

Prisoners of War, British, 1939 - 1953

A new section has been added to the TNA Research Guide **Prisoners of War, British, 1939-1953**.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/prisoners-war-1939-1953.htm>

Missing service personnel, casualties, Prisoners of War and Far East civilian internees: nominal and death lists and enquiries.

The recently released National Archives (TNA) record series WO 361 contains 2240 files concerning enquiries made into missing personnel during the Second World War.

While the completeness of these files is unknown, they are a significant resource for those seeking information about servicemen that were recorded as missing, a casualty or taken prisoner. Researchers should also consider that in the confusion of battle, some men initially reported as 'missing' were subsequently confirmed to be Prisoners of War or killed in action.

Regarding the Far East, the files can include:

- Numerous, and often substantial, nominal lists;
- Information about military actions and incidents that led to death, injury or capture
- The date and cause of death, where buried and, sometimes, unofficial death certificates.
- Statements about the last known whereabouts of an individual or unit.
- Reports on conditions and experiences in Far East PoW camps.
- Some nominal and death lists of civilian internees held by the Japanese.
- War crimes investigations.

Please note, The National Archives cannot undertake free research, but you are welcome to visit. Before doing so you are advised to visit their website to check for important information regarding opening hours and [ID requirements](#). The latter is especially important if you need to see original documents.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

You can do some initial document research via TNA's Catalogue which contains over 11 million document references and descriptions but does not contain images of the documents except where stated. You can search the catalogue online specifying keywords such as regiment, ship, geographical location, Prisoner of War camp name or number and so on.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/default.asp?j=1>

If making a personal visit is not possible then you may wish to employ an independent researcher or use TNA's own paid search service to carry out your research. Details can be found at:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/paid_research.htm