

Websites for Researching World War I Soldiers

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Basic Sites

Ancestry

Paid subscription required

www.ancestry.com

www.ancestry.co.uk

Billion Graves

Free & Pay per view site

<https://billiongraves.com>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Records of all Commonwealth war dead from the two world wars, with unit details, frequently next of kin

<https://www.cwgc.org>

FamilySearch

Free site – free registration required for some access

www.familysearch.org

Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com>

Find My Past

Paid subscription required

findmypast.com

findmypast.co.uk

Google

A name search on Google may bring surprising information – combine it with WWI or First a world War Memorials and see what happens.

<http://www.google.com>

Gratuity Calculator – WWI

A spreadsheet-based calculator which allows estimation of the enlistment date of a soldier. Blog post.

<https://wargratuity.wordpress.com>

GRO – General Register Office – UK

Allows the user to search the births and deaths indexes prior to ordering certificates. Birth indexes include the maiden name of the mother.

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

Roll of Honour

A UK website dedicated to those who fell fighting for their country. Contains a listing of many but not all UK war memorials and photographs of them. Sponsored by the UK Ministry of Defence & the Royal British Legion

<http://www.roll-of-honour.com>

Lives of the First World War – Imperial War Museum, U.K.

A free and pay per view website where users can contribute their stories about WWI soldiers.

<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org>

Prisoners of the First World War – The International Red Cross historical archives

Information on men captured and missing, though difficult to search

<https://grandequerre.icrc.org>

ScotlandsPeople

A pay per view site with free indexes. Requires some work but can be used to reconstruct families with the censuses and spreadsheets. Free registration

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

Scarletfinders – Military Nurses

A website with information and links to databases for British Military Nurses

<http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/index.html>

The National Library of Scotland

Contains surviving list of army officers, including those covering the First World War

<http://digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/88735803>

Troopships in WWI

<http://spartacus-educational.com/FWWtroopships.htm>

WWI Trench Maps & Aerial Photographs – McMaster University

Digital access to Trench, Thematic and Topographical Maps

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home>

War Graves Photographic Project

<https://www.twgpp.org>

Wikipedia

Always a good place to look for things

<https://www.wikipedia.org>

Canadian Sites

Books of Remembrance – Memorials – Veterans Affairs Canada

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/search>

Canadian Centre for the Great War

A Montreal-based centre that exists to preserve and protect artifacts and archives related to the Canadian experience of the First World War and inform Canadians of the same. The centre has a digitized image collection of Great War Portraits that can be searched & browsed online.

<https://greatwarcentre.com>

Canadian Expeditionary Force Registers – Canadiana

A register, or Nominal Roll of Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men. – names, ranks, countries of birth, and dates and places of enlistment for each member of the unit, often with next of kin and address. Canadiana.org has begun digitizing and preserving these and other wartime records for convenient online access.

<http://www.canadiana.ca/cef-register>

Canadian Great War Project – CEF War Diary Search

<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/WarDiaries/diarySearch.asp>

Digitized Canadian Trench Newspapers: Part 1 Of 3 – Doing Our Bit

Blog post from the web site of Steve Clifford, Victoria, B.C. He developed his blog as a tribute to members of his family who serve in the First World War and other soldiers whose letters and photos found their way to him.

<https://militaryandfamilyhistory.blog/2017/01/05/digitized-canadian-trench-newspapers-part-1-of-3/>

Canadian Virtual War Memorial – Veterans Affairs Canada

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>

Canadian War Diaries – No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station

http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G

Cape Bretoners At War - Web Site belonging to Wayne Macvicar, Mira Gut, NS – last updated 17 Sep 2011 – created 15 Aug 2011 – © 2011 Wayne Macvicar

<https://sites.google.com/site/cbatwar/>

Gail Dever's Military Toolkit – Facebook Blog

Tools Gail developed and shared for military research

http://genealogyalacarte.ca/?page_id=10489

Internet Resources: Canada and the Great War – Glenn Wright

<http://internet-genealogy.com/Canadian Online Resources web.pdf>

LAC's page: First World War: the main page for information on Canada's participation in WWI including the database of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces Soldiers that are currently being digitized. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/introduction.aspx>

LAC's page: Sources relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/units-canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx>

Lest We Forget: First World War Cenotaph Research – Library & Archives Canada
Information sheets to help in interpreting documents found in service files for the Canadian Expeditionary Force
<https://web.viu.ca/davies/H355H.Cda.WWI/ReadingServiceFile.pdf>

Military Abbreviations (WW1 to present) — Canadian & Commonwealth
Canadian & Commonwealth Military Abbreviations and/or Acronyms. Sourced from various (websites, references, publications), with special thanks to the users of RAFCommands.com and the Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group (cefresearch.com). last updated: 19 November 2007
http://cmhs.ca/PDFs/CMHS_MilitaryAbbreviations.pdf

New Brunswick Great War Project - Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
Attestation papers for persons from New Brunswick who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Linked to the Library and Archives of Canada website to make it easier for those researching soldiers from New Brunswick
<http://archives.gnb.ca/Search/NBGWP/AttestationIndex.aspx?culture=en-CA>

