



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

In this guide sheet, please find a select list of abbreviations and phrases frequently found in service records. A list of Naval Shore establishments is also included. These are generally listed on service records the same way as ships, eg. **HMS Jackdaw**. A short bibliography of further resources has also been added to help.

- AA** Anti-Aircraft
- Act.** Or **A/** prefix for temporary rank
- Armd** Armoured
- Battn, Bn** Battalion
- Bd** Band (eg. Bd Cpl, Bd Sgt)
- Bde** Brigade
- Bdr.** Bombardier, junior non-commissioned rank Royal Marine Artillery 1804-1923
- BEF** British Expeditionary Force
- Bty** Battery
- Capt** Captain
- CELLS** Confined to ships' cells or barracks detention block
- CCAC** Commando Cliff Assault Centre
- CH/** service number prefix for Chatham Division
- CHU** Commando Holding Unit
- C.M.** Courts Martial
- CMWTC** Commando Mountain Warfare Training Centre
- COPRA** Combined Operations Pay & Records Administration (including RM Landing craft crews 1939-46)
- Coy** Company
- Cpl.** Corporal
- C/Sgt** Colour-Sergeant (sometimes Col.Sgt)
- CSM** Company Sergeant Major
- CTCRM** Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Lympstone, Devon.  
Formerly ITCRM.
- DAMS** Defensively Armed Merchant Ships (1914-18)
- DD** Discharged Dead (usually written in red pencil or heavy black ink)
- DEMS** Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships (1939-45) **Demob.** Demobilisation followed by release class and date **DEPOT** Deal
- Det** Detached, detachment
- Div, Divn** Division: Chatham (Ch), Portsmouth (Po), Plymouth (Ply)
- D/Maj.** Drum Major
- DWS** Died on War Service (as opposed to KIA)
- EX/** service number prefix for Exton 1939-42.
- FP** Field Punishment, usually followed by a number that would refer to a set discipline tabled in King/Queens Regulations, and with days forfeited
- GD** General Duties
- HBL** Home Base Ledger (personnel within the UK)
- HDML** Harbour Defence Motor Launch
- Hd.Qtrs** Head Quarters (usually followed by Division)
- H.O.** Hostilities Only (1939-46)
- I of M** Instructor of Musketry
- ITC** Infantry Training Centre (also CTCRM, Lympstone, Exton, etc.)
- JSAWC** Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre
- K.I.A** Killed In Action
- L/Cpl.** Lance-Corporal (also L/Sgt)



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

**LS&GC** Long Service & Good Conduct Medal

**Lt, Lieut** Lieutenant

**Maj** Major

**MCTC** Military Correction Training Centre

**MEF** Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (1915-16)

**M.I.A.** Missing in Action

**M.I.D.** Mentioned-In-Despatches

**MSM** Meritorious Service Medal (can be with annuity)

**MNBDO** Mobile Naval Base Defence Organisation

**Mne.** Marine, entry rank of Royal Marines from 1923 onwards

**MOA** Marine Officers' Attendant **NGSM** Naval General Service Medal **NCO** Non Commissioned Officer

**NP** Naval Party

**On Passage** aboard ship or transport but not part of detachment

**PLY** service number prefix for Plymouth Division **PO** service number prefix for Portsmouth Division **POW** Prisoner Of War

**Pte.** Private, entry rank of Marines up to 1923 **PURMS** Permanently Unfit for Royal Marines Service **PVR** Premature Voluntary Release

**PWC** Post War Clothing (1939-45)

**QMS** Quartermaster Sergeant (now Warrant Officer 2 or WO2)

**R** run, deserted

**RFR** Royal Fleet Reserve (c1900-1914) sometimes given as a number prefix

**RMA** service number prefix for Royal Marine Artillery upto1923

**RMB** Royal Marine Barracks

**RMB** as service number prefix for Royal Marine Band personnel

**RME** Royal Marine Engineers (1939-46)

**RMFVR** Royal Marines Forces Reserve (renamed RMR in the 1960s) **RMG** Recommended for Medal & Gratuity (see NGSM & MSM) **RMLC** Royal Marine Labour Corps (1917-19)

