STARTING RESEARCH in

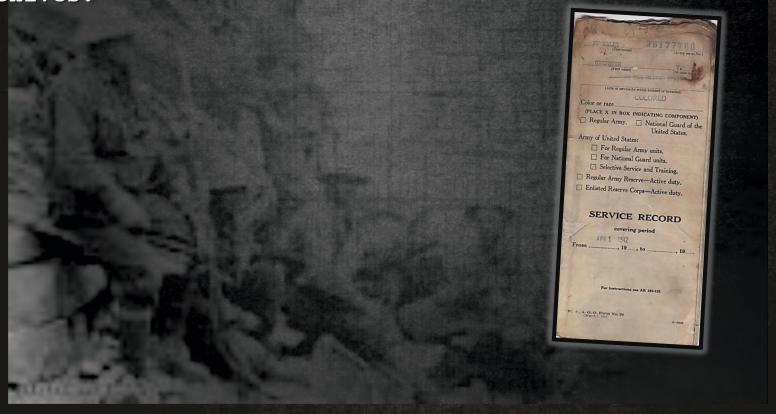
MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

USING the



OFFICIAL MILITARY
PERSONNEL FILE

This presentation provides an overview of the archival military service records of 20th Century Army veterans, also known as the official military personnel files or O.M.P.F.'s, which are maintained at the U.S. National Archives.



The military service records maintained within the Army O.M.P.F. are essentially a collection of administrative papers which document the service history of the individual Army veteran.



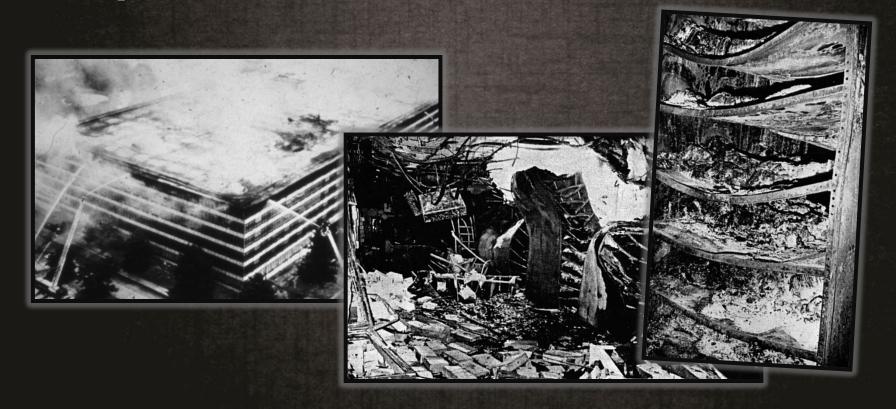
For example, when an Army veteran enlisted, was promoted or died in the service, the paperwork pertaining to those events would have been filed away inside of the Army veteran's O.M.P.F.



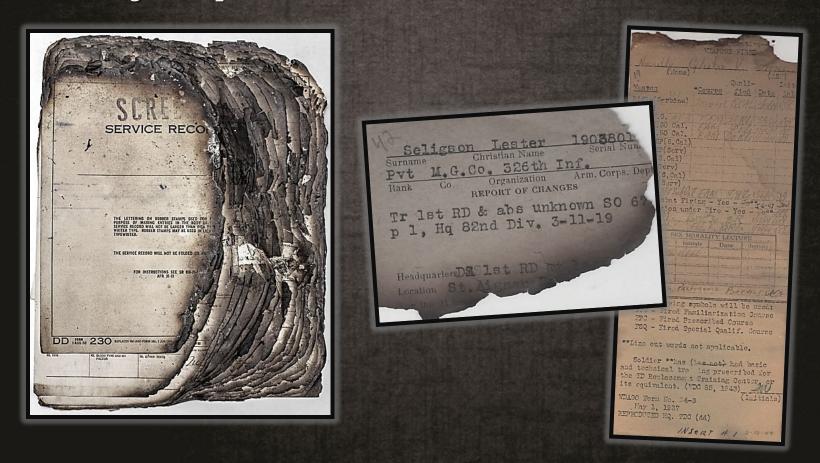
Today, these records can be viewed in person at the National Archives. Access to these military service records allow us to understand where an Army veteran was and what they were doing during the war.



