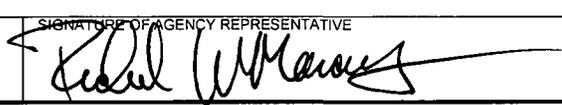


REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY		JOB NUMBER 71-064-03-2	
To NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION 8601 ADELPHI ROAD, COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001		Date received 12-18-2002	
1 FROM (Agency or establishment) National Archives and Records Administration		NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY In accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 3303a, the disposition request including amendments is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10	
2 MAJOR SUBDIVISION Office of Records Services, Washington DC			
3 MINOR SUBDIVISION Modern Records Programs, Electronic and Special Media Records Services Division			
4 NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER Theodore J. Hull	5 TELEPHONE NUMBER 301-837-1824	DATE 7-2-03	ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES 
6 AGENCY CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposition of its records and that the records proposed for disposal on the attached <u>2</u> page(s) are not needed now for the business for this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified, and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required <input type="checkbox"/> is attached, or <input type="checkbox"/> has been requested			
DATE DEC 18 2002	SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE 		TITLE NARA Records Officer
7 ITEM NO	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION	9 GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10 ACTION TAKEN (NARA USE ONLY)
1.	<u>Army Serial Number Electronic Files</u> Records resulting from the conversion of microfilm images of punch cards of the Army Serial Number File (1938-46) to "Raw Input Files" (ASCII data files) in 1994, and subsequent conversions of the data in 2002 into "Merged Raw Files" and "Merged Processed Files " The Army Serial Number Electronic Files contain records of approximately 9 million enlistments in the United States Army, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, 1941 through 1946. Although incomplete, the records contain data for a majority of the enlistments in the United States Army during World War II. The bulk of the records conform to the format found on War Department Adjutant General's Office (WD AGO) Form 317 (Enlistment Card) for the period ca 1941-45, and WD AGO Form 372 (Enlistment Card) for ca 1945-46. Additional records contain data originally recorded on Enlisted Reserve Corps (E R C) Statistical cards. In general, the records contain the serial number, name, state and county of residence, place of enlistment, date of enlistment, grade, Army branch, term of enlistment, longevity, nativity (place of birth), year of birth, race, education, civilian occupation, marital status, height and weight (before 1943), military occupational specialty (1945 and later), and component		
<i>cc HR, NAWMD, NAWME, NAWCT</i>			

Raw Input Files -

Records produced for the National Archives in 1994 under contract with the Bureau of the Census, using its Film Optical Scanning Device for Input to Computers (FOSDIC) system. The Bureau of the Census successfully converted 1,374 of the 1,586 rolls, or 86%. In October 1994, the Bureau provided NARA with 1,374 data files (one per converted roll) on twelve 3480-class tape cartridges.

The unique characteristic of the "Raw Input Files" is that FOSDIC read each punch card image up to ten times in an attempt to create a clean record and extract all characters from the original punch card. Usually, the first read will contain the majority of data extracted from the card image. If all data could not be extracted, subsequent reads of the card image would result in additional records containing periods for characters successfully read on previous reads and ASCII characters for those interpreted on the current read. Multiple interpretations of the same character may be present across the multiple reads. A blank record separates records or groups of records pertaining to an individual punch card image. Blank records also separate the box header, end-of-file, and "one or more records" records from the other records in the files.

Merged Raw Files -

Records resulting from a project NARA completed in May 2002, merging the 1,374 Raw Input Files into twelve files, or one per input cartridge.

Merged Processed File -

Records resulting from a project NARA completed in September 2002, consolidating and further processing the Merged Raw Files. This resulting "Merged Processed File," is stripped of the records containing the box-and-roll records and end-of-file records. Box-and-roll data were retained by attaching it to the end of the records contained on that roll, because it was thought necessary for researchers to be able to access the original image on microfilm. The NARA processing also involved the "collapse" of the multiple reads of punch card images into a single record containing the ASCII characters read from each punch card image. Therefore, the Merged Processed File is a "clean" ASCII data file that contains a single record for each punch card image of the Army Serial Number records.

a

Raw Input Files – These 1,374 files are the files originally received from the Bureau of the Census containing the multiple read records of the Army Serial Number punch cards. NARA merged all the data in these files into the 12 Merged Raw Files.

DISPOSITION TEMPORARY – Dispose immediately upon approval of this schedule.

b

Merged Raw Files – These 12 electronic files contain the results of the original Census-FOSDIC interpretation of the Army Serial Number punch cards. The files contain multiple reads of approximately 9.5 million punch cards on 1,374 rolls of microfilm.

DISPOSITION PERMANENT – Transfer immediately to the National Archives.

c

Merged Processed File – This electronic file contains the “best guess” results of the interpreted punch card records. This file was prepared by NARA and contains one record for each punch card.

DISPOSITION PERMANENT – Transfer immediately to the National Archives.