Personnel Records of the First World War- Library & Archives Canada
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>

The Canadian Great War Project also provides free information on individual soldiers and other interesting material on Canada's participation in World War 1.
<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/index.asp>

The Great War 1914-1918
Images and stories from the home front and the front lines of battle that helped forge a Canadian identity.
<http://ww1.canada.com>

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
Flickr Images of this Toronto regiment throughout their history. From the collection of Canada's Regimental Museum and Archives sharing the history of Canada's longest continuously serving infantry regiment, since 1860. This collection includes newspaper clippings from the Fenian Raids.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/qormuseum/albums>

The Regimental Rogue – The Royal Canadian Regiment
A blog about the Royal Canadian Regiment which in an infantry regiment of the Canadian Army. The regiment consists of four battalions, three in the regular force and one in the primary reserve (militia).
<http://www.regimentalroque.com>

The Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial
<http://svwm.ca/#>

The Sherbrooke Regiment – Bibliothèque et Archives Nationale du Québec

<http://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/2754531?docref=NjSTbE4HeU9VUL45C5NnFQ>

Veterans Death Cards: First World War – Library and Archives Canada – archived content

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/index-e.html?PHPSESSID=rqi7t06a60or2jdheocn6v65f4>

World War One Thunder Bay Centennial Project

This project commemorates the years 1914-1918 in history in partnership with local community and Institutions and Lakehead University's Department of History. The website is searchable and browsable and includes letters, death notices, newspaper clippings, photographs, and contains sections on life in Thunder Bay. and military, Industry and technology information.

<https://tbayworldwarone.com/about/>

UK Sites

Abbreviations used in the First World War medal index cards

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/records/abbreviations-in-world-war-one-medal-index-cards-unit.pdf>

A Guide to British Awards for Gallantry or Meritorious Service in WW1 – on the site The Great War 1914 – 1918

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-gallantry-awards.htm#MM>

An Imperishable Record - The People of North-West Wirral and the Great War

This blog was established in 2013 to help further memorialize the casualties from WW1 from West Kirby, Wirral, England - about 334 names from the Grange Hill Memorial. In 2013 approximately 80 biographies had been posted. A small team of volunteers continues to contribute biographies to this blog. Their Intent is to follow in the footsteps of the title "An Imperishable Record" which first appeared in The Hoylake and West Kirby Advertiser of 22nd December 1922, describing the dedication of the Grange Hill War Memorial.

<https://grangehill1922.wordpress.com>

BBC World War One At Home

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nhwqx>

British Army, Imperial War Museum Bond of Sacrifice 1914 – 1918

A record source on Find My Past that includes photos and details of WWI military ancestor's service with an index pertaining to records found on the Imperial War Museum website.

Transcripts include rank, regiment, awards, soldier number and death date for soldiers included/

<https://www.findmypast.com> or <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>

British Battles – BritishBattles.com

No information available about who owns this site. Good information and maps of battlefields. starting to describe the early battles of the First World War

<https://www.britishbattles.com>

Completed UK war diaries – list of all war diaries available at The National Archives (more direct and easier search than TNA website)

<http://wd3.herokuapp.com/public>

Crew Lists of the British Merchant Navy -- 1915

Digitized lists of records for 750,000 seamen who were serving in 1916 providing the ages, ranks and names of the ships they served on.

<http://1915crewlists.rmq.co.uk>

Fallen Railwaymen – National Railway Museum, UK

An archive of over 20,000 fallen UK railway workers that lost their lives in the First World War.

<http://firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk/fallen-railwaymen/>

First World War 100 – The National Archives, UK

Marking the centenary of the war with an extensive program between 2014 & 2019. Explores major anniversaries and key aspects of the war through themes, special projects and partnerships.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>

First World War – A Global View – The National Archives, UK

Explore the global impact of the First World War through an interactive map, which highlights key events and figures in countries from Aden to Zanzibar. The map goes beyond the trenches of the Western Front and shows how the war affected different parts of the world.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/a-global-view/>

First World War Centenary – Imperial War Museums, UK

Connecting current and future generations with the lives, stories and impact of the First World War

<http://www.1914.org>

First World War Volunteers – British Red Cross

Database of over 90,000 people who volunteered for the British Red Cross at home and overseas during the war.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War>

Forces War Records & Military Genealogy

A UK based, free and pay per view Web Site which can help determine where a UK soldier served & gives information on regiments, battalions, etc. The sister site of Forces Reunited (the leading British military community on the web) and part of Clever Digit Media Ltd. Created in 2008 & providing information on over seven million individuals records and supplementary military data not found on any other sites. Records such as casualty & POW lists; school, university and company rolls of honour; Territorial Force Medal rolls; Embarkation Lists. The transcription of military hospital records is currently unique.

