

NATIONAL ARCHIVES 2024 GENEALOGY SERIES



Research Services



Tuesdays at 1 p.m. ET during May and June



2024 Genealogy Series

Welcome!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is pleased to present this educational series of lectures on how to conduct family research.

NARA's mission is to preserve and provide access to the records of the government of the United States of America. We are thrilled to share our records that relate to family history and to make those records available to you through the Genealogy Series.



About the Sessions

Our presentations will demonstrate how to use federal resources at the National Archives and Records Administration for genealogical research.

National Archives experts are presenting from our locations across the United States. Sessions are intended for beginners to experienced family historians—all are welcome!



Join the Conversation

Participate with the presenters and other family historians during a session's premiere.

Live Chat on **YouTube**: Log in and type your questions comments

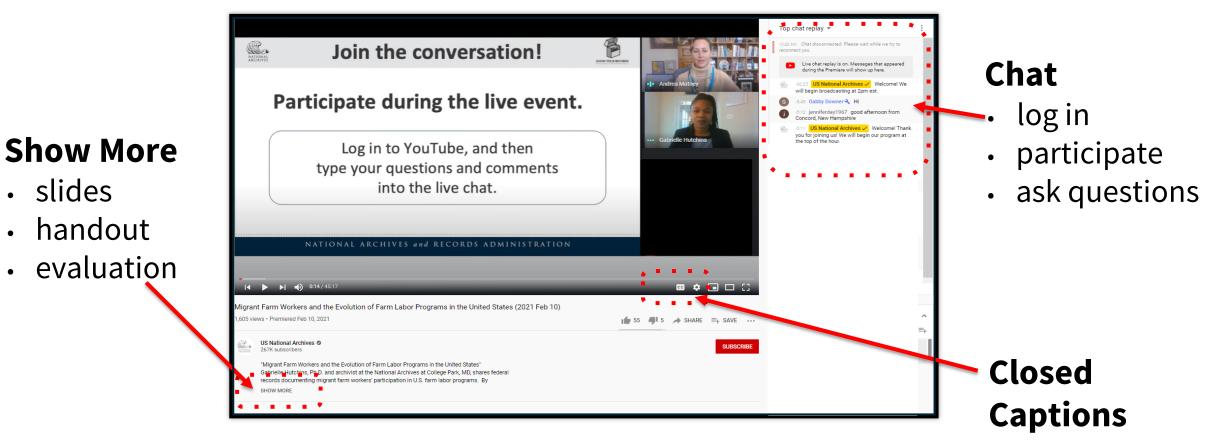
Follow **@USNatArchives** on X and join the Genealogy Series conversation using **#GenealogySeries2024**



slides

handout

Instructions



Videos and presentation materials remain available after the premiere date.



Schedule

May 21 1 p.m. ET	Welcome and Introductions
May 21	Passport Records: Passport Applications at NARA, 1790s–1925
1:05 p.m. ET	Claire Kluskens
May 28	<i>After Their Service: Tracing the Lives of Native American Army Scouts</i>
1 p.m. ET	Cody White
June 4 1 p.m. ET	Captured German Records Related to American Prisoners of War during World War II Rachael Salyer



Schedule

June 18 1 p.m. ET	Alien Files (A-Files): Researching Immigrant Ancestors at the National Archives Elizabeth Burnes
June 25 1 p.m. ET	<i>World War II Enemy Alien Records related to Japanese Americans at the</i> <i>National Archives</i> David Castillo, Ruth Chan, and Katharine Seitz
June 25 following 1 p.m. session	Closing Remarks



Session Overview

Captured German Records Related to American Prisoners of War During World War II

The majority of Captured German Records in the National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized (Record Group 242) are microfilmed copies of original German records that have been returned to Germany. However, this record group also includes original records that relate to Allied airmen and American prisoners of war (POWs) during World War II. This presentation will include an overview of these records, most of which are in German, and offer guidance on how to access and search the records effectively, even if you do not read German. The presentation will also provide historical background and related resources.



