



National Archives and Records Administration

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Washington, DC 20408-0001

Prisoners during the Revolutionary War, 1776–1783

Papers of the Continental Congress

___M247, *Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*. DP. 204 rolls. Arranged in a numerical order by Item Numbers. The Item Numbers can be found by using the five volume printed index to the Papers of the Continental Congress. The records document the activities of pre-Federal congresses in areas such as, military, foreign, fiscal and naval affairs.

The lists of prisoners found in this series range from printed reports listing names of British officers taken at Trenton, N.J., to detailed accountings of several dozen American POWs detained on a ship in Charlestown Harbor. Finding the proper Item in this microfilm series can be confusing and some larger Items are further broken down into volumes. The pages are numbered at the top left corner of each document, and the numbering begins anew in each item or volume.

The list below is a sample of files containing names of British, Loyalist and American prisoners of war during the American Revolution and can be found among the Papers of the Continental Congress.

Id	Roll No.	Item	Vol.	Page	Date	Notes
US POWS	36	29		233	1776	name, rank, regiment, 6 pages
Navy Officers	44	37		474	1781	Name, rank, date of commission, current status (ship assignments, POW, etc), includes Marines
UK POWS	70	57		85	1776	Name, rank, 5 officers taken at Chambly, 1 page, 1776, printed
US POWS	70	57		419		Name, rank, days held, county and state of residence, when and where taken, 2 pages
UK POWS	71	58		424	February 1776	Name rank, captured at Trenton, 1 page
UK POWS	71	58		429	1776	Name, where captured, whether or not they had any women or children with them
UK POWS	82	68		235	1776	Name, rank, ship, Navy, 1 page
Loyalist POWS	84	70		115	December 1776	Name, captured, 2 pages
Loyalist POWS	86	72		11	April 1776	Name, rank in "Tory" Army, 1 page
US POWS	149	137	2	123		Name, rank, state/regiment, date captured, Army and Navy, 4 pages

Id	Roll No.	Item	Vol.	Page	Date	Notes
US POWS	159	147	4	9	1778	Name, rank, date and place of capture, 81 officers, 3 pages
US POWS	159	147	4	21	1779	Name, rank, date and place of capture, officers, 2 pages
US POWS	159	147	4	27	1779	Name, rank, amount billeted, officers, 2 pages
US POWS	167	152	3	55	1776	Name, rank, regiment, taken at NY, officers, 1 page
US POWS	168	152	5	523	1778	Name, rank, officers by name, number of privates, 1 page
Loyalist POWS	175	155	2	173	1781	Name, rank, officers by name, number of privates, 1 page
US POWS	175	155	2	219	1781	Name, rank, on ship in Charlestown Harbor, 3 pages
British & German POWS	178	159		202	1776	Name, British & Hessians taken at Staten Island, 1 page
Loyalist POWS	183	166		489	1778	Name, rank, names of family members taken
US POWS	186	169	2	260	1776	Name, rank, regiment of officers, number of privates, taken at NY, 1 page

Revolutionary War Rolls

___M246, *Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783*. DP. 138 rolls. Roll 135, jacket 4 of this series contains about thirty pages of names listing American prisoners of war. The lists usually contain name, rank, state of residence, and regiment. These lists are mainly centered around 1780, but the dates cover most of the war. This chart below contains a short catalog of files containing names of British, Loyalist and American prisoners of war.

Id	Roll No.	Jacket	List No.	Date	Notes
US POWS	135	4	1		Name, rank, corps, amount paid, officers
US POWS	135	4	2	1782	Officers taken at Long Island, name rank, corps
US POWS	135	4	3	1778	Officers on parole from Long Island, name, rank
US POWS	135	4	4	1780	Prisoners exchanged, name, rank, officers only
US & UK POWS	135	4	5	1779	Prisoners exchanged, name, rank, officers only
US POWS	135	4	6	1780	Name, rank, officers only

Id	Roll No.	Jacket	List No.	Date	Notes
US POWS	135	4	7	1777	Name, rank
US POWS	135	4	8		POWs on Prison Ships <i>Torbay/Pack Horse</i> , names only
US POWS	135	4	9	1777	Officers taken at Forts Montgomery & Clinton, name, rank
US POWS	135	4	10	1776	POWs captured at Fort Washington, name, rank
US POWS	135	4	11	1778	Name, rank, corps, where/when taken
US POWS	135	4	12	1779	POWs from Quebec, name, rank, state, when/where sent

Other Records Relating to POW Status

POW status can sometimes appear in the records listed below and can supplement the soldier's Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR). Unlike the CMSR's and pensions, these files also contain information on civilians and British POW's.

___M847, *Special Index to Number Records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1783*. DP. 39 rolls. This publication reproduces an alphabetical card index to names. If the index cites a manuscript number, see M859; if it cites a volume number, see M853. Within this index you may find citations which refer to State records which have not been filmed.

___M859, *Miscellaneous Numbered Records (the Miscellaneous File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1790s*. DP. 125 rolls.

___M853, *Numbered Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay, and Settlement Accounts, Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records*. DP. 41 rolls.

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