**RMLI** Royal Marines Light Infantry (1855-1923)

**RMMS** Royal Marines Military School (Second World War officer training establishment at Thurlestone, Devon)

**RMP** Royal Marine Police (1922-49). Also **RMPSR** Special Reserve

**RMRD** Royal Marine Reserve Depot

**RMSAS** Royal Marines Small Arms School

**RMSC Regt** Royal Marines Support Craft Regiment

**RMSM** Royal Marine School of Music

**RMTG** Royal Marines Training Group (c1942-46) usually one of four camps in Wales **RMTTD** Royal Marines Technical Training Depot (Fort Cumberland c1930-1973, then to Poole, Dorset)

**RNAS** Royal Naval Air Service 1914-18

**RND** Royal Naval Division (1914-18) RM provided two Battalions & support units. Sometimes referred to as Victory Brigade and RM Brigade 1914-15.

**RR** Recommended for Re-engagement

**RNSM** Royal Naval School of Music (1903-50)

**(s)** Indicating short service when placed after service number (1914-18)

**SEAC** South East Asia Command (1942-46)

**Sgt.** Sergeant

**SNLR** Services No Longer Required

**SOS** Struck Off Strength

**SS** Special Service (eg SS Bde was renamed 3 Commando Bde)

**Sup.** Or **Supy.** Supernumerary, attached but not on the strength of i.e.unit or ship

**TG** Training Group (see RMTG)



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

**TOS** Taken on Strength

**Tp** Troop

**Tpy.** Or **Tempy.** Temporary rank or appointment

**TSM** Troop Sergeant-Major

**TTD** Technical Training Department (see RMTTD)

**TTW** Technical Training Wing

**WAR CHEVRONS** sometimes known as service stripes, worn point up on lower right sleeve.

**WG** War Gratuity

**WO** Warrant Officer

**WOUND STRIPES** Two inch lengths of gold or red braid worn above left sleeve cuff. Issued each time wounded.

**WSI** War Service Increment paid for years of war service completed 1939-45



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

### Naval Shore Establishments

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Approx Period</u>
ABOUKIR	Alexandria, Egypt	Naval Base	WWII
AFRIKANDER	Simonstown, South Africa	Naval Base	Pre WWII & WWII
ALBATROSS	Nowera, NSW, Australia	Naval Air Station	WWII
APHRODITE	Cyprus	Naval Base	Post WWII
APPLEDORE	Appledore, Devon	Landing Craft Base	WWII
ARIEL	Worthy Down, Winchester	Naval Air Station	Post WWII
ASCENSION	Ascension Island	Naval Base	1816 – 1923
ASSEGAI	Durban, South Africa	Naval Base	WWII
BLACKCAP	Warrington, Lancashire	Naval Air Station	WWII
BRAGANZA	Bombay, India	Naval Base	WWII
BRITANNIA	Dartmouth	RN College	
BYRSA	Naples, Italy	Naval Base	WWII
CALEDONIA	Rosyth	Naval Base	
CAMBRIDGE	Wembury, nr Plymouth	Gunnery Range	Post WWII
CENTURION	Gosport	DPRORM	Post WWII
CERES	Wetherby, Yorks	RN Supply & Secretariat School	Post WWII
CHEMBUR	Bombay, India	RM Camp	WWII
COCHRANE	Rosyth	Naval Base	
COMMONWEALTH	Kure, Japan	Naval Base	Post WWII
CONDOR	Arbroath	Naval Air Station	WWII & Post WWII
COPRA	Largs, Scotland	Combined Ops Pay & Drafting	WWII
CORMORANT	Gibraltar	Naval Base	
CRICKET	Bursledon, Hants	Landing Craft Base	WWII
DAEDALUS	Lee-on-Solent, Hants	Naval Air Station	
DARTMOUTH	Dartmouth, Devon	Landing Craft Training	WWII
DOLPHIN	Gosport	Submarine Depot	
DRAGONFLY	Hayling Island	Combined Operations Base	WWII
DRAKE	Devonport	RN Barracks	
DUNDONALD	Auchengate	Combined Operations Signals	WWII
EFFINGHAM	Dartmouth	Combined Operations Base	WWII
EXCELLENT	Whale Island	RN Gunnery School	
FLYCATCHER	Ludham, Norfolk	Naval Air Station	WWII
FLYING FOX	Bristol	RNR	
FOLIOT	Plymouth	Landing Craft Base	WWII
GANGES	Harwich	Boys Training Establishment	
GANNET	Eglinton, Londonderry	Naval Air Station	WWII & post WWII
GLORY	Murmansk	RM Field Force and 6 <sup>th</sup> Bn (?)	1918-1919