Presenter Biography



Rachael Salyer

Rachael Salver is an archivist at the National Archives at College Park, MD (Archives II), and a Subject Matter Expert in Modern Military Records. Rachael started her career at the National Archives as an archives technician in the Textual Research Room and then became an archivist in Textual Processing. Since 2019, she has served as an archivist in the Augmented Processing Section and in the Reference Section of the Archives II Textual Records Division. Rachael has a bachelor of arts degree in English and German from Oklahoma Baptist University, a master of arts and a doctor of philosophy degree in German Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a master of science in Library and Information Science with an archives concentration from Simmons University. Before joining the National Archives, Rachael worked as a professor of English composition, literature, and German at various colleges and universities in Massachusetts.



Captured German Records Related to American Prisoners of War During World War II

Rachael Salyer

Archivist, National Archives at College Park

Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Modern Military Records



Overview

- 1. Record Group 242 and Captured German Records
- 2. Entry NM-44 279 "Card Files Pertaining to American Prisoners of War"
- 3. Examples of Other Prisoner of War Series in Record Group 242
- 4. Examples of Other Records at the National Archives Related to World War II Prisoners of War
- 5. Additional Resources



Research Services

Record Group 242 and

Captured German Records



Record Group 242

National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized

- Consists primarily of microfilmed copies of German records
- Also includes some Italian, Russian, Hungarian, Polish, Japanese, North Korean, and Grenadan records, as well as a few other miscellaneous records from other countries
- Original documents mostly returned to countries of origin
- Contains some cartographic and photographic records, along with moving images and sound recordings



Captured German Records on Microfilm

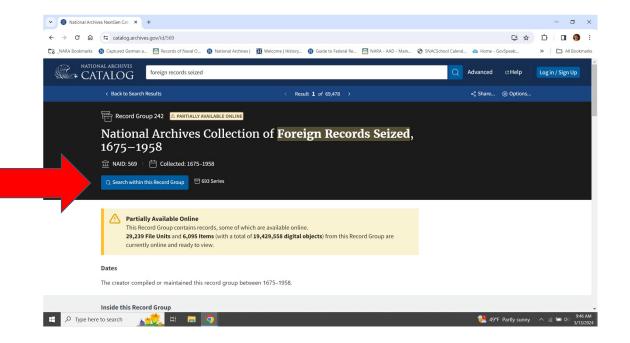
https://www.archives.gov/research/captured-german-records

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RESEARCH OUR RECORDS	VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS	EDUCATOR RESOURCES	VISIT US	AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS	
	he National Archives				More information about these
Research Our Records Main Page What's New? New Accessions	Captured German and Revised October 1, 2012	Related Records on	n Microfilm		records—including specific Microfilm
Digitized by our Partners Get Started Search Online	Table of Contents		See also the list of Captured C	German Sound Recordings	Publication Numbers—can be
Online Research Tools and Aids National Archives Catalog Access to Archival Databases Presidential Libraries Research in Person Free at the Archives Plan your Research Visit Locate a Facility Near You	Introduction National Archives Collection of Foreign Records S Captured German Records Microfilmed at Wha Captured German Navy Records Microfilmed i Captured German records microfilmed in Berlin Microfilmed records received from the Berlin I Captured German records microfilmed at Alex Nazi Party and SS records	addon Hall, U.K. n London, England, U.K. in, Germany Document Center			found on the National Archives website.



Record Group 242 in the National Archives Catalog

Click the blue "Search within this Record Group" button to explore RG 242.



https://catalog.archives.gov/id/569



Filtering Catalog Search Results

Examples of Filters:

- All records vs.
 Available to access online
- Type of Materials
- Level of
 Description
- Location of Archival Materials