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk>

The British Newspaper Archive

UK paid subscription required – available to use for free at the Ottawa City Archives on Tallwood

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/help/about>

The Illustrated First World War – from the Archives of The Illustrated London News

<https://www.illustratedfirstworldwar.com>

The London Gazette

The government's own newspaper, published daily since 1665, reporting on appointments and promotions of army officers and medal awards. An invaluable resource

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/>

The Long Long Trail – The British Army in the Great War of 1914 – 1918

A site by Chris Baker – all about the soldiers, units, regiments and battles of the British Army of the First World War, and how to research and understand them. Contains no actual records but explains what they all are, how to find and understand them and has links to other useful sites.

The most complete list of surviving absent voter rolls available.

<https://www.twgpp.org>

The National Archives

TNA has a First World War Research Guide that includes copies of the Medal Cars, service records of British Army nurses, War Diaries for many units, Household Cavalry service records; and Prisoner of War interview reports

<http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>

The National Army Museum

Collection explores themes relating to army life through the ages and details its extensive holdings of books, manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia

<https://www.nam.ac.uk>

The Ogilby Trust

This site has information on all Corps and Regimental Museums in the UK including contact details and website links among other things.

<http://www.armymuseums.org.uk>

The Suffolk Regiment – A Resource Guide – The 11th Battalion & Abridged Chronology of the 11th Battalion

Webpages containing information on the 11th Battalion

<http://www.curme.co.uk/102.htm>

<http://www.curme.co.uk/101.htm#Chronology%20-%20Cams%20Suffolks>

Trace a WWI British Soldier – The Great War- 1914-1918

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/research/family-history/trace-ww1-british-soldier.htm>

War Memorials Register – The UK Imperial War Museums

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/corporate/projects-and-partnerships/war-memorials-register>

World War One, British Library – military structure and ranks in the British army WWI

<http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/military-structures-and-ranks>

Irish Soldiers

Irish Soldiers Records – National Army Museum – Ireland
Free database for the enlistment books of the disbanded Irish regiments
<https://www.nam.ac.uk/soldiers-records/persons>

Civil Registrations, Irish Genealogy
<https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>

The National Archives of Ireland
<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Australian and New Zealander Soldiers

Abbreviations NZ army – abbreviations used in WWI NZ service records
<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-Archives/resources/ww1-army-service-records.htm>

Australian War Memorial
<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

National Archives of Australia – First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914–1920
<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/series-info/b2455/>

History of New Zealand Division in France and Flanders
<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/NewZealandDivisionInFranceAndFlanders/NewZealandDivisionInFranceAndFlanders.pdf>

New Zealand Army Service Records
<http://www.digitalnz.org/>

New Zealand War Graves Project – photographs, research and background information on New Zealand's participation in WWI (some information on individual soldiers)
<http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/>

Papers Past – National Library of New Zealand – free access to digitized newspapers from the 19th and 20th century. Also included are: “Magazines and Journals”, “Letters and Diaries” and “Parliamentary Papers”
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

Get a copy of a WW1 service record – New Zealand Government – Govt.nz
Archives New Zealand is in the process of putting military records online for those who served in World War I – Free access to digitized Service files
<https://www.govt.nz/browse/history-culture-and-heritage/nz-history/get-a-copy-of-a-ww1-service-record/>

Other Sites of interest

Anglo-Celtic Roots Guide to Authors - British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
A guide to editorial policies, standards, and writing style precepts used on the BIFHSGO web site and in our journal. This page is available on the members only page of our website.
<https://bifhsgo.ca/cpage.php?pt=153>

British Library World War One documents

The history of WWI
<http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one>

Cemeteries in French Flanders and Artois, France – The Great War – 1914-1918

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/places/french-flanders-cemeteries.htm>

Citing Your Sources – Legacy Quick Guide by Thomas MacEntee

Available for \$2.95 US from Legacy
<http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/legacy-quickguide-citing-your-sources-by-thomas-macentee-pdf-edition-p396.php>

Doing Our Bit – A Blog written by Steve Clifford

Initially a tribute to family who served in the First World War. Now a Military and Family History Research Service. It includes links to a number of interesting stories and many web sites useful to family history researchers. Information on “Digitized Canadian Trench Newspapers” and where to find them was the subject of three blog posts.
<https://militaryandfamilyhistory.blog>

Fold3 – a sister site of Ancestry – requires an additional subscription – provides access to military records including stories, photos and personal documents of those who served. Initial focus is particularly on US forces
<https://www.fold3.com>

Guide to the WWI Battlefields & History of the First World War – The Great War – 1914 – 1918

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/index.htm>

In Memory – The Visit of Commonwealth War Cemeteries, Communal Cemeteries & Churchyards in Belgium & France – by Pierre Vandervelden

<http://inmemories.com>

Remembering the Fallen

A site of remembrance and a comprehensive guide to over 4000 military cemeteries and Memorials throughout the world
<https://www.ww1cemeteries.com/>

The Great War 1914 – 1918

This link is useful for US and other countries as it provides information on where to find records for their soldiers and/or why you can't find material for them.
<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/research/military-records/ww1-service-records.htm#usservicerecords>