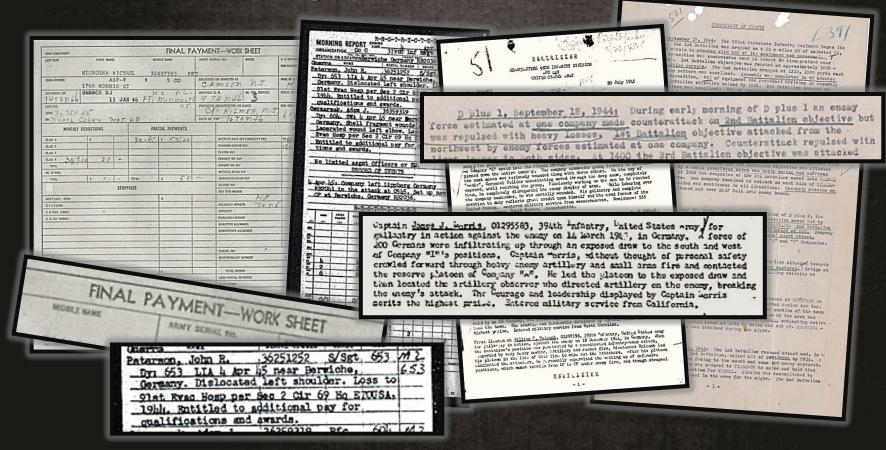
It is important to note that roughly eighty percent of all Army and Air Force official military personnel files stored at the National Personnel Records Center were destroyed in a fire in 1973.



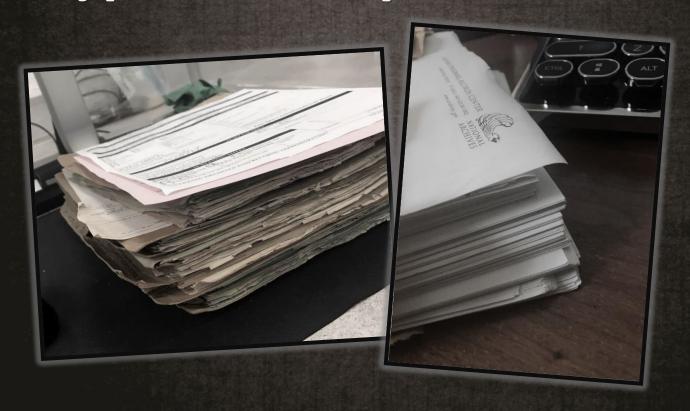
The remaining twenty percent survived; however many of the surviving personnel files typically contain only fragments of the original personnel files.



For this reason, it is often necessary to reconstruct the service history of individual 20th Century Army and Air Force veterans using other sources.



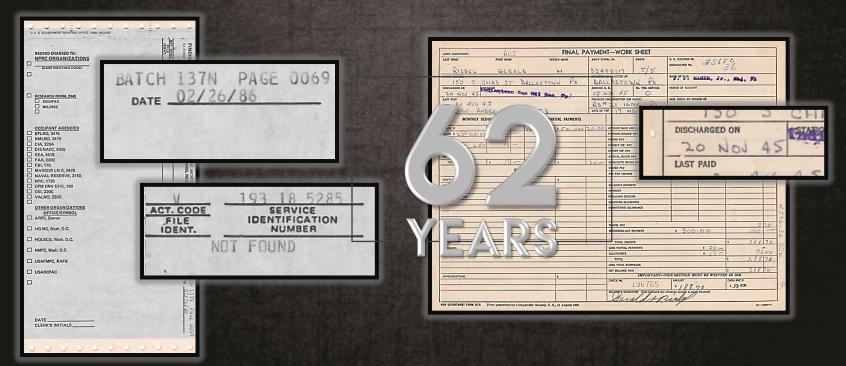
Despite the devastating 1973 fire there are still millions of pages of military service records of individual Army veterans at the National Archives which were rescued and painstakingly assembled in the years after the fire.



This rescue process is ongoing and material thought to be lost is identified daily. You may indeed find that your Army veteran's military service records are among those which survived at least partially intact.



When service records of military personnel become accessioned by the National Archives and are opened to the public they are considered to be 'archival' records. Currently, this process occurs 62 years after the final date the veteran separated from the service.





Non-Archival O.M.P.F.'s have not yet reached the 62 year mark and are still held by the National Personnel Records Center.

