Research Guide to World War II Service Records at the Connecticut State Library

The Connecticut State Library holds a wealth of materials that pertain to Connecticut residents who served in the armed forces during World War II. While this research guide is not intended to be an exhaustive checklist, it should provide you with an overview of such materials available here. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, State Library staff cannot undertake a search of these records on behalf of patrons.

Please note: Many of these materials are housed in the State Archives. Materials designated as “Archives” “Main Vault” or “SpecColl” are subject to the Rules and Procedures for Researchers Using Archival Records and Secured Collections Materials. Materials may not be available on a same day basis. Please see the Guidelines on the Use of Offsite and Secured Collections.

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### Published Resources

“How To” guides for locating information on veterans.


### World War II Service

Several published sources referring to World War II service are found in the State Library’s book collection. Of these, only a few list the names of persons who served. The listing below is not comprehensive. For additional materials, check the Library’s main catalog under Subject headings such as “World War, 1939-1945 -- Connecticut” and “World War, 1939-1945 -- Regimental histories -- United States,” as well as under the names of specific divisions or companies.

Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, Inc. *Armenian-American Veterans of World War II*. New York: Armenian General Benevolent Union, 1951 [CSL call number D 810 .N3 U52]. This is arranged alphabetically by name.


Brugel, C. *The History of the 304th Infantry*. Ansbach, Germany: C. Brügel & Sohn, 1946 [CSL call number D 769.31 304th H57 1946]. Includes photographs of units with names as well as biographical sketches of commanding officers.
Johnson, Gerden F. *History of the Twelfth Infantry Regiment in World War II*. 1947 [CSL call number D 769.31 12th.J6]. There is a list of all persons who served in the regiment included in this history, but addresses are not provided.


Kone, Eugene H. *Yale Men Who Died in the Second World War; A Memorial Volume of Biographical Sketches*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951 [CSL call number D 810.E45 Y35]. Includes biographical sketches of men who attended Yale and were killed during the War.

*St. Francis Nurses in World War II*. Hartford: St. Francis Hospital Alumnae Association, 1946 [CSL call number RA 982.H3 1946]. Includes information on graduates of the St. Francis Nursing School in Hartford who served in World War II.

State of Connecticut. Office of the Governor. *Connecticut Men in World War II*. 1945 [CSL call number ConnDoc G746se]. This is a nine-volume set of which the State Library holds only volumes 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Each volume contains approximately 20 booklets, each of a different division. A list of the divisions contained in the booklets can be found appended at the end of this guide. Each booklet includes photographs, brief stories of wartime experiences of some men, and names and addresses of persons from Connecticut who served in that branch of service or division. The collection is not indexed.


United States Adjutant-General’s Office. *World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing*. Washington, DC: War Department, 1946 [CSL call number HistRef D 797.U6 A44 1946]. Names of Connecticut residents are listed in the photocopy from the original nationwide compilation of World War II Army dead or missing.

United States Army. *47th Infantry. History of the 47th Infantry Regiment*. n.p. [CSL call number D 769.31 47th A5]. A list of all those decorated or killed in action is included.


entered service, place and date of action for which medal was received, and a description of the action. Part III is a list of those who received medals and is arranged by state, branch of service, and then by name. It is indexed.

**Veteran's Death Index**
A useful tool for establishing military service is the *Veterans' Deaths and Burials Index*, prepared by the Veterans' Graves Survey project. The index is housed in the corridor adjacent to the History and Genealogy reading room. Although not complete, it includes the names of many deceased veterans from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam era. The cards are arranged into three groups: alphabetically by the soldier's name, alphabetically by town, and for those Connecticut Veterans who are buried out of state, chronologically by war, and then by veteran's name. Information on the cards may include: date of death, place of death, town and cemetery where buried, age, branch of service, and, in some cases, the name of the military unit.

**Archival Resources**
**Records of Those Who Served From Connecticut**
Most of the State Library's service records are found in State Archives Record Group (RG) 12, Records of the State Library, War Records Department. The Department was established by act of the legislature in 1919, at the end of World War I. It was to “collect, classify, index, and install available material relating to Connecticut’s participation, public or private, in the World War.” The statute was revised in 1943 to include World War II service. While the History and Genealogy staff knows of no complete list of all Connecticut men and women who served in World War II, many people are listed in the following collections. All of these materials are subject to the *Rules and Procedures* for using archival records. Additionally, many of these materials are housed at an off-site storage facility and may not be available on a same day basis. Please see the *Guidelines on the Use of Offsite and Secured Collections*.

**Correspondence**
RG 12 includes several collections of letters exchanged between servicemen/women and people on the home front.

**RG 12, Series II: 74a, Correspondence of Nelson R. Burr.** This collection consists of six scrapbooks of incoming and three binders of outgoing letters between Nelson R. Burr, a Connecticut native living in Washington, DC during the war, and Connecticut service personnel. The letters are personal in nature but do give some clues as to a serviceperson’s branch of service, station, and activities. Each collection of letters is arranged chronologically with a surname index in the first scrapbook.

**RG 12, Series II: 74b, Letters from Servicemen/Women.** Teachers, parents or other relatives and friends were recipients of these letters. While personal in nature, they may give information about an individual’s wartime service. The collection is arranged by town and serviceperson’s name as follows:

Box 286, East Hampton (letters to Mr. Al Ellis, editor of the East Hampton News).
Box 286, Hampton (letters to Mrs. George Huling).
Box 286, Hartford, A-Bo (letters to a Mr. Brink. Also included in the collection of Hartford letters are published volumes of letters to the Hartford Screw Company and the Hartford Electric Company.)
Box 287, Hartford, Br-Sh
Box 288, Hartford, Sl-end; Meriden; Monroe; New Britain; New Haven; Shelton; South Windsor; State Library.

RG 12, Series II: 74c, Incoming Letters from Newington Servicemen/women to C. A. Bowes, Principal of the High School.

Box 289, A-G
Box 290, H-R
Box 291, S-T

RG 12, Series II: 74d, Aetna Insurance Co. Collections of Incoming and Outgoing Letters. This consists of letters to and from Aetna’s Salute, which was sent to Aetna employees in service.

Box 291, A-C
Box 292, D-J
Box 293, K-Q
Box 294, R-Z

RG 12, Series II: 8, Correspondence, Administrative Papers and Data Files, 1944-1957
Box 108. This box includes letters from possible next of kin, collected for a memorial record of persons who died in service. They are arranged alphabetically by the serviceperson’s surname.
Box 109. This box contains several different items. There are lists of persons from Killingly and Putnam who died in service. There are also newspaper articles from 1965 issues of the Manchester Evening Herald regarding a memorial to all persons from that town who served; these contain extensive lists of names. The last collection is a group of folders containing photographs, newspaper articles, and other biographical material for each Medal of Honor recipient.

Honor Rolls
RG 12, Series II: 62, World War II Honor Rolls, 1946-1966. Towns throughout Connecticut erected wooden broadsides listing all known persons who served in the war, and while some have been replaced with permanent monuments, others have been destroyed. Fortunately, we have an almost complete collection of photographs of these rolls, and the names on them are readable. Names of those who died are included and in many cases are highlighted in some way, such as by separate listing or a star next to the name. This is probably the most complete list of those who served, although a few towns are not included; the most glaring omission is Hartford (see “Service Records” section, below, for a good source for Hartford). These rolls do not give a tremendous amount of information about the person — only the name and town, and, in some cases, the rank. They are arranged as follows:

Box 244, Gold Star and Honor Roll lists arranged by town.
Box 245, Honor Rolls Photographs: Binder 1, Andover-Greenwich, Binder 2, Groton-Pomfret, Binder 3, Portland-Woodbury

Lists
RG 12, Series II: 9, Lists of Connecticut Members of the Armed Forces, 1776-1946.
Box 117. World War II armed forces members from Connecticut. The two volumes are arranged by branch of service and further divided by town and name.
RG 12, Series II: 63, List of State Employees in Military Service, 1940-1945.
Box 246. This is a card list arranged in two parts -- by name and department. Cards are tagged to signify women, if tagged on the right; any persons who died in service, if tagged on the left.

Newspaper Clippings and Press Releases
RG 12, Series II: 60, 61. The following boxes include clippings from newspapers:

- Box 241, Darien, A-G
- Box 242, Darien, H-Po
- Box 243, Darien, Pr-Z. This box also includes four binders of clippings pertaining to Marlborough (and some East Hampton) servicemen, 1942-1945. The binders are arranged by surname, as follows: Binder 1, A-Cla, Binder 2, H-Li, Binder 3, Lo-W, Binder 4, Miscellaneous items, including Honor Rolls from Marlborough, Haddam Neck, and East Hampton.

RG 12, Series II: 78, Hartford Times Articles on Servicemen, 1942-1945. Boxes 300-305. These six boxes of unarranged records contain Army and Navy press releases concerning activities of Connecticut residents in service, such as promotions and transfers. Servicepersons’ letters to the newspaper are also included.

Photographs
RG 12, Series II: 71d, Photographs, 1898-1950. Photographs from the Spanish-American War to World War II are found in this collection. Five boxes contain photographs of World War II servicepersons arranged alphabetically by surname. Boxes are divided as follows:

- Box 275, A-C
- Box 276, D-J
- Box 277, K-M
- Box 278, N-Sm
- Box 279, So-Z; unidentified

The collection also includes World War II photographs by subject. These black and white photographs came from the publicity officer for the State Council of Defense and its successor, the War Council.

- Box 273
- Box 274A
- Box 274B

Service Records
Several separate card collections within RG 12 contain Connecticut residents’ service records completed by town clerks throughout the state. The level of response varied; for example, approximately 9,000 cards were returned from Hartford while New Haven returned only three. Information given on the form may include any of the following: name, address, next of kin and address, occupation and employer before entering service, where and when enlisted and discharged, rank, battles, promotion, decorations, and injuries. The collections are:
RG 12, Series II: 46. Card records of West Haven servicemen, World War II, 1940-1945. Arranged alphabetically by last name:

Box 233, A-G
Box 234, H-Z

RG 12, Series II: 60. Service Records, 1940-1945. This collection is arranged by town and then by surname, as follows:

Box 235, Hartford, A-Da
Box 236, Hartford, De-Ja
Box 237, Hartford, Je-Mo
Box 238, Hartford, Mu-Sm
Box 239, Hartford, Sm-Z; Marlborough, Norfolk, Weston, Wethersfield, Avon, Bristol, Coventry

Records of Those From Connecticut Who Died in Service

RG 12, Series II: 47, Card List of World War II Dead. This is a statewide list of persons who died in service. Information cards may include name, address, age, rank, date and place of death, next of kin, and service number and are arranged by surname as follows:

Box 325, A-E
Box 326, Chi-Fe
Box 327, Fi-J
Box 328, K-Mc
Box 329, Me-Rh
Box 330, Ri-Th
Box 331, Ti-Wa

Gold Star Lists

These lists of those who died in service are named for the Gold Star given to their families to display in their windows. Information request cards were sent to families to fill out; thus, the amount of information varies. Cards arranged by town, may include name, service number, address, next of kin and relationship, address of next of kin, branch and section of service, when and where wounded and died. Binders, also arranged by town, list when and where individuals were killed and the address of next of kin.

RG 12, Series II: 45, Gold Star Lists, 1940-1945. Boxes are ordered as follows:

Box 229, Binders arranged by town: Binder 1, Andover-Essex, Binder 2, Fairfield-Morris, Binder 3, New Fairfield – Woodstock
Box 229, Information cards arranged by town: Andover-Greenwich
Box 230, Information cards arranged by town: Griswold-New Haven (part)
Box 231, Information cards arranged by town: New Haven (cont’d) – Suffield
Box 232, Information cards arranged by town: Thomaston-Woodstock; no addresses; others arranged by county.
“Memorial Record”
RG 12, Series II: 42, Memorial Records, 1940-1947.
Item 216 includes personal and military data of persons who died in service. Only a few items remain; most material from this collection was evidently destroyed.

Additional archival materials on those who served in World War II from Connecticut can be found among other record groups. Some of these materials are listed below.

Record Group 13, Records of the Military Department. Although most of the archival materials relevant to those who served in World War II can be found among Record Group 12, Records of the State Library, War Records Department, researchers may also want to consult RG 13, Records of the Military Department. The Military Department, established by an act of the General Assembly in May 1782, has responsibility for administering the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Connecticut Organized Militia and the Naval Militia. A Finding Aid to this collection may be consulted at the State Library.

Picture Group 46, Connecticut During World War II. A collection of small groups of black and white photographs of war related activities in Connecticut. Included in this box are images of Connecticut troops at US forts, Local Honor Rolls, and other materials.

Related Collections at the State Library
Newspapers
The Connecticut State Library holds an extensive collection of Connecticut newspapers. These may be of interest to researchers as many local newspapers published information on servicemen or women. For example published on page 1 of the February 16, 1942 edition of the Stamford Advocate is an article entitled “Seven More Volunteers Report for US Service”, the next day published on page 7 in the same paper is an article entitled “2 Greenwich Men Enlist in Navy.” Newspapers also contain historical information on the battles fought by the men and women in the armed forces. The Newspaper Microfilm Room is arranged alphabetically by town and then by the title of the paper. For the most part, the newspapers are not indexed, so researchers should have a specific date or time period in mind.

Institutions with Related Collections
National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records.html

Picture Credits

Appendix

List of divisions contained in the set *Connecticut Men in World War II* [CSL call number ConnDoc G746se]. This collection is not indexed.

**Volume 1**

Connecticut Men of the 86th Infantry Connecticut Black Hawks, on Redeployment Furloughs, June-July, 1945

Connecticut Men of the 97th Trident Division, on Redeployment Furloughs, June-July 1945

Connecticut Men of the 95th Victory Division, July 1945

Connecticut Men of the 104th Division, July 1945

Connecticut Men of the 8th Pathfinder Division, July 1945

Connecticut Men of the 4th Ivy Division July 1945

Connecticut Men of the 87th Acorn Division, Aug. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 5th Red Devils Division, Aug. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 2nd Division, Aug. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 44th Division, Aug. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 13th and 20th Armored Divisions, August 1945

Connecticut Men of the 10th Mountain Division, Sept. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 13th Airborne Division Sept. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 30th Old Hickory Division, Sept. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 91st Powder River Division, Sept. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 35th Santa Fe Division, Oct. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 45th Thunderbird Division, Oct. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 85th Custer Division, Aug. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 28th Bloody Bucket Division, Sept. 1945

Connecticut Men of the 43rd Winged Victory Division, Oct. 1945

**Volume 6**

Connecticut Men of the US Navy, Demobilization, Lido Beach Separation Center, Long Island, NY.

Includes a list of Connecticut men who separated thorough this facility on the following dates:

Sept. 17-30, 1945

Oct. 1-10, 1945

Oct. 10-18, 1945

Oct. 19-24, 1945

Oct. 25-31, 1945

Oct. 31-Nov. 6, 1945

Nov. 7-10, 1945

Nov. 11-16, 1945

Nov. 17-23, 1945

Nov. 24-29, 1945

Nov. 29-Dec. 4, 1945

Dec. 4-7, 1945

Dec. 8-11, 1945

Dec. 11-14, 1945

Dec. 14-17, 1945

Dec. 17-20, 1945

Dec. 20-23, 1945

Dec. 24-30, 1945
Dec. 31, 1945-Jan. 5, 1946

**Volume 7**
Connecticut Men of the US Army, Demobilization, Fort Devens, MA. Separation Center. Includes a list of Connecticut men who separated thorough this facility on the following dates:
Sept. 2-7, 1945
Sept. 7-13, 1945
Sept. 13-18, 1945
Sept. 18-22, 1945
Sept. 22-26, 1945.
Sept. 26-30, 1945
Oct. 4-8, 1945
Oct. 8-11, 1945
Oct. 11-13, 1945
Oct. 13-16, 1945
Oct. 16-18, 1945
Oct. 18-21, 1945
Oct. 21-23, 1945
Oct. 23-25, 1945
Oct. 25-28, 1945
Oct. 28-30, 1945
Nov. 1-3, 1945

**Volume 8**
Connecticut Men of the US Army, Demobilization, Fort Devens, MA. Separation Center. Includes a list of Connecticut men who separated thorough this facility on the following dates:
Nov. 3-5, 1945
Nov. 5-8, 1945
Nov. 8-10, 1945
Nov. 10-12, 1945
Nov. 12-13, 1945
Nov. 13-15, 1945
Nov. 15-16, 1945
Nov. 16-18, 1945
Nov. 18-19, 1945
Nov. 19-21, 1945
Nov. 21-24, 1945
Nov. 24-26, 1945
Nov. 26-28, 1945
Nov. 28-29, 1945
Nov. 29-30, 1945
Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 1945
Dec. 2-3, 1945
Dec. 3-4, 1945
Dec. 4-6, 1945
Dec. 6-7, 1945
Dec. 7-8, 1945
Volume 9
Connecticut Men of the US Army, Demobilization, Fort Devens, MA. Separation Center. Includes a list of Connecticut men who separated through this facility on the following dates:
Dec. 8-9, 1945
Dec. 9-10, 1945
Dec. 11-12, 1945
Dec. 12-13, 1945
Dec. 30, 1945-Jan. 1, 1946
Jan. 6-7, 1946
Jan. 9-10, 1946
Jan. 10-12, 1946