Search within this Record Group		۵
1–20 of 57,550 results within this Record (Group in 1.18 seconds.	Results per page: 20 🗘
Filter by: All records	Sort by: Most Relevant	< Prev 1 of 2,878 Next >
O Available to access online (35,334)	File Unit Camp Records - Inmate Cards - Mauthausen - Records on	Prisoners, Tel-Z
+ Type of Materials	Creators: Germany. Geheime Staatspolizei; Department of Defens General's Office. Administrative Services Division. Departmental (9/18/1947 - 1958); International Tracing Service. (1/1/1948 -) Series: Lists and Registers of German Concentration Camp Inmat	Records Branch. Captured Records Section.
+ File Format of Archival Materials	File Unit Camp Records - Inmate Cards - Mauthausen - Records on	Prisoners, Boh-Gas
+ Part of Record Groups	童 NAID: 88498560 探 Creators: Germany. Geheime Staatspolizei; Department of Defen	
+ Location of Archival Materials	General's Office. Administrative Services Division. Departmental (9)18/1947 - 1958); International Tracing Service. (1/1/1948 -) Series: Lists and Registers of German Concentration Camp Inmat	
+ Dates by Year	File Unit Camp Records - Inmate Cards - Mauthausen - Records on	Prisoners, A-Bog



Microfilmed and Original Documents

Most of the original captured German records were returned to Germany after being microfilmed by various Allied organizations.

- For access to these documents, please contact the German Bundesarchiv (Federal Archives):

https://www.bundesarchiv.de/EN/Navigation/Home/home.html

Notable exceptions include original documents that relate to American airmen and prisoners of war (POWs/PWs).

Information about POWs was governed by articles 77–80 of the 1929
 Geneva Convention:

https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gc-pow-1929



Research Services

Entry NM-44 279 "Card Files Pertaining to American Prisoners of War"



National Archives Identifier (NAID): 6924202

Although this series is not yet available online, it has been digitized and will be available in the Catalog in the near future.

- Series 🛆 NOT YET AVAILABLE ONLINE

Card Files Pertaining to American Prisoners of War, 1951 ?-1958

Other title: Other German Records: Card File Pertaining to Allied Prisoners of War

Creator: Department of Defense. Department of the Army. The Adjutant General's Office. Administrative Services Division. Departmental Records Branch. Captured Records Section. (9/18/1947 - 1958) (Most Recent)

🟦 NAID: 6924202 🗉 🖹 Textual Records 🗉 💾 Collected: 1951 ?-1958 🗉 Covers: ca. 1943-1945

Not Yet Available Online This Series contains records, none of which are available online.

This series consists of card files pertaining to American prisoners of war (POW). A file typically includes personnel data including the POW identification number; camp number; first and last name; date and place of birth; religion; height; hair color; finger print; name of the father of the POW; nationality; rank; branch of service; service number; civilian occupation; date and place of capture; contact information of person to be notified in POW's homeland; and commands. Some of the files also include a photograph and a maiden name of the mother of the POW as well as a list of transfers if applicable. Most of the records are in German.

Arrangement

Arranged in two parts. The first part is arranged alphabetically by last name of prisoner of war, and the second part is arranged numerically by camp number.

https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6924202



- These records are in the custody of the Textual Reference Branch at the National Archives in College Park, MD (Archives II).
- The records are arranged alphabetically by family name of prisoner, with a small section arranged by camp number at the end of the series.
- The records are mostly in German, and they cover the time period of 1943 through 1945.
- The series includes 86 boxes of records; however, it does not include files for every American POW held by the Germans.
- The information available on each card may vary from prisoner to prisoner.



Typical Personnel Data on Cards

- first and last name
- date and place of birth
- religion
- nationality
- height
- hair color
- fingerprint
- rank
- branch of service
- commands
- service number
- civilian occupation

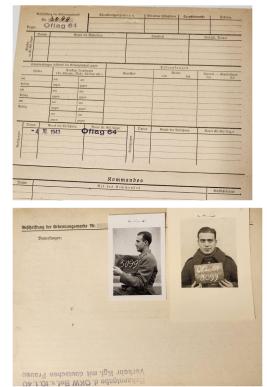
- POW identification number
- camp number
- date and place of capture
- contact information of person to be notified in POW's homeland
- photograph
- name of the POW's father
- maiden name of the POW's mother
- list of transfers



Sample Images: DiBella, Louis J.

