

## Researching Your World War I Ancestor

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### Research Steps:

1. Get all the specific details you can from your family. You might find:

Discharge papers, letters, diaries, warrants, uniform, medals and regimental publications.

2. Find the published references that deal with individual soldiers. You might find:

If survived the war:

State rosters (complete for CT, MD, ME, ND, OH, SC and VT, incomplete for CO and UT).

City publications, major cities published material on their soldiers.

College publications; some published memorial volumes on their alumni.

Some private preparatory schools; mostly Episcopalian, also published volumes.

Locate obituary.

If did not survive the war:

State honor rolls for deceased servicemen (available for IN, KS, MA, NY, TN and WI).

American Battle Monuments Commission records. Lack of listing of a Deceased soldier indicates the body was interred in the United States.

*Soldiers of the Great War*, has over 20,000 pictures of servicemen and women.

*Official U.S. Bulletin*, contains data on deaths of soldiers in the U.S.

*Officers and Enlisted Men of the United States Navy Who Lost Their Lives During the World War.*

*A List of the Officers and Enlisted Men of the United States Marine Corps Who Lost Their Lives while Serving Overseas During the World War.*

Determine governmental contacts with next of kin. Such as:

Telegrams, letters, insurance, memorial certificates and trips by Gold Star Mothers overseas.

3. Find the Archival references on individual soldiers. You might find:

Statement of Service Cards located in many state archives, state historical societies or State Military Retention Facilities, AGO 724 cards.

Missing States: CA, DC, NJ, OK, SD, VA, WA

Records of the Selective Service System, Draft Cards, RG163

List of Outgoing Passengers, RG92

Report of Casualties on the AEF by States, RG 407.

Burial Case Files, RG92

Reports of Interment, RG92

Application for Headstone, RG92

4. The National Personal Records Center.

5. State Adjutant General Records.

6. Contacting the Veterans Administration

7. Find the published references on divisions and units.

Divisional histories published for 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 37th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 89th, 90th and 91st divisions.

Check for pertinent unit histories in World War bibliographies.

*Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War.*

*WWI Campaign and Service Credits.*

*American Armies and Battlefields in Europe.*

*Americans in the Great War.*