

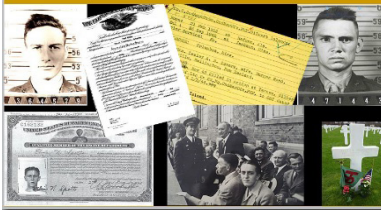


New Quick Guides Available from the World War II Research and Writing Center!

<http://wwiirwc.com>

Finding the Answers: Starting World War II Research

JENNIFER HOLIK



Finding the Answers: Starting World War II Research

World War II research is surrounded by stories and myths which often give people the perception they cannot obtain any information about military service.

Have you heard, 'All the records burned!'

Have you read on a website that you must be the next-of-kin to receive information?

Do you think sending in one form to request records gives you everything available?

Do you know there are additional records at NPRC, that staff will not search for you, that are required for Army and Army Air Forces research?

Do you think starting your search in unit records will provide all the answers?

Did you know there are many records available you can obtain by visiting the archives or hiring a research firm like mine? Records the archives will not search for you to reconstruct service history?

If records exist, what is the problem? Why haven't researchers and family members been able to reconstruct service history easily on their own? The problem is, any books or guides produced by military museums, archives, libraries, and other groups, talk only about the fire, what you cannot get, and a few major record sources. Usually these materials stress searching unit level records, which is not the place to start research. None of these guides explains through a process, how to use other resources and records to reconstruct service history for all branches.

In this guide you will learn everything you need to know to start your World War II research, even if the records burned. Armed with the information you discover, you can find the answers to your military research questions.

Finding the Answers in the Individual Deceased Personnel File



Finding the Answers In the Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF)

Finding the Answers. This is what each person who starts WWII research hopes to accomplish. We often begin with many questions, to which answers are often elusive. This is often the case when those questions concern those who died in the war or are still considered Missing In Action (MIA).

Who do we ask about our family member's service, especially when most of our WWII-era family members are gone? What records exist to help find the answers? The Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) is the most important file you need to help you find the answers to your questions regarding those who died in service. The IDPF documents the death, and temporary and final burial details, of WWII service members from all military branches.

This quick guide introduces you:

- What the IDPF is and is not.

- To the questions about military service and death you may be able to answer through the pages of this file.

- The history of the men who created the records.

- Information on obtaining the file and other records.

- Where to go to learn more.

Are you ready to Find the Answers about your family's war dead?

Finding the Answers: Discovering World War II Service Online

Finding the Answers. This is what each person who starts WWII research hopes to accomplish. We often begin with many questions, to which answers are often elusive. The most logical place to search for answers to our World War II questions is online.

There is a common misconception that all military records exist online. While many records are digitized and placed on line each day, the fact is, most of the records required are in paper format in repositories and archives. Requiring records that exist only on paper may leave you wondering, what can I find online? How can I find information easily?

This quick guide introduces you to:

- Reasons to research WWII service online.

- What records may be available online.

- Techniques to make searching easier.

- A research form to track websites you've visited.

Finding the Answers: Discovering World War II Service Online

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A sample of websites on which you can find information.

Checklist of specific databases and indexes.

Where to go to learn more.

Are you ready to Find the Answers about your family's military service online?

Finding the Answers: Researching Women in World War II

JENNIFER HOLIK



Finding the Answers: Researching Women in World War II

Finding the Answers. Are you seeking answers to questions about your family's female World War II service member or civilian worker?

Women played crucial roles during World War II after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Men felt an obligation to join the military and rushed to enlist. Enlistment and later the draft, required men to vacate jobs on the home front. As a result, women were recruited and trained to take over jobs left by men. The military also began programs for women to volunteer to aid the war effort, or in some cases, join the military as enlisted personnel and officers.

This quick guide introduces you to:

- A brief history of the shift of roles women played at home and in service.

- Histories of the components of each military branch in which women served.

- Army: Women's Army Corps (WACs), Army Nurses, Army Air Forces – Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) and Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS).

- Navy WAVES – Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, Navy Nurses.

- Coast Guard SPARS

- Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR)

- Histories of the civilian organizations in which women served

- Red Cross

- USO

- Tips for locating information to begin a search for records with checklists.

Are you ready to start searching for information on your female service member?