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Kriegsgefangenen	Rame: De Belle Borname: Louis G Geburtstag und ort: 2007 Religion: Ach. Borname bes Baters: 6-0	7. 7. 14 M. 7. 14 M.	0	- /	Etaat8angehörigteit: <i>U.S.A.</i> Dienfigrad: <i>LEAB.</i> Aruppenteil: <i>Inf.</i> Somp. ufw.: Sivilberuf: <i>Ang</i> etd 0.112 ev Beruf3.Gr.: Matrikel Nr. (Stammelle bes Heimatikateh): ^{D-23} 06 797 Gefaugennahme (Ort und Datum): ²⁴ 2 v3 Itzzern
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This is an example of a typical POW card that includes basic personal details about the prisoner, a fingerprint, and his camp assignment. This file also includes two small photographs of the prisoner.





Sample Images: Doyle, James L.

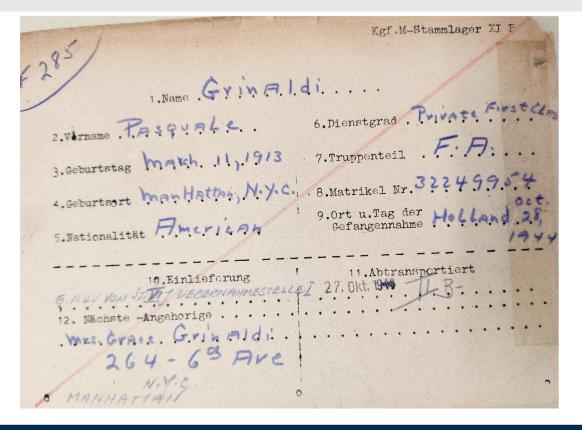
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This card only includes the prisoner's name, POW number, and camp assignment.

Some cards are more detailed than others, and the amount of information can vary widely from person to person.

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Sample Images: Grinaldi, Pasquale



This is a different style card that contains similar personal information about this particular prisoner.



Sample Images: Besler, Francis

This card is part of the file for "Camp XIII C," and it includes a typed copy of the card that has been translated into English.

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First Name:	Francis			Civilian O	ecupation: F	Farmer	Career	Nr.:
DOB & Place	18.2.1919 Wilmington			Degree of	job skill:			
Citizenship	: American							
		**	a) Priv	ate Funds				
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		NO	ENTRI	ES				
		Ē) Valuab	les Removed				
Date	Description	Storage	Location	Dat	te of Return		Signature Master	CO



Research Services

Examples of Other Prisoner of War Series in Record Group 242



- Entry A1 1058, National Archives Identifier: 7323534
- https://catalog.archives.gov/id/7323534
- 2 boxes of records (not digitized)
- arranged alphabetically by family name of prisoner

This series contains German-created personnel cards on individual POWs, including name, rank, date and place of birth, POW number, date of capture or transfer to POW camp, and POW camp number or designation.



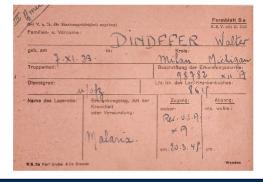
Sample Images from Entry A1 1058

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	Kgorf. Dri des Zodes abes:

This series includes a wide variety of different prisoner of war personnel cards.

1. Name: Canal	
	-9. Vorname des Vaters.
Heinen: Helent M.	10. Name der Mutter:
SategBisth: 29 march 1918	Nom de la mire
3. Ochurrsrag: Joseph Bakota Plante & misseer + ; South Dakota 4. Gebürsor: Joseph Dakota	11. Ansdrift der nächsten Angehörigen: Adresse de la Itaulie du prisonaler
5. Lager:	
C. Dienstgrad: 5040AT	12. Beruf: Protentian
Trappeneris: U. J. anney	13. Wann und wo gelangen: Dote et her de la capture
8. Nr. der Erkennungsmarke des deutschen Lagers: Matricite die enug allemand P.O. D. W.W.B. 21.7 / KU . A	14. Nr. der Erkennungsmarke des eigenen Truppen Matrikels-Nr. Remitte de matricele de Parité

Eame: Chattany, Bertram Estionality: USA 51 Banks POW 50. 7022256 Date of Deadh: Escaped Reported by: POW M. Stammlager VII a Group Verd Ar. 2 f 24 Sgt I.K.14 Oct 43, Dulag 226, Field Postal No. 29950







- Entry UD 1079, National Archives Identifier: 7348010
- <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/7348010</u>
- 2 boxes of records (not digitized)
- Arranged in two sections: the first section is numerical by Stalag number, and the second is unarranged. This series is not indexed or searchable by name of POW.