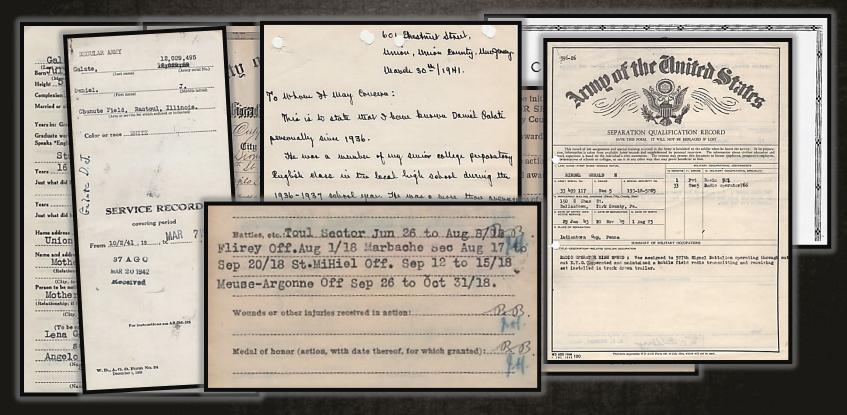
For the purposes of this presentation we are going to focus on the historical military service records within the O.M.P.F.'s of Army veterans. These records are maintained at the National Archives and they are considered to be archival, or public domain records.

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OM WHICH ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY	#12 New York, N.Y.	PVT MCH GUN CO 326 INF 82 DIV
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The Army O.M.P.F. can provide an excellent resource for both genealogists and those who are interested in documenting the military service of individual 20th Century Army veterans.

Galate, Daniel, J. Ben July 14, (Figure, Assaul years) Height 5, 16, 8, in Weight 166	CERTIFICATE of COMPLETION	7
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s dings and accomplished to be beneficiary)		
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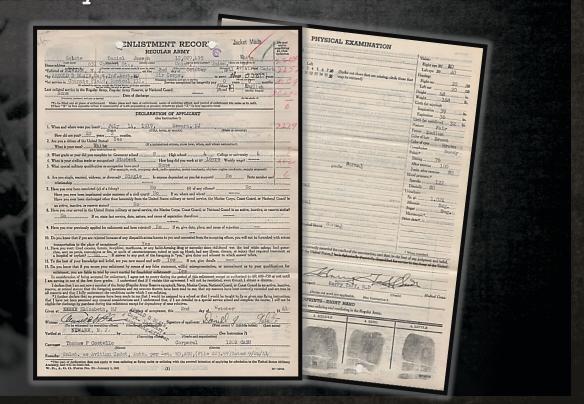
Let's take a closer look at what records you can expect to find inside of the Army O.M.P.F. if your Army veteran's military service records are among those with portions which survived the fire.



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S ENLISTMENT DOCUMENTS

Military service records documenting the Army veteran's entry into the service were placed inside of the Army O.M.P.F. These records provide a wealth of information on the individual Army veteran at the time of enlistment

including:



