



Understand the Branches and Records

Branch	Key Record Types	Date Range	Where To Access
Army & Army Air Forces	Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) Morning Reports Rosters	1912–1998 (OMPFs) 1912–1945 (Morning Reports)	National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) National Archives at St. Louis
Navy and Coast Guard	Muster Rolls Deck Logs Service Cards	ca. 1860s–1970s (Muster Rolls) WWII era (Deck Logs, Cards)	National Archives in College Park, MD Naval History and Heritage Command
Marines	Unit Diaries Casualty Cards	WWII–Present	National Archives in College Park, MD Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections

Notes on Use:

- **OMPFs** contain full service details, including enlistment, assignments, awards, and discharge. These are often the most complete source for individual personnel history.
- **Morning Reports** and **Rosters** help track daily unit activity and personnel movements—useful when reconstructing a soldier’s timeline.
- **Muster Rolls** show shipboard or station assignments; **Deck Logs** record daily operations; **Service Cards** give quick reference summaries.
- **Unit Diaries** provide narrative accounts of Marine unit actions; **Casualty Cards** document injuries and deaths during service.