



How to Research a Cameronian



Where can I get service records?

We do not hold service records at the Museum. However, the service records of all soldiers whose service ended **before 1921** are held by the National Archives:

The National Archives

Ruskin Avenue

Kew

Richmond

Surrey, TW9 4DU

Tel: 0208-876 3444 Fax 0208-878 8905

E-Mail: enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

You can also now find these service records on the website www.ancestry.co.uk . This is the direct link: <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/category.aspx?cat=39>

However do be aware that more than half the service records for the years of 1914 to 1920 were destroyed in a German raid in 1940, meaning that there is around a 40% chance of finding a service record for this period from the 2.8 million remaining records.

What about service records before WWI?

For soldiers whose service **ended before WWI**, the National Archives does not generally hold service records but has muster rolls, pay lists, campaign records, pension records and medal rolls. These records do not contain individual information but can confirm regiments and dates. They can be searched online but need to be viewed on site at the archives. The National Archives site has a number of useful guides on their vast archives, including this guide to researching the records of officers from 1660-1913:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/RdLeaflet.asp?sLeafletID=13>

You can also search records covering 1760-1915 online at

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/army-service-records/all>

Records can be searched for free, but you will need to pay to download. Included are the records of all other ranks men who were pensioned out of the army between 1760-1915 and the digitised records from WO96 and WO97 at The National Archives. Although the records are called Chelsea Pensioner Records they do not solely relate to men who resided at the Chelsea Pensioner Hospital in Chelsea as all men who were pensioned out of the army had their records processed through the Chelsea Pensioner Hospital and were known as out-pensioners.

Digitised service records for men who served in the Militia are all held here as well and they often contain a wealth of information.

What about service records after WWI?

To obtain service records for soldiers whose service **ended after 1921**, you need to apply to:

Army Personnel Centre (APC)

HQ Secretariat

Historic Disclosures

Mailpoint 400

Kentigern House

65 Brown Street

Glasgow G2 8EX

Tel: 0845 600 9663

E-mail: disc4@apc.army.mod.uk

Website: <http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23212.aspx>

Service records can be obtained by the soldier or their widow without charge, or for a non-refundable fee by next-of-kin or with the next-of-kin's written permission. The service records will list medals and awards but not citations, and the amount of information included varies greatly. To locate records, the APC will require as much information as possible, namely the full name, date of birth, Army number, regiment and year of discharge of the individual concerned. Due to demand, it may take a number of months for letters to be answered and without either the date of birth or army number, it is unlikely records will be located.

To obtain service records, former army personnel should write a letter with their request and include proof of identity such as a copy of a driving licence or utility bill. Widows must write a letter and include proof of death if the soldier died after leaving the service, plus confirmation they are next of kin. Everyone else should include

- Consent of disclosure from the person about whom you are enquiring or Power of Attorney if appropriate, or if they are deceased the APC require consent of the next-of-kin.
- Proof of death if the service person died after leaving the service.
- A cheque or postal order for £30 made payable to 'MOD Accounting Officer'.

Former Army personnel who wish to receive copies of their service records under the Data Protection Act are required to submit a Subject Access Request (SAR), accompanied by verification of identify (a photocopy of a driving license or passport or a recent utility bill) to the following address:

APC MS Support - Disclosures 2

MP 535,

Kentigern House,

65 Brown Street,

Glasgow

G2 8EX

Tel: 0845 600 9663

Fax: 0141 224 3172

Email: APC-Sp-ParlDiscl-Dis2-Mailbox@mod.uk

Are there any other sources of service information for WWI soldiers?

It is still possible to find information on relatives who were in the Cameronians during the First World War. In the [British Army Medal Index Cards](#) section of the National Archives website is a searchable database of First World War Campaign Medals. This was produced from the index cards, known as Medal Index Cards (MIC), which were created to provide a quick reference to the Medal Rolls which list medals awarded to all First World War military personnel.

Although the cards do not contain as much information as the medal rolls or as a service record, they will confirm which regiment(s) a soldier served in, his service number(s), his rank(s), and the medals he was entitled to. The cards will often also give details as to when the soldier first went overseas and to which theatre of war they first served in. There is also space for general remarks, which sometimes give some additional info on the soldiers' career.

The medal cards can be searched by surname, forenames, regiment/corps, rank, or service number and are free to search, although there is a small charge for downloading an image of a card.

For more information about Medal Index Cards and how to interpret them:

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/research/index.php/find-your-soldier/campaign-medal-records/how-to-interpret-a-campaign-medal-index-card/>

The website www.ancestry.co.uk also allows you to access British WWI Pension Records for 1914-1920. This is a useful resource for cases when you know that a soldier has been injured in service and would have been entitled to a war pension. These records may include a

physical description of the soldier, regimental number, service history, location served and any promotions, date and place of birth, previous occupation, next of kin, medical information relating to the disability for which the pension was granted. You can search the index for free but will need to pay to view the records.