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

GOLDEN HIND	Sydney NSW	Naval Base	WWII
GOLDFINCH	Takali, Malta	Naval Sir Station	WWII
HAMILCAR	Algeria/Messina	Landing Craft Base	WWII
HANNIBAL	Algiers/Taranto	Naval Base	WWII
HELDER	Brightlingsea	Landing Craft Base	WWII
HERON	Yoevilton	Naval Air Station	
HIGHFLYER	Trincomalee	Naval Base	WWII & post WWII
HORNET	Gosport	Coastal Forces Base	Pre WWII & WWII
JACKDAW	Crail, Fife	Naval Air Station	WWII
JUFAIR	Bahrain	Naval Base	
KING ALFRED	Hove	RNVR training establishment	WWII
LANDLOCK	Cochin/Singapore	MOLCAB2*	WWII
LANDSWELL	Cochin/Singapore	MOLCAB1 *	WWII
LANKA	Colombo	Naval Base	WWII
MALABAR	Bermuda and Jamaica	Naval Base	
MARTIAL	Alexandria	MNBDO ** Depot Ship	WWII
MARVE	Bombay	RM Camp – Landing Craft	WWII
MASHOBRA	Narvik, Norway	MNBDO Base ship	1939-1940
MENACE	Portsmouth	MNBDO2 Base Ship	WWII
MERCURY	East Meon, nr Petersfield	RN Signal School	
MESSINA		LST 3043	
MONAB ***			
MONCK	Port Glasgow	Landing Craft Base	WWII
NARVIK	Monte Bello	LST 3044	1952
NELSON	Portsmouth	RN Barracks	
NEPTUNE	Faslane	Submarine Base	
NILE	Alexandria	Naval Base	WWII
NORTHENEY	Hayling Island	Landing Craft Base	WWII
NUTHATCH	Anthorn, Cumberland	Naval Air Station	WWII
ODYSSEY	Ilfracombe/London	RN Accounting base	WWII
OSPREY	Portland	Naval Base	
PEMBROKE	Chatham	RN Barracks	
PEREGRINE	Ford, Sussex	Naval Air Station	WWII
PHOENICIA	Manoel Island, Malta	RN Accounting Base	WWII & Post WWII
PRESIDENT	London	RN Accounting Base	



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

PROSPERINE	Lyness, Scapa Flow	Naval Base	WWII
QUEBEC	Inverary, Scotland	Combined Training Centre	WWII
RALEIGH	Torpoint, Cornwall	RN Training Establishment	
ROBERTSON	Nr Sandwich, Kent	Landing Craft Base	WWII
ROOKE	Gibraltar	Naval Base	
ROSENEATH	Roseneath, Dunbartonshire	Landing Craft Base	WWII
ROYAL ALBERT	London & Germany	RN Accounting Base (NP 1749)	WWII
ROYAL ARTHUR	Corsham, Wilts	Petty Officers' School	
ROYAL PRINCE	Krefeld, Germany	Landing Craft Base (Rhine Squadron (NP 1817)	
ST ANGELO	Malta	Naval Base	
ST GEORGE	Isle of Man	Naval Training Establishment	WWII
ST GEORGE	Portsmouth	Gunnery Range (Eastney)	
ST HELIER	Dartmouth	Landing Craft Base	WWII
ST MATHEW	Burnham-on-Crouch,	Landing Craft Training	WWII
ST VINCENT	Gosport	RN Training Establishment	
SAKER	New York, USA	RN Accounting Base	
SANDERLING	Abbotsinch	Naval Air Station	
SAUNDERS	Kabrit, Egypt	Combined Training Centre	WWII
SEA EAGLE	Londonderry	Naval Base (see EGLINGTON)	
SEAHAWK	Culdrose, Cornwall	Naval Air Station	
SHEBA	Aden	Naval Base	
SIMBANG	Sembawang, Singapore	Naval Air Station & RM Camp	
SISKIN	Gosport	Naval Air Station	Post WWII
SPARROWHAWK	Orkneys	Naval Air Station	WWII
SPHINX	Alexandria, Egypt	Naval Accommodation Camp	WWII
SQUID	Southampton	Landing Craft Base	WWII
STRIKER	Malta	LST 3516	
SULTAN	Gosport	RN Training Establishment	
SUVLA		LST 3518	
TAMAR	Hong Kong	Naval Base	
TEMAIRE	Portsmouth	RN PT School	
TERROR	Singapore	Naval Base	
THUNDERER	Keyham, Plymouth	RN Engineering School	
TRACKER		LST 3522	



