free search facility, with details on the scene of war and place of burial.
- **Post 1945 Memorial** - <http://www.forcesmemorial.org.uk/roll-of-honour.asp>
The first national memorial dedicated to members of the armed forces killed on duty since World War Two was recently unveiled. The website offers a search facility with information up to 31 December 2006,
- **Scottish War Memorial** - www.snmw.org
Provides an on-line search of the Scottish Roll Of Honour held at the Scottish War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle. Includes conflicts post 1945.
- **Scottish War Memorials – civic, school and other:**
<http://www.spanglefish.com/scottishmilitaryresearchgroup/index.asp?pageid=64055>
- **War Memorials** – www.roll-of-honour.com
Covers war memorials across Britain, including regiments, airfields and airbases.

BOOK COLLECTION

<i>Cockburn, Andrew</i>	<i>Cockburns who died in the Great War</i>
<i>Gunn, Dr.C.</i>	<i>The Book of Remembrance for Tweeddale</i>
<i>Hawick News</i>	<i>Hawick and the Great War: a pictorial guide</i>
	<i>Innerleithen War Memorial</i>
	<i>Melrose Parish War Memorial 1914-1918, 1939-1945</i>
	<i>Peeblesshire Roll of Honour</i>
<i>Richardson, Gavin</i>	<i>After Gallipoli</i>
<i>Richardson, Gavin</i>	<i>For King and Country and the Scottish Borderers</i>
<i>Robertson, Derek</i>	<i>The men who marched away, [from Liddesdale]</i>
<i>Robertson, Derek</i>	<i>All those fine fellows [Hawick and district]</i>
	<i>Roll of Honour of the 1296 men from the Burgh and Parish of Selkirk who served in the Army or Navy during the Great War 1914-1918.</i>
<i>Selkirk Ex-Soldiers Association</i>	<i>Book of Remembrance [1914-18]</i>

CD-ROMS

Naval & Military Press	Soldiers died in the Great War 1914-19
Naval & Military Press	Army Roll of Honour – World War II Soldiers died in the Second World War

POSTCARDS

- The Heritage Hub holds an extensive indexed postcard collection which includes photographs of war memorials in Border towns and villages.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

- The Heritage Hub holds on microfilm 25 titles of local newspapers. These range from a complete run of the “Southern Reporter” first published in 1855 to papers which have long past into history such as the “Kelso Mail”, “Teviotdale Record” and “St. Ronan’s Standard”.
- Conflicts such as the Crimean War and Boer War feature and columns during the First World War are particularly poignant with pages filled with profiles and often photographs of casualties.
- As few newspapers are indexed, be prepared for a protracted search to find relevant information unless you have a clear idea of the date i.e. month and year.

Heritage Hub, Kirkstile, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 0AE.

Tel. 01450 360699

E-mail: archives@scotborders.gov.uk

Web: www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehubk

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