Where can I get more information on soldiers who died in WWI or WWII?

To research soldiers who died in the First and Second World Wars, a useful resource is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org

The website of the Scottish National War Memorial contains a searchable database of all Scottish casualties in the First and Second World Wars, as well as post-1945 conflicts: www.snwm.org.

For soldiers who died in the First World War and were either born or lived in Glasgow, the Evening Times Roll of Honour is a useful resource. The information was taken from obituaries published in the Evening Times newspaper, many of which were accompanied by photographs. However any information that appeared was dependant on what the family provided, so not every local soldier will appear. A searchable index gives the details of which issue of the newspaper the obituary appeared in, along with page number and column details, and can be found on the Glasgow City Council website:

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/the-mitchell-library/family-history/resources/evening-times-roll-honour/Pages/home.aspx>

For other areas, local newspapers can also be a valuable resource to find obituaries and photographs.

How do I find out about medals or citations?

For details of medals awarded **pre-1921**, contact the National Archives. For awards such as the Military Medal, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and the Military Cross the National Archives website will also contain downloadable index cards with a brief note of when the medal was awarded.

Please be aware that the Ministry of Defence no longer issue replacement First World War medals.

For medals awarded **after 1921**, contact:
Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency
(Joint Personnel Administration Centre)
MOD Medal Office
Building 250
RAF Innsworth
Gloucester
GL3 1HW
Tel (for JPAC Enquiry Centre): 0141 224 3600
Veterans Freephone: 0800 085 3600

To find out more information on medals, The London Gazette provides details of gallantry awards, and also has details of every officer's promotions and appointments throughout the war. It contains only citations for the VC, DSO, MC, and DCM - there are no citations kept anywhere for the Military Medal beyond the one originally given with the medal, only a notification of when it was awarded. The London Gazette is fully searchable online: <http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/search>

Due to the vast amount of information taken from thousands of issues, the Gazette can be difficult to use, particularly if you do not have specific information.

Newspapers from the area where a soldier normally lived are a valuable resource as they will often contain information on medals awarded including the reason for it being awarded and sometimes an accompanying photograph.

Where can I find out about Prisoners of War?

The National Archives is a good place to start for information on Prisoners of War. For prisoners up to and including the First World War, try the Research Guide here; <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/prisoners-war-1760-1919.htm>

For Prisoners of War from the Second World War to 1953, see the National Archives Guide here; <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/prisoners-war-1939-1953.htm>

The International Red Cross also holds records on all soldiers taken as PoWs;. You can find information about WWI prisoners of War in a free downloadable publication from here: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0937.htm>

Do you have photographs of my relative?

It is unlikely we will be able to supply photographs of a soldier. We have a large number of photographs in the collection, however many of these contain individuals who are unnamed and the majority of named photographs depict officers. We do not have portrait-style photographs of soldiers who enlisted.

If your relative died in the First or Second World Wars, it is possible that his details and a photograph appeared in a local newspaper. This information and any photographs would have been provided by a soldier's family, not the regiment, therefore we do not have any records relating to this. An excellent resource for Glasgow-based soldiers in WWI is the Evening Times Roll of Honour (see page 4 of this Guide for details).

What resources does the Museum have that I can check?

The library at the Museum offices holds a number of primary and secondary resources which enquirers can make an appointment to view in our offices.

Primary Sources

- War Diaries - these are a daily record of a Battalion's activities while on war-time operations. In addition to the originals in the collection we purchase copies of the Regiment's War Diaries from the National Archives which are transcribed by volunteers. We do not have all of the Diaries for the regiment as yet.
- Personal diaries of soldiers and officers. These are largely unexplored, but some form part of our digitisation programme, including those of Field Marshall Wolseley.
- Enlistment Books covering the 1920s and 1930s. These have been photographed and indexed so can be searched on site or by staff.
- Army Lists - annual lists of all officers serving in the British Army, indexed by personal name and by Regiment. The earliest Army List is for 1740 but the series (to the 1st Battalion's Disbandment in 1968) is incomplete.
- Officers' card index of all officers who served in the Regiment from 1689-1968, giving a brief outline of their military service. This is taken mainly from the Army Lists.
- Rolls of Honour of all the fallen in the British Army for both World Wars on searchable CDs

Secondary Sources

- The four volumes of Regimental History, all of which are now out of print.
- Battalion Histories (mainly covering 1914-18). These record the war history of individual Battalions in greater detail than the Regimental History
- *The Covenanter* Regimental magazine – all issues from its inception in 1922 to the present
- The Regimental Library which was given to us on the disbandment of the regiment

How can I make an enquiry to the Museum and what information do I need?

Enquirers wishing to make an appointment to consult any of the above sources or if you have a query about the Cameronians contact:

Low Parks Museum
129 Muir Street
Hamilton, ML3 6BJ

Phone 01698 328232
Fax 01698 328412

Email lowparksmuseum@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk

Examples of enquiries we can help with include:

For officers

- Date joined the Regiment
- Outline of service, promotions and appointments
- Honours and awards
- Date left the Regiment

Other ranks

- Date and place of death if a soldier served during World War I and II
- Campaigns during soldier's service if we have details from a soldier's service record including battalion and dates of service
- Uniform and equipment
- Information from *The Covenanter* if we have specific details of names and dates
- Enlistment information for the 1920s and 1930s.

However this is not an exhaustive list and we may also be able to point enquirers in the right direction if the above addresses and links do not cover an enquiry.

If you do wish to make an enquiry to us:

- Include as much information as you can, particularly the battalion, dates of service and regimental number.
- Err on the side of caution by telling us what you already know so that we do not duplicate any information.
- Be as specific as possible about what you would like us to try and find for you.

Each enquiry will be acknowledged and eighty percent will be answered within eight weeks.

Where else can I look for information?

The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Regiment and Families Association

Chairman: Mr A. Halliday

43 Springhill St, Douglas,

South Lanarkshire ML11 ONS.

Tel: 01555 851419

The final issue of the Regimental magazine *The Covenanter* was published in January 2009. It has now been replaced by a Blog: <http://www.cameronians.net/blog/>

The Cameronians official website www.cameronians.org contains useful background on the regimental history plus information on the permanent and temporary displays in Low Parks Museum.

For military history in general:

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road

London SE1 6HZ

Tel.: 0207-416 5320

Website: www.iwm.org.uk

National Army Museum

Royal Hospital Road

Chelsea

London SW3 4HT

Tel.: 0207-7730 0717

Website: www.national-army-museum.ac.uk

Army Museums Ogilby Trust – general site for army museums and ancestor research:

<http://www.armymuseums.org.uk/index.htm>

Ministry of Defence website has a section for veterans

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Veterans>

How do I contact old comrades or friends of an ex-Cameronian?

To contact Old Comrades:

Royal Navy, Army & RAF since WW2

www.oldoppos.co.uk or also www.forcesreunited.org.uk or try using the forum on the Cameronians website <http://www.cameronians.info/>

The Royal British Legion 'Lost Trails' service reunites old army friends.

Telephone 0845 7725725 or go to <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/lost-trails/lost-trails-search>

Are there any books on The Cameronians?

Regimental History (in 4 volumes, all out of print)

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Johnston, S H F	The History of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 26 th and 90 th Vol.1 1689-1910	Gale & Polden Aldershot, 1957.
Story, Colonel H H	History of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Vol.2 1910-1933	Hazell, Watson & Viney Aylsebury & Slough, 1961.
Barclay, Brigadier C N	The History of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Vol.3 1933-1946	Sifton & Praed London, 1971.
Baynes, John	The History of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Vol.4 The Close of The Empire 1948-1968	Cassell London. 1971.
Wylly, Col. H C	A Short History of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	Gale & Polden Aldershot, 1924

Battalion Histories

Ed. Martin, Major D	The Fifth Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 1914-1919	Jackson, Son & Co. Glasgow, 1936.
Shaw, Capt. G	6 th (Lanarkshire) Battalion The Cameonians (Scottish Rifles) History of The Regiment and the Battalion 1689-1936	Printed by The Hamilton Advertiser 1936
Foreword by Nason, Lt.- Col, C F & Forbes, Lt.- Col. W H J	7 th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) with the British Liberation Army in Europe 1944-1945	Published c.1945 (map dated 45)
Findlay, Col. J M	With the 8 th Scottish Rifles 1914-1919	Blackie, London, Glasgow, Bombay 1926
	A brief history with nominal roll of the officers past and present of the 4 th Volunteer Battalion of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), formerly the 4 th Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers (Glasgow First Northern), now the 8 th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	Published November 1910
Foreword by Burnett-Stuart, J	The Tenth Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) A record & A memorial	Printed for private circulation by The

T 1914-1918 Edinburgh Press,
Edinburgh 1923.

The 26th Cameronian Regiment

Carter, T (ed) Historical Record of the Twenty-sixth or
Cameronian Regiment Byfield, Stanford & Co.,
London 1867.

The 90th Perthshire Light Infantry

Delavoye, Alex The Life of Lord Lynedoch Richardson & Co., London,
M 1880

Delavoye, Alex Records of the 90th Regiment (Perthshire
M Light Infantry) Richardson & Co., London,
1880.

Reid, D A Memories of the Crimean War

Tullibardine A Military History of Perthshire Vol. 1

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