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

TURTLE	Poole	Landing Craft Base	WWII
VALKYRIE	Douglas, Isle of Man	RN Training Establishment	WWII
VANGUARD	Portsmouth	Training Squadron	Post WWII
VERNON	Portsmouth	RN Training Establishment	
VICTORY	Portsmouth/London(WWI)	RN Accounting Base	
WESSEX	Southampton	RNR	
WESTCLIFFE	Southend	Landing Craft Base	WWII
WOLVERSTONE	Ipswich	Landing Craft Base	WWII

### Notes:

1. This list should not be considered comprehensive.
2. A number of WWII Naval Air Stations have been included as some Marines were employed as WRAs with Fleet Air Arm Squadrons during WWII.
3. \* MOLCAB – Mobile Landing Craft Advanced Base  
\*\* MNBDO – Mobile Naval Base Defence Organisation  
\*\*\* MONAB – Mobile Naval Air Base – final establishments commenced with 'NAB' (ie NABCATCHER)
4. Full details have not been included where the name of the establishment invariably had a Roman numeral suffix (ie VICTORY I, II, III etc)



## Common Abbreviations found in Service Records

### Researching Ships & Units on a Service Record

1. To identify ships or shore bases quoted in a service record, the following sources will be of assistance:
  - ***Ships of the Royal Navy*** – J.J. Colledge (Greenhill 2003) ISBN 1 853675 660
  - ***Shore Establishments of the Royal Navy*** – Lt.Cdr. B Warlow RN (Maritime Books 1992) ISBN 0 907771 521
2. For identification and details of any medals mentioned upon the service record, the following sources will be of assistance:
  - ***Ribbons & Medals*** – H. Taprell Dorling (Osprey:1983) ISBN 0 85045 516 2
  - ***British Battles & Medals*** - Major L.L.Gordon (Spink:1988) ISBN 0 907605 25 7
  - ***Commando Gallantry Awards of WWII***- George A Brown (London Stamp Exchange:1991) ISBN 0 948130 09 1

### Other Official Documents That Contain Service Detail

- R105** Document of Attestation
- R110** Particulars of Service upon discharge from the Royal Marines
- R111** Certificate of Discharge, Royal Marines
- R111a** Character Certificate on Demobilisation
- R133a** Drill and Musical History Sheet (Royal Marines Band)
- R154** Company Conduct Sheet
- R165** Copy of Attestation to serve in the Royal Marines for 12 years (1914)
- R293** RM Certificate of Education
- R379** RM Swimming Certificate
- R380** RM Certificate of Qualification in...(trade, skill etc.)
- R381** Certificate of Qualification for Promotion
- M22** Patient Discharge Certificate (Royal Naval Hospitals)
- M183** Certificate For Wounds & Hurts
- S332a** Report Of Survey On Men (Royal Naval Hospitals)
- GH Form 35** Certificate of entry to Royal Hospital School, Greenwich
- B334** Life Pensioner recall (1906-)