Finding the Answers: World War II Travel in Europe

JENNIFER HOLIK



Finding the Answers: World War II Travel in Europe

Congratulations with taking a first step on a journey to learn more about your World War II soldier's, sailor's, airman's, or Marine's military service and walk in their footsteps in Europe. World War II travel is done for many reasons. There are people who enjoy seeing the major battle sites and hearing history of the more famous units who helped win the war. Veterans still travel to Europe to walk where they fought, meet old friends and make new ones, and attend commemorative events. There are some who unexpectedly end up at a cemetery or battlefield and take an interest in the war. Finally, there are many who travel to heal their souls and find answers or closure to questions they have had about their father or mother's service. Whatever your reason for World War II travel, I invite you to be open to anything that shows up on

your journey.

This quick guide introduces you to:

Doing your homework. Helping you learn about your service member's history prior to travel.

Trip planning tips.

Considerations for hiring a travel agent, traveling with a tour group, or traveling on your own.

Learning about living history in Europe.

Ways to preserve the details and memories of your trip.

Ways to contribute to preserving World War II history in Europe.

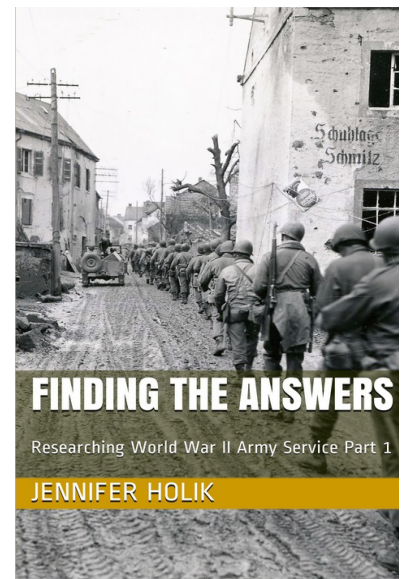
Are you ready to travel in your soldier's footsteps in Europe?

Finding the Answers: Researching Army Service in World War II Part 1

Have you ever attempted World War II research or read any recommended beginning genealogy book and hit a brick wall because of the lack of records available online, or because all the records burned? Researchers have been conditioned through many books and websites to believe there is no way to research a soldier's service if the records burned in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

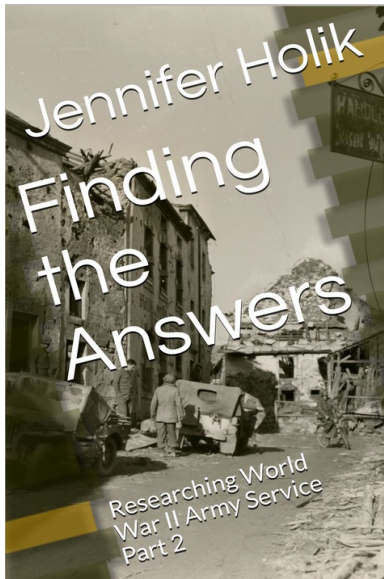
Researching the service of a World War II soldier can take many winding paths, and there are many starting points from which the research and analysis can begin. However, before we can begin our journey and learn the first part of the research strategy, we must first understand some of the roadblocks and questions that arise during research.

This quick guide introduces you:



Part one of the research strategy.
Resources you can use to locate information.
How to request military records.
Where to find records.
Records used to reconstruct service history.

Are you ready to research your soldier's service?



Finding the Answers: Researching World War II Army Service Part 2

Have you ever attempted World War II research or read any recommended beginning genealogy book and hit a brick wall because of the lack of records available online, or because all the records burned? Researchers have been conditioned through many books and websites to believe there is no way to research a soldier's service if the records burned in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

Researching the service of a World War II soldier can take many winding paths, and there are many starting points from which the research and analysis can begin. However, before we can begin our journey and learn the second part of the research strategy, we must first understand some of the roadblocks and questions that arise during research. This book is a continuation of Finding the Answers: Researching World War II Army Service Part 1.

This quick guide introduces you:

Part two of the research strategy.
Resources you can use to locate information.
An exploration of basic Army unit records.
Exploration of life after the war for men and women.
Resources for records created after the war.

Are you ready to research your soldier's service?