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S ENLISTMENT DOCUMENTS

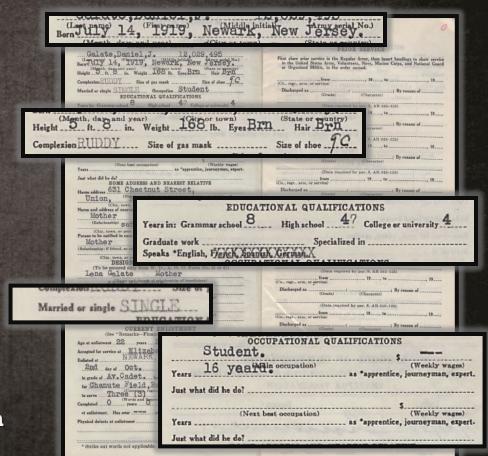
Date and place of birth

Physical description

Education level

Marital status

Prior civilian occupation



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S ENLISTMENT DOCUMENTS

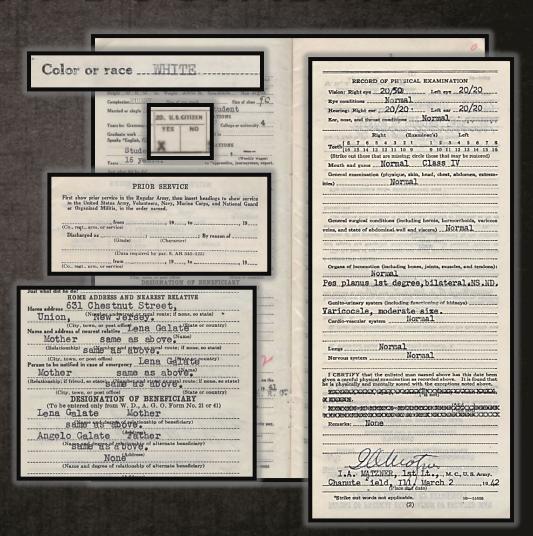
Race

Citizenship

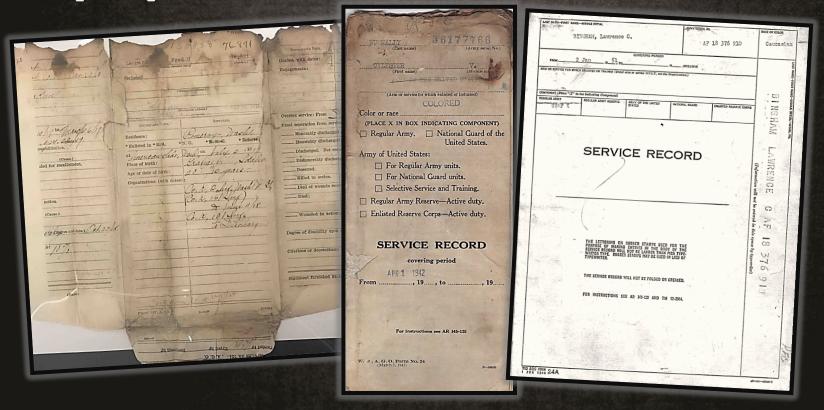
Prior military service

Next of kin

Medical conditions



The Army service record book is the heart of the Army O.M.P.F. It condenses many important details on the military service of the individual Army veteran into a neatly compiled booklet.



The Army service record book was preformatted with sections containing elements of the individual Army veteran's military service including enlistment, ranks, basic training, units of assignment, qualifications, performance, medals, battles and campaigns among other events in the Army veteran's military career.



The Army O.M.P.F. service record book went everywhere that the veteran went and was updated throughout their time in the Army.

One of the most important features of the Army service book is the chronology of military occupational specialties, or MOS, which were awarded to the Army veteran throughout their career. The MOS is essentially a code for a specific military job and thus tells us exactly what the veteran was doing while in the service.

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ARMY O.M.P.F.'S PROMOTION DOCUMENTS

Military service records detailing an advancement in rank were filed in the Army O.M.P.F. when a veteran was promoted. These records are important for tracking the advancement of the individual Army veteran during their military service.

17 April 1943: One (1) Officer assigned and joined from 16th Ordnance Battalion per par. 1, S.O. 24, Hq. 16th Ordnance Bn. dated 16 April 1943. 11 May 1943: 1st Lt. CHARLES BRODER, Commanding Officer, appointed Capt. per par. 24, S.O. 129, HHD, dated 9 May 1943 MILITARY RECORD APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OR REDU AUTHORITY THEREFOR 1. At beginning of period: One hundred and two (102) enlisted men Five (5) Officers 2. Net increase during Month of April 1943: Thirty four (34) enlisted men Three (3) Officers Initials Grade Authority 3. Net decreese during Month of April 1943: HULLUSOUS 4. At end of period (April 1943): One hundred thirty six (136) enlisted men Right (8) officers 3 May 1943: One (1) enlisted man assigned and joined from 16th Ord. En. per par. 4, S.O. 28, Hq. 16th Ord. Em. dated 1 May 1943. 5 May 1943: Two (2) enlisted men transferred to Co. B, 16th Ord En per par. 3, S.O. 28, Hq. 16th Ord En, dated 1 May 1943. 8 May 1943: One (1) enlisted man transferred to Ordnance O.C.S. Aberdeen Md. per par. 19, S.O. 123, HHD, dated 3 May 1943. 9 May 1943: One [1] enlisted man assigned and joined from Schofield Replacement Depot, S.O. (Unknown). One (1) enlisted man transferred to Ord. Sec. H.A.D. per par. 27, S.O. 125, HHD, dated 6 May 1943. 10 May 1943: One (1) enlisted man transferred to Ordnance O.C.S. Aberdeen Md. per per. 19. S.O. 123. HHD. dated 3 May 1943. 11 May 1943: 1st Lt. CHARLES HRODER, Commanding Officer, appointed Capt. per par. 24, 3.0. 129, HHD, dated 9 May 1943 21 May 1943: One (1) enlisted man transferred to 18th Fighter Squadron, per par. 30, S.O. 138, HHD, dated 18 May 1943. 26 May 1943: One (1) enlisted man assigned and joined from 16th Ord. Bn. per per. 1. 5.0. 34. Hg. 16th Ord. Bn. dated 24 May 1943.