This series includes mugshot style photographs of Allied airmen who were captured by the Germans. Most photographs include POW numbers, but there are no names on the photographs.



Sample Images from Entry UD 1079



These small photographs are not labeled, and prisoners' names are not included in or on the images. Each photograph generally includes a camp number and a POW number.





"Personnel Cards on Prisoners of War in Stalag XB and Stalag XIIA, and on Merchant Seamen in POW Camps"

- Entry A1 1057, National Archives Identifier: 7323510
- <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/7323510</u>
- 1 box (not digitized)
- Arranged by camp number, and then alphabetically by family name of each prisoner.

These cards include name, rank, POW number, date and place of birth, and occupation.



Sample Images from Entry A1 1057

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PARSON Datum Arb.R	
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Date and place of	
	2 8 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 15 16 17 18 16 20 31 22 23 24 25 13 11 Kraczegerangeneniag: Bigonritung dor leger Buchstab:
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	organization: U.S. Army
	Chourtstag und Ort: 29.5.25
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	Apsonie

The small cards from this series generally include fewer details, but many of them do have annotations and additional information in English.



Research Services

Examples of Other Records at the National Archives Related to World War II **Prisoners of War**



"World War II Prisoners of War Data File"

THE	Archives.gov Home Contact Us			
NATIONAL ARCHIVES	Access to Archival Databases (AAD)			
	s List Series Description			
AAD TOOLS 🔻		Drint	Bookmark/Share	
Search this	s Series			
		Advanced Search		
Search				
Series D	accription			

Series Description

There are 1 File for this series in AAD :

World War II Prisoners of War Data File, 12/7/1941 - 11/19/1946 (info)

Title: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 - 1947, documenting the period 12/7/1941 - 11/19/1946

Search)

Creator: War Department. Adjutant General's Office. (3/4/1907 - 9/18/1947). (Most Recent)

Type of Archival Data Files Materials: Textual Records

Level of Description: Series from Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General

Other Titles: W.D. A.G.O. FORM NO. 0326

Location: National Archives at College Park. - Electronic Records, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD, 20740-6001. PHONE: 301-837-0470; FAX: 301-837-3574; EMALL: cer@nara.gov

Inclusive Dates: 1942 - 1947

Coverage Dates: 12/7/1941 - 11/19/1946

- Date Note: December 7, 1941 to November 19, 1946 are the earliest and latest report dates in the records. The 1942 to 1947 dates indicate the time period when the Adjutant General's Office created and maintained the database.
- Part of: Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General
- Function and Use: Using copies of reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the agency produced records on U.S. military and civilian prisoners of war and internees, as well as for some Allied internees. The agency used these records to generate monthly reports.

Scope & Content This series has information about U.S. military officers and soldiers and U.S. and some Allied Note: civilians who were prisoners of war and internees. The record for each prisoner provides serial number, personal name, branch of service or civilian status, grade, date reported, race, state of residence, type of organization, parent unit number and type, place of capture (theater of war), source of report, status, detaining power, and prisoner of war or (vilian interne cam piste. Records of prisoners of the Japanese who ledal also document whether the prisoner was on a Japanese ship that sank or if he or she died during transport from the Philippine Islands to Japan. There are no records for some prisoners of war whose names appear in the lists or cables transmitted to the Office of the Provost Marshal General by the

- This series is part of Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General.
- The database is available online via the National Archives' Access to Archival Databases (AAD) website: <u>https://aad.archives.gov/aad/</u>.
- It is also described in the National Archives Catalog as National Archives Identifier: 583428
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/583428</u>

Field Title	Value	Meaning
SERIAL NUMBER	01306197	01306197
NAME	DI BELLA LOUIS J	DI BELLA LOUIS J
GRADE, ALPHA	2 LT	Second Lieutenant or Nurse or Dietitian or Physical therapy aide
GRADE CODE	G	Second Lieutenant or Ensign
SERVICE CODE	1	ARMY
ARM OR SERVICE	INF	Infantry



The Records of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (Collection ADBC) includes another database that is available online via AAD: <u>https://aad.archives.gov/aad/</u>.

