



ROYAL MARINES MUSEUM

How to find a Service Record

Service records are a great place to begin family history research. The search for these documents can be made easier by knowing the person's full name, date of birth, enlistment date, service number and rank, but they are not always necessary. The documents available also depend on whether the person was an Officer or Other Rank, as seen below.

Other Rank Marines

If they served before 1885, they can be found in the attestation books held at the National Archives under reference ADM 158. These can also be searched by name half way down the following web page: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/royalmarines.htm>

If they served between 1842-1924 they will have individual certificates of service held at the National Archives. Some of these records have been digitised and are available on-line. They can be accessed as follows: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/royal-marines-register-service.htm>

If they served in the First World War they may have additional records held by the Fleet Air Arm Museum. They can be contacted via their web site www.fleetairarm.com

If they served after 1924 their records are still held by the Royal Navy. Contact details are as follows:
RN Disclosure Cell,
Room 48,
West Battery,
Whale Island,
Portsmouth,
Hampshire PO2 8DX

This can also be accessed via the MOD web site: <https://www.gov.uk/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records>

Royal Marine Officers

Officers may also have additionally records beyond the above listed resources. If they served between 1756 and 1931 they will have a Royal Navy Officer service record held at the National Archives. Some of these records have been digitised and are available on-line. They can be accessed as follows: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/royal-naval-officers-service-records.htm>

Details of promotions and appointments of officers, including those who were commissioned before 1793 can also be found in published Navy and Marine Officers lists. These lists are available in some libraries, including the Royal Marines Museum library.