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THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH (BRECON)
*(The South Wales Borderers, Welch Regiment, Monmouthshire Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot)
The Barracks, Watton, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB
telephone: 01874 613310, facsimile: 01874 613275
web: www.royalwelsh.org.uk; email: info@royalwelsh.org.uk*

Opening Times

Our standard opening hours are Monday to Friday throughout the year,
10am to 5pm.

We open on Saturdays and Bank Holidays from April until September,
10am to 4pm.

During August, we also open on Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

We are closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and also for the first two weeks in January.

We are not always able to answer all questions asked of us. Although we do hold substantial archives, we have never received all material relating to Regiment. This is particularly true of soldiers' service papers where the majority of surviving documents are held centrally at the National Archives at Kew (for soldiers serving prior to 1920) and with the Ministry of Defence's Army Personnel Centre for those who served after 1920. However our archives can be valuable sources of information and help by being able to fill in the gaps in a service record or a family story, by reference to unit war diaries and personal accounts. Museum staff can also help identify the units depicted on family military photographs. Providing missing photographs from the Regimental Archives is often an impossible task because of the large number of soldiers who served in the two World Wars. Do not expect us or other organisations to provide instant answers over the telephone as many records are still held on paper and have yet to be computerised for easier access.

Army Records – for soldiers who served prior 1920

The National Archives

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

telephone: 020 8876 3444

web: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

1760-1900 Soldiers' Papers on-line

web: www.findmypast.co.uk

WW1 Medal Index/Gallantry Cards on-line:

web: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/medals.htm

WW1 Soldiers' Papers on-line:

web: www.ancestry.co.uk

Censuses on-line:

web: www.1901censusonline.com

web: www.1911census.co.uk

Gallantry Medal Awards:

web: www.london-gazette.co.uk

The National Archives (TNA) are open to the public and houses substantial records of officers and soldiers who served in the British Army from **1770 to 1920**. Details such as enlistment, movements, gallantry award citations (published in the London Gazette), discharge and date of death can sometimes be traced. Most of these records are still on paper or microfilm/fiche but a

project is well underway to transfer the WW1 soldiers' papers on-line through www.ancestry.co.uk, those men who served between 1760-1900 who received a pension through www.findmypast.co.uk. Medal rolls and individual WW1 medal/gallantry index cards are also held at Kew. It is often worth contacting the National Archives in advance of a visit to see what information they may have available – also their catalogue is available on-line. WW1 medal index/gallantry cards are available on-line under 'documents online'. If you are unable to visit in person, you can use the TNA paid research service (rate £60 per hour) or employ an independent military researcher (see under 'Records' – 'Paying for Research' on TNA website). There is free car parking at Kew and a reader's ticket is issued, on proof of identity (passport or driving licence), on your first visit. A number of research guides can be downloaded from the TNA website. The National Archives is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Also at Kew is the Family Records Centre, which is part of the National Archives, holds records of the census of England and Wales (1841-1911), non-parochial registers (i.e. births, marriages and deaths) and probates. Kew also holds an overseas section covering army adjutants' and chaplains' returns of births, marriages and deaths of soldiers' families occurring overseas. However, returns from India may be held in the India Office Collection now part of the British Library archives – www.londonresearchservice.com/british_library_india_office.html

Army Records – for soldiers who served after 1920

**The Army Personnel Centre
MS Support Unit, P&D Branch
Historical Disclosures, MP 555
Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow G2 8EX**

email: DBSKI-RecordsPubEngTeam@mod.uk

telephone: 0345 600 9663 (helpline)

The Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow handles enquiries about soldiers who were discharged from the Army **after 1920**. A fee of £30 is charged for each search, even if no material is discovered. A Search Document and Next of Kin form has to be completed prior to the search and returned to Glasgow by normal post. There are 50 kms of archive filing (off-site), so do not expect an instant response. You can download the Search Document and NOK form from the following website

<https://www.gov.uk/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records>

No fee is charged if the subject of your research is alive, you need his/her permission before submitting the request.

See under *National Archives* for soldiers' records from WW1 and earlier periods.

Pension Records

If your relative claimed a war disability pension, it is likely that the papers have been removed and filed either with PIN71 (service prior WW1) or PIN26 (service during WW1) series of records in the National Archives or held at the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), Tomlinson House, Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3WP

telephone: 0800 169 2277 (helpline)

web: www.veterans-uk.info

email: veterans.help@spva.gsi.gov.uk

Medals

MoD Medal Office

Building 250, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester GL3 1HW

The tri-service MOD Medal Office handles the issue and replacement of medals. For WW2 medals, which have never been claimed, it will be necessary to first obtain an official record of service from the Army Personnel Centre before applying. For other periods or campaigns medals were automatically issued to the individual soon after the event. For replacement medals, proof of loss (i.e. police report or insurance claim) is essential and claimants may be required to pay the full cost of replacements. Useful information about medals is given on the Veterans-UK website www.veterans-uk.info/

Casualties during two World Wars

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Enquiries Section, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX

telephone: 01628 634221 ask for register enquiries

facsimile: 01628 771208

web: www.cwgc.org

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) provides information on the location of graves and official memorials around the world. As much as possible of the following information is required: Surname, rank, forenames, personal number, unit/service detail, date of death, age, home town, and place of death. For those enquirers compiling family history, the CWGC are often able to verify a soldier's next of kin details. The CWGC are able to answer straight forward enquiries over the telephone. Alternatively, the CWGC Register (The Roll of Honour) is now available continuously over the Internet.