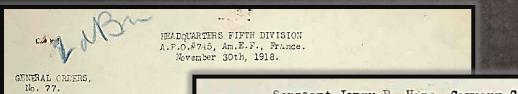
ARMY O.M.P.F.'S MEDALS, CITATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Army veterans were awarded medals for conspicuous gallantry in combat as well as for meritorious service and good conduct.

	MEDALS, D	ECORATIONS, AND CITATIONS	Dut Co V	K, 101st Inf.
10000000000000000000000000000000000000	Name of decoration	Authority and date	Rank.	Organization, Division-
Leonard, Fred 76871, Pyt. (Surname) I apply for Victory Medal with appropria service in the United States Army in The West Major operations participated in (Instruction)	tion 2):	WD RdB 4 1 1949 5-6855 ation of forwdg, or apprg. officer) (Date)	INDIVIDUAL	RECORD OF DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS TH PERSONAL MILITARY RECORD. CLF 8-2
SOMME DEFENSIVE OISE-A LYS YPRES AISNE X ST. MI MONTDIDIES NOTON A MEUSI	ISNE Signa Of To the	ho. Adjustant General of the Army (www.insles) ture ture to Depot Officer, G. S. Depot, Phila., Pa. (Instr. 8) proved for Victory Medal. bettle clasps:*	Date,	Initials of clerk and reviewer. g is a statement showing decorations
VICTORY MEDAL	STATIC PACIF	FIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL WORL	D WAR 11 n the control citation ords on	ase of the above named together ns pertaining thereto, compiled n file in The Adjutant General's
(Instruction 4)	FNGLAND 5	629083	Office: Awar	ded Uprple Heart 2-8-33
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL AMERI EUROPEAN AFRICAN MIDDLE	CAN CAMPAIL	GN MEDAL WORLD WAR II PAIGN MEDAL WITH 6 BROW	VICTORY MEDAL IZE STARS AND *	t of having been wounded
3-7740 Date	(nstructions 7 and 9)	* If none, so state.		10-20-10-

ARMY O.M.P.F.'S MEDALS, CITATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

The Army created permanent citations for these awards and placed the original paperwork within the Army O.M.P.F. Medal citations often describe in detail what an Army veteran did to distinguish themselves on the battlefield.



1. The following officers an conduct in action:

Sergeant Jerry R. Hoge, Company C, 7th Engineers

At the afternoon of November 10th, 1918, when his plateon was caught in heavy artillery
lire, causing a considerable number of casualties, although ordered to stay under
lover as the shell fire continued very heavy, Sergeant Hoge, unmindful of personal
safety, went out and gave splendid assistance until wounded had been cared for and
avacuated.

Private 1st Class William F. Orr, company C, 9th Field Signal Battalion Displayed great courage and devotion to duty in making repairs on telephone line from nine o'clock in the morning until late in the evening, over a distance of three kilometers, working without food and under severe shell fire.

ARMY O.M.P.F.'S MEDICAL RECORDS

A wide array of medical records are found inside of the O.M.P.F.'s of individual Army veterans.

Co. Hq. 26th Inf. 1st Division

LAPLONT, Edward, Sgt., 55610

Killed on July 20, 1918, near Messey on Paris-Soissons road while taking cover from heavy shellfire by H. E. Buried near place of death.

Informant: Sandala, Mike, Cpl., 55796, Co. Hq. 26th Inf.

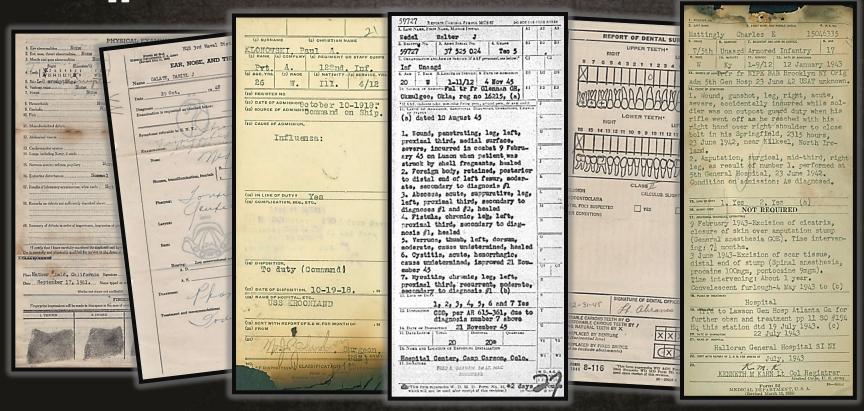
Home: not given.