These records are described in the National Archives Catalog as the series "World War II Prisoners of the Japanese Data Files" (National Archives Identifier: 731002)

• <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/731002</u>



Additional Series in Record Group 389

- "Subject Correspondence Files, 1943–1945" (entry A1 435, National Archives Identifier: 645921)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/645921</u>
 - contains information about the care and treatment of American POWs by Axis Nations
- "Records Relating to the Collection and Dissemination of Information Concerning American Civilians and Military Personnel Captured or Interned in Enemy Countries, 1942–1945" (entry A1 459, National Archives Identifier: 719211)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/719211</u>
 - contains records that help document the experiences of American POWs
- "Decimal Files, 1942–1945" (entry A1 460, National Archives Identifier: 731082)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/731082</u>
 - contains press releases related to American POWs
- "International Red Cross Lists of Prisoners of War and Civilian Prisoners, 1942–1945" (entry P 11, National Archives Identifier: 1130297)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1130297</u>



Examples from Record Group 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)

- "Stalag Name Index to the Series 'Case Files, 1944–1949'" (entry A1 141-D, National Archives Identifier: 1681937)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1681937</u> *fully digitized*
- "European Name Index to the Series 'Case Files, 1944–1949'" (entry A1 142, National Archives Identifier: 1683246)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1683246</u> *fully digitized*
- "Far East Name Index to the Series 'Case Files, 1944–1949'" (entry A1 140-A, National Archives Identifier: 1670340)
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1670340</u> *fully digitized*



- Record Group 38: Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
- Record Group 59: General Records of the Department of State
- Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs
- Record Group 331: Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II
- Record Group 407: Records of the Adjutant General's Office
- Record Group 497: Records of the Africa-Middle East Theater of Operations (World War II Army)
- Record Group 498: Records of Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army (World War II)
- Record Group 554: Records of General Headquarters, Far East Command, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, and United Nations Command



Records Related to Individual Service Members

- Archival Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs):
 - <u>https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel/ompf-archival-requests</u>
- Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPFs) and other individual casualty records:
 - partially digitized in the Catalog (see example National Archives Identifier: 297287480)
 - https://catalog.archives.gov/id/297287480
 - email the National Archives at St. Louis at <u>stl.archives@nara.gov</u>
- "Hospital Admission Card Files" in Record Group 112: Records of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army):
 - described in the Catalog as National Archives Identifier: 570973
 - <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/id/570973</u>
 - available online via Ancestry and Fold3



Research Services

Additional Resources



Additional Resources

- Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency: <u>https://www.dpaa.mil/</u>
- Arolsen Archives International Center on Nazi Persecution (formerly known as the International Tracing Service, ITS): <u>https://arolsen-archives.org/en/</u>
- National World War II Museum:

https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/topics/prisoners-world-war-ii-pows

- Library of Congress: <u>https://www.loc.gov/collections/veterans-history-project-</u> <u>collection/serving-our-voices/diverse-experiences-in-service/prisoners-of-war/</u>
- International Committee of the Red Cross: <u>https://www.icrc.org/en/document/prisoners-war-what-you-need-know</u>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Research Services

Questions?

For additional assistance, email the Textual Reference Branch at the National Archives in College Park, MD (Archives II), at <u>archives2reference@nara.gov</u>



After the Broadcast

Email questions to **inquire@nara.gov**

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts will remain online at

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2024



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Event Evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval



Thank You Genealogy Series Team!

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Educational resources on how to access and conduct research using U.S. federal government records at the National Archives and Records Administration.

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



Questions and Answers in Chat

Please stay if you have questions.

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in **chat** for another 10 minutes.