

# **Researching Canadian Military Records Using Online & Traditional Resources**

## ***An Introduction for Family Historians***

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An impressive quantity of primary Canadian military records have recently been digitized and made available for research on the internet. Notable exceptions include military personnel records for the period after 1918. Those records must still be applied for in writing. The restrictions regarding which personnel records are available are described on the web link listed under the heading *How to Access Military Personnel Files after 1918*, as is the address to send your application to.

Many family historians are delighted to discover that there is a rapidly growing archive of reliable background information and Canadian military history online.

Inexperienced family historians often rely exclusively on web-based records. It is important to remember that online information represents a fraction of that what is available. This writer strongly supports using available online resources, however it is critically important for researchers to seek out published accounts of events and individuals that are of interest to you. Books from serious authors usually contain far more detail and include extensive source citation and notes, whereas online information is often lacking in those areas. Useful online tools to help you identify those published works include web-based bibliographies.

### **Helpful Canadian Military Web sites for Family Historians:**

The following list of web sites includes many that contain databases of digitized images of original Canadian military documents and transcriptions of original documents by reliable institutions. Most are searchable. Some of the sites focus on history of the Canadian military experience, while others list helpful bibliographies of published materials. All of these sites and many more are listed on the Global Genealogy website at: <http://globalgenealogy.com/links/canada-military.htm>

- Canadian Virtual War Memorial (VA)  
<http://198.103.134.2/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>
- Canadian Military History Gateway  
Flash Site: <http://www.cmhg.gc.ca>  
HTML site: <http://www.cmhg.gc.ca/html/default-en.asp?t=1>
- Canadian War Museum  
<http://www.civilization.ca/cwm/cwme.asp>
- Royal Canadian Legion  
<http://www.legion.ca/>
- Veteran's Affairs, Canada  
<http://198.103.134.2/general/>
- Researching Canadian Merchant Marine  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-913.006-e.html>
- Commonwealth War Graves  
<http://www.cwgc.org/>
- Books of Remembrance – Canada's War Dead  
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/books>
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial  
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>
- The Second World War (History & Background)  
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar>

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- Veteran's Affairs - WW II  
<http://198.103.134.2/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/Canada2>
- Canadian War Brides - WW II  
<http://www.canadianwarbrides.com/>
- How to Access Military Personnel Files after 1918  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-909.007-e.html>
- Soldiers of WW I (LAC)  
[http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/020106\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/020106_e.html)
- Unit War Diaries - WW I (LAC)  
[http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/020152\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/020152_e.html)
- Soldiers of South African War (LAC)  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/south-african-war/index-e.html>

### Abbreviations Used in Canadian Military Personnel Records

Adj	Adjutant	GOC	General Officer Commanding
adm	admitted	HMS	His Majesty's Service
ARD	Alberta Regimental Depot	HMT	His Majesty's Troopship
att'd	attached	Hosp	Hospital
auth	authorized, authority	How	Howitzer
AWL	Absent without leave	HQ	Headquarters
Batt'n, Bn	Battalion	inv "wd"	invalided wounded
BCRD	British Columbia Regimental Depot	KIA	Killed in action
BEF	British Expeditionary Force	LG (Lon. Gaz.)	London Gazette
Bty	Battery	LMB	Light Mortar Battery
CADC	Canadian Army Dental Corps	LSH	Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
CAMC	Canadian Army Medical Corps	M&D	Medals & Decorations
CASC	Canadian Army Service Corps	MC	Military Cross
Cav	Cavalry	MD	Military District (or Depot)
CBD	Canadian Base Details	MIA	Missing in action
CCAC	Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre	MID	Mentioned-in-Despatches
CCCC	Canadian Corps Composite Company	Mil	Military
CCD	Canadian Convalescent Depot	Miss	missing
CCRC	Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp	MM	Military Medal
CCS	Casualty Clearing Station	MRD	Manitoba Regimental Depot
CDD	Canadian Discharge Depot	NSRD	Nova Scotia Regimental Depot
CDAC	Canadian Divisional Ammunition Column	NYD	not yet determined
CE	Canadian Engineers	OC	Officer Commanding
CEF	Canadian Expeditionary Force	OMFC	Overseas Military Forces of Canada
CERD	Canadian Engineer Reinforcement Depot	O.S.	Overseas
CFA	Canadian Field Ambulance	P & S	Plaque & Scroll (Memorial)
CFA	Canadian Field Artillery	Pnr	Pioneer
CFC	Canadian Forestry Corps	PPCLI	Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
CGA	Canadian Garrison Artillery	Pres	presumed
CGH	Canadian General Hospital	Proc	proceeded
CGR	Canadian Garrison Regiment	Pte	Private
CL	Casualty List	Pt. II O	Part II Orders
CLH	Canadian Light Horse	PUO	Pyrexia of unknown origin

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CMGC	Canadian Machine Gun Corps		QRD	Quebec Regimental Depot
CMR	Canadian Mounted Rifles		RAF	Royal Air Force
C of I	Court of Inquiry		RCD	Royal Canadian Dragoons
Com	Command		RCHA	Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
Conv	Convalescent		RCR	Royal Canadian Regiment
CORD	Central Ontario Regimental Depot		Rem	remained
Coy	Company		Rept	reported
CRCR	Canadian Reserve Calvary Regiment		Res	Reserve
CRT	Canadian Railway Troops		RFB	Reported from Base
CSM	Company Sergeant-Major		RFC	Royal Flying Corps
DAC	Divisional Ammunition Company		RSM	Regimental Sergeant-Major
DCM	Distinguished Conduct Medal		RTC	Returned to Corps
Dis	discharged		RTU	Returned to Unit
Div	Division		SEF	Siberian Expeditionary Force
DO	Daily Order (of a unit)		SOS	Struck off strength (of a unit)
D of W	Died of wounds		Spr	Sapper
Dvr	Driver		SS	Steamship
Emb	embarked		Staty	Stationary (Hospital)
EORD	Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot		SW	Shrapnel (Shell) wound
FGH	Fort Garry Horse		TMB	Trench Mortar Battery
FGHRR	Fort Garry Horse Reserve Regiment		TOS	Taken on strength (of a unit)
Frac	Fractured		Tpr	Trooper
GC	Badge Good Conduct Badge		Trans	transferred
Gen	General		Unk	unknown
GHQ	General Headquarters		VDG	venereal disease, gonorrhea
Gnr	Gunner		VDS	venereal disease, syphilis
GSW	Gunshot Wound		w, (w)	wounded