Signed: Westevelt, E. C., 1st Lt., 26th Inf.

N

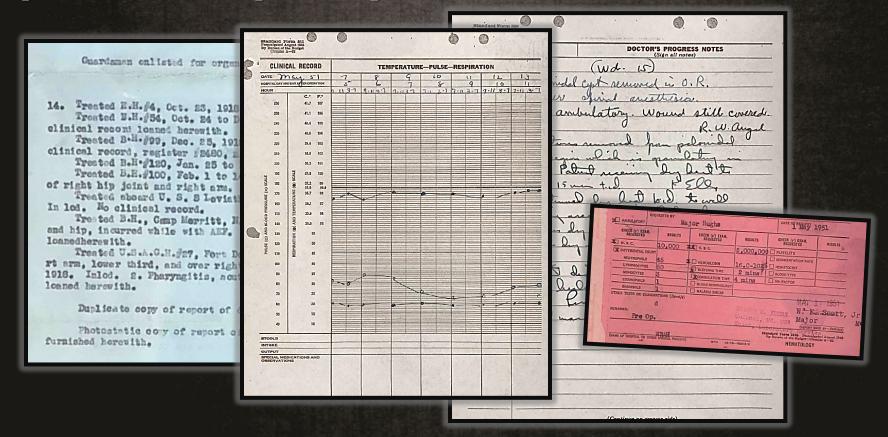
ARMY O.M.P.F.'S MEDICAL RECORDS

It is common to find medical documents detailing routine medical examinations, service related injuries, wounds received in action, and dental records among many, many other types of medical records.



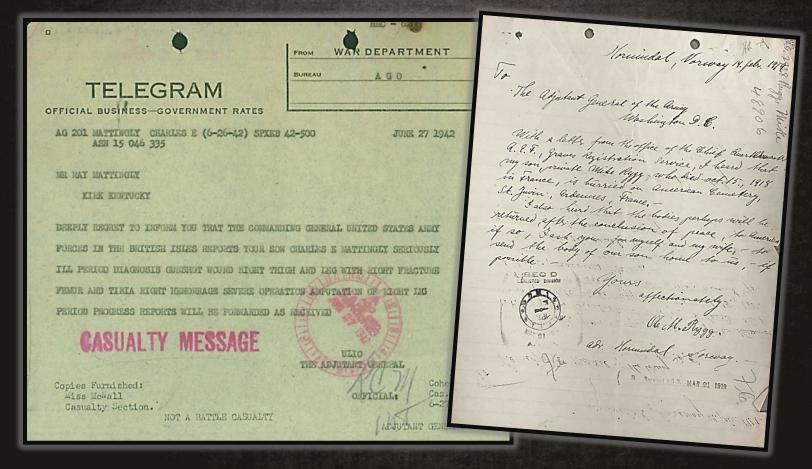
ARMY O.M.P.F.'S MEDICAL RECORDS

Further medical documents (including inpatient clinical records) must be searched for within the separate military pension file of your Army veteran.



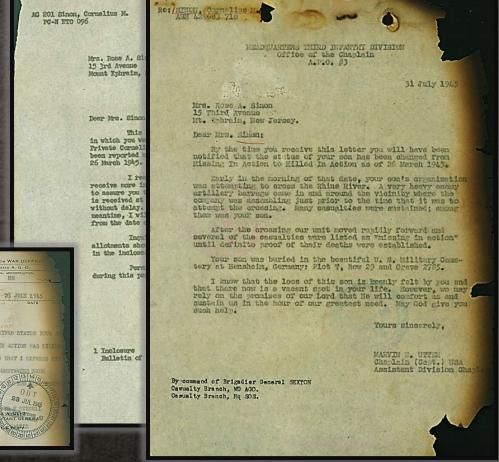
ARMY O.M.P.F.'S CORRESPONDENCE

Official and handwritten correspondence is commonly found among the military service records of the Army O.M.P.F.



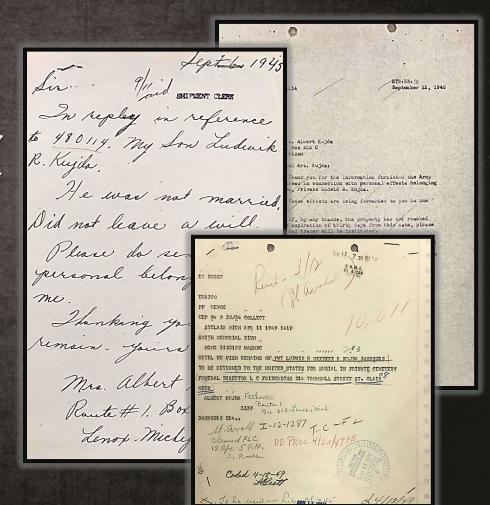
ARMY O.M.P.F.'S CORRESPONDENCE

For example, if you are researching a WWII Army veteran who was killed in action you might find telegrams and letters from the war department to the Army veteran's family notifying them of their loved one's death.



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S CORRESPONDENCE

If family members wrote back to the war department asking for the deceased veteran's belongings or inquiring about how exactly they died, these unofficial letters would have also been placed in the Army O.M.P.F. along with any response the family received. This is just one example of the various types of correspondence which can be found among the military service records of the Army O.M.P.F.'s.



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S VETERAN'S VITAL RECORDS

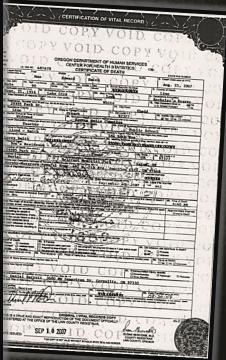
Proof was often required to determine benefits eligibility for both Army veterans and their beneficiaries.

It is common to find marriage licenses and birth certificates among other vital records in the O.M.P.F.'s

of Army veterans.



and and
Certificate of Marriage
Church of
St. Anthony
1358 Acuelmet Abe.
Nein Bedford, Massachusetts.
This is to Certify That Scient Scienwite and Sciel Pordeau-Varam were lawfully Married on the Ig st day of August 1946
According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church
and in conformity with the laws of the State of Massachusetts, Rev. W. Present officialing, in the presence of Landing Viermonte and Borge Colombing Wilnesses, as appears from the Mariage Register of this Charch. Dated Afril 13 3/9/1 Lev. L. H. Moraio confraster



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S INSURANCE DOCUMENTS

Life insurance and beneficiary documents can highlight important details on the Army veteran's life outside of the Army.

These records typically include information about the veteran's next of kin, their dependents, their addresses, birthdates and more.

Nearest relative Lining RELECTIVE AND PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF EMER Nearest relative Lining RELECTIVE Callates (Nume in him) Colour than wife or minor cands) Relationship Lining Address (State Colour and attest or runs rotte it from a state) Person to be notified in case of emergency Lining Relationship Lining Address (State Colour and attest or runs rotte it from a state) Relationship Lining Address (State Colour and attest or runs rotte it from a state) (Relationship Lining Colour and Address (State Colour and Address (Number and State Colour and Number and Stat	Relationship Mother Address	Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved I 1. None (Full name of wife, if no wife, or if she is deceased *2. None *3. None
14. Leng Galate, Mother, 63. Chestmut St., Union, Galate and Committee a	Is 1 to 7 In Ministry of 177, 266	(First name) (Initial) (Last name)
Objanutire of winnes attesting O'Owe find man out address of each minur child, and each dependent child over 27 years of each man out address of each minur child, and each dependent child over 27 years of each control of each control of the control of each control of the control of each control of the control of each control of eac	Main A. 170 Openion Street Bettle Creek, Molifon (Lee man) Main A. 170 Openion Street Bettle Creek, Molifon (Base) Orange and the street of real read ing in Treasury Department at no expense to me and mal receipt to a At	14, 1919, Newark, NJ (City, town, or county)

ARMY O.M.P.F.'S DISCIPLINARY DOCUMENTS

Many of the veterans who served during the major wars of the 20th Century were still in their teens. This means that immature hijinks and minor military infractions were common- and the punishments are normally well documented inside of the veteran's Army personnel file.

- l. As a result of an investigation it has been ascertained to my satisfaction that offenses cognizable by me under the 104th Article of War have been committed by you.
- 2. The nature of such offenses is that you have committed serious traffic violations in the operation of a government vehicle.
- 3. I propose to impose punishment under the 104th Article of War for these offenses unless trial by court-martial for the same is demanded by you. Accordingly, you are directed to acknowledge receipt of this communication by indorsement through the proper channels and to include in your indorsement any demand for trial you wish to make.

ARMY O.M.P.F.'S DISCIPLINARY DOCUMENTS

Some of these are comical while others led to serious consequences for individual Army veterans.

The accused was taken to a dispensary and examined by Captain Sidney E. Cohen, Medical Corps, 1874th Engineer Aviation Battalion. The accused was drunk, in the opinion of Captain Cohen. (R. 12).

QUESTIONS BY THE COURT:

- Q. If you don't remember snything that happened after you were drinking Tuba in the shack until the next morning, what brought you to plead "Guilty"? How do you know you did all these things?
- Q. When did you regain your memory?
- A. The next thing I remember I was in the Stockads.

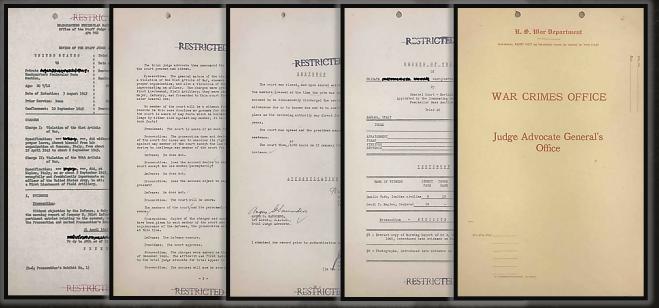
- SEITEICE -

To be dishonorably discharged the service, to forfeit all pay and allowances due or to become due, and to be confined at hard labor, at such place as the reviewing authority may direct, for five years. (Two previous convictions considered).

ARMY O.M.P.F.'S DISCIPLINARY DOCUMENTS

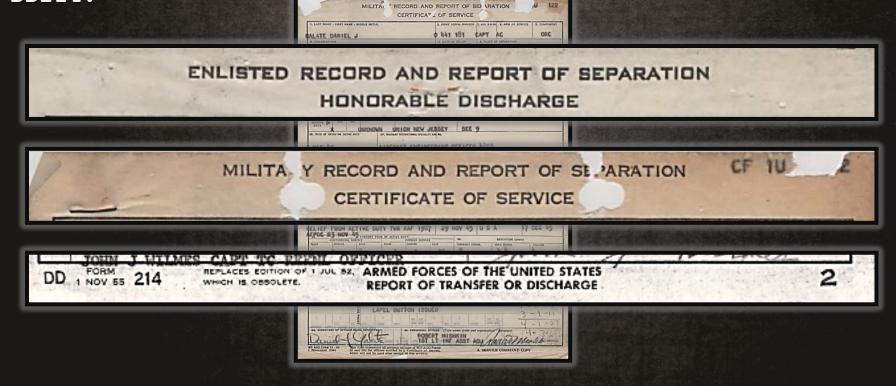
Criminal offenses were tried before a military tribunal and while some details of these crimes may appear in the Army OMPF the official charges and transcript of trial were maintained in a separate courts martial folder. These courts martial trial transcripts are also available for research at the National Archives.





ARMY O.M.P.F.'S REPORT OF SEPARATION

When an Army veteran was released from active duty they were provided with a separation document which summarized their military service. This document is often referred to as: the honorable discharge, report of separation or DD214.



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S REPORT OF SEPARATION

This Army report of separation provided a basic overview of the veteran's service and signified honorable separation from the Army.

After the war when a veteran applied for military benefits they were expected to provide a copy of this document as proof of honorable service and discharge.



ARMY O.M.P.F.'S

Keep in mind that in this presentation we have covered the most common military service records found in the Army O.M.P.F. Since every Army veteran's military service was unique to their experiences each Army personnel file will be unique as well. You may find that your Army veteran's O.M.P.F. contains much more than what we have featured here.



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ARMY O.M.P.F.'S

The only way to discover exactly what military service records are contained in your veteran's Army O.M.P.F. is to order their records. Visit us at

www.GoldenArrowResearch.com

to get started researching your veteran's military service today.