The War Graves – Photographic Project

11 Falcon Road, Horndean, Hampshire PO8 9BY

web: www.twgpp.org

email: sandra@twgpp.org

Contact Sandra Rogers should you require a photograph image of a particular headstone or the inscription from one of the many CWGC memorials.

Casualties post World War 2

National Memorial Arboretum

Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR

telephone: 01283 792333

facsimile: 01283 792034

web: www.thenma.org.uk

The Roll of Honour, which is only updated at the end of each year, can be accessed through the Veterans site. www.veterans-uk.info/amf2/index.php

Other useful reference sources

Local Reference Libraries

Reference Libraries often hold copies of local newspapers (on microfilm) which during wartime frequently included details about soldiers who were killed, injured or awarded medals. At some libraries, you can have access to the 1901 and 1911 census; some have CD-ROM 'Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-19' which gives place of birth and enlistment of these soldiers. The Central Library, John Street, Cardiff, CF10 5BA (opposite the Hayes Shopping Mall) (telephone: 029 2038 2116 - www.cardiff.gov.uk/centrallibrary/), for instance, holds a complete set of 'Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-19', the CWGC Registers for WW1 and copies of the histories of Welsh army units. Most libraries hold the reference guides to researching family history and contact names for the local Family History Society. Or try: www.genuki.org.uk

County Archives

The County Archives Office is generally located at County Hall. It usually holds details of parish registers - births, marriages and deaths - census returns, electoral registers, street directories, newspapers etc. for the county concerned. The 'absent voters' lists' for 1918 and 1919 are helpful records to find out the regiment and personal number of a soldier who survived WW1 before initiating a search at the National Archives. Contact your local County Hall or library to ascertain the location of these archives - web: www.archiveswales.org.uk

Gwent (Ebbw Vale) telephone: 01495 353363

Glamorgan (Cardiff) telephone: 029 2087 2200

Powys (Llandrindod Wells) telephone: 01597 826087

West Glamorgan (Swansea) telephone: 01792 636589

National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT

telephone: 0207 730 0717 facsimile: 0207 823 6573

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

email: info@national-army-museum.ac.uk

The National Army Museum (NAM) holds general records of the British Army and covers the history of the army from the year 1485 to the present day. If you require access to the Reading Room, you must obtain a reader's ticket prior to your visit.

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ

telephone: 020 7416 5320 (helpdesk)

facsimile: 020 7416 5374

web: www.iwm.org.uk
email: mail@iwm.org.uk

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) holds material relating to all British military Campaigns since 1914.

Other Welsh Military Museums & Archives

Welsh Guards

Regimental Headquarters, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ

telephone: 020 7414 3291

email: rhqwelshguards@yahoo.co.uk

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Regimental Museum Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2AY

telephone: 01286 673362

facsimile: 01286 677042

web: www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

email: rwfmuseum1@btconnect.com

Firing Line: Cardiff Castle Museum of the Welsh Soldier

The Castle, Cardiff CF10 2RB

(The displays cover the collections of 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Royal Welsh)

telephone: 02920 229367

web: www.cardiffcastlemuseum.org.uk

e-mail: curator@cardiffcastlemuseum.org.uk

The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Museum

The Castle, Monmouth NP25 3BS

telephone: 01600 772175

facsimile: 01600 716930

web: www.monmouthcastlemuseum.org.uk

email: curator@monmouthcastlemuseum.org.uk

Related Army Internet Websites

www.army.mod.uk

The Army website has much useful information, including details of regiments and corps of today's Regular and Reserve Army.

www.veterans-uk.info/

The Veterans site has information about requesting service records (post-1920) and campaign medals, and much more.

www.armymuseums.co.uk

This website provides a definitive guide to regimental museums in the UK, with important contact details, ancestor tracing and reference to 4,000 books on regimental bibliography.

www.royalwelshveterans.co.uk

The Royal Welsh veterans discussion forum.

www.rwf-forum.co.uk

The Royal Welch Fusiliers veterans discussion forum.

www.modreunited.com

The safe, secure way of contacting past friends and colleagues

The Royal Welsh was formed on 1 March 2006
out of The Royal Welch Fusiliers (23rd Foot) and The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot)

**Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Welsh
Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF14 3YE**

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facsimile: 029 2064 1281

email: RHQRWELSH-RegtlSec@mod.uk