



National Archives and Records Administration

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Military Service during the Spanish-American War, 1898–1899

On April 25, 1898, the United States declared war on Spain following the sinking of the Battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor. The war ended 109 days later on December 10, 1898, when the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris, giving the United States control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.

Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs)

In the 1890s, the Department of War used numerous sources, such as muster rolls, descriptive rolls, and pay rolls, to create compiled military service records. These records generally show when a soldier joined a unit and if he was present when the unit was mustered.

___M871, *General Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War with Spain*. 126 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by soldier's surname.

___M240, *Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War with Spain in Organizations from the State of Louisiana*. 1 roll. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname.

___M413, *Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War with Spain in Organizations from the State of North Carolina*. 2 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname.

___M1087, *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served in the Florida Infantry During the War With Spain*. 13 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname.

Service in the Regular Army, Navy and Marine Corps

For more information, see the following reference reports:

- *Officers in the Regular Army, 1789–1916*
- *Enlisted Service in the Regular Army, 1789–1914*
- *Sailors in the U.S. Navy, 1789–1885*
- *Officers in the U.S. Navy, 1789–1925*

Pensions

A veteran's pension file can include his rank, place of residence, age or date of birth, and time of service. A widow's application can also include her place of residence, her maiden name, the date and place of marriage, the date and place of her husband's death, and the names of children under 16. A child's or heir's file contains information about both the veteran and the widow, as well as the child's place of residence, date of birth, and the date and place of the widow's death.

These records have not been filmed and in some cases must be requested from the Veterans Administration.

Indexes

___T288, *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. 544 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by soldier's surname.

___T289, *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*. 765 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by state or territory, then by type of unit (cavalry, artillery, or infantry), followed by militia, reserves, sharpshooters, and other organizations, and finally alphabetical by name. The publication concludes with records of units not limited to geographic location, such as the U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Volunteers, and U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps.

___A1158, *Numerical Index to Pensions, 1860–1934*. Arranged numerically by application and certificate numbers.

Navy Pension Files

For more information see the following reference reports:

- *Pension Records for Service in the United States Navy, 1776–1910*
- *Navy Pension Fund Lists, 1802–1836*

Remarried Widows

Some widows drew pensions from the service of multiple husbands. In this case the pension application information for all soldiers is usually included in a single file, under the surname of the most recent husband. The index includes the name of the claimant, the name of the soldier and his service (unit), and the pension number.

___M1785, *Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Service in the Civil War and Later Wars and in the Regular Army After the Civil War*. 7 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the widow's surname.

Pension Payment Cards

___M850, *Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*. 2,539 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's or widow's surname. This series records payments to pensioners from 1907 to 1933, except for World War I veterans. Each card includes the